GOOD TO FOCUS

ON SKILL

WORLD 8

KREMLIN CRITIC TO BE KEPT IN

CUSTODY FOR 30 DAYS: LAWYER

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*Late City Vol. 10 Issue 18

LET'S BREAK PATRIARCHY: **KAJAL**



www.dailypioneer.com **China builds village in Arunachal**

Satellite images show village of 120 homes 5 km inside Indian territory

mid the ongoing talks to A mid the ongoing take to defuse tension at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh, China has added fuel to fire by building a village inside the disputed territory in Arunachal Pradesh. India says it has taken note of the construction along the border there and has ramped its infrastructure development

projects.

The latest development has rung alarm bells in the security establishment in India. It is apprehended that China wants maintain the pressure on India by opening several fronts along the 4,000-km LAC stretching from Ladakh in the west to Arunachal Pradesh in

The fresh construction detected by satellite images by Planet Labs shows that China has built a new village of about 120 homes. The village is about five km inside the Indian ter-



ritory. China has all along disputed the claim, sources said

ĥere on Monday Giving details about the new construction, they said the

village is on the banks of Tsari Chu river in the Upper Subansiri district. Incidentally the Chinese troops in 1959 had fired on an Indian post there.

"We have seen recent reports of China undertaking construction work along the border area with India. China

has undertaken such con-

struction activity in the past several years," the MEA said, adding, "The Government lage is in the Indian zone. remains committed to the objective of creating infrastructure along the border areas for the improvement of livelihood of its citizens, includ-

ing in Arunachal Pradesh."

The latest satellite images pertain to November last year. The image dated a little more than a year before that — August 26, 2019 — does not show any construction activity. So, the village was set up last year. This was the same area where the Chinese army last

year detained five locals.

The stand-offs now in Ladakh are due to the Chinese alarmed over rapid infrastructure development all along the LAC by India on its own side. However, sources said India has not built any roads or infra-structure development close

to the new Chinese village.
They also said the maps of the Surveyor General of India

Reports said the new village is a Chinese military post and it was first detected by and it was first detected by satellites, including Google Earth, about ten years back. The new pictures of November clearly indicate the post is vastly upgraded, thereby posing a challenge to the Indian securi-

The Indian security estab-lishment maintains that the coming up of this village is a violation of several agreements between the two countries. The pacts clearly say both countries to "safeguard due interests of their settled populations in the border areas" and decree that pending an ultimate settlement of the boundary question, the two sides should strictly respect and observe the Line of Actual Control and work together to maintain peace and tranquility in the border areas.

Mamata said, adding how some people were quitting the party

as "all these years they have earned huge black money

which they want to save."

Mamata's sharp attack received an equally high-deci-

bel reply from Adhikari, who led a road-show down SP

Mukherjee Road, past Banerjee's Kalighat residence. He at once took up the chal-

lenge welcoming the TMC supremo at Nandigram and pre-declared the result: a "hands down" defeat for the

SC leaves it to cops to take call on tractor rally



Farmers during their ongoing protest against new farm laws at Singhu Border in

'Delhi Police has Mamata to take on Suvendu on his home turf all the power to decide on march on Republic Day' allow the BJP to enter Bengal,"

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court told the Centre on Monday that the proposed tractor rally on the Republic Day by farmers protesting against the new farm laws is a "law and order" matter and the Delhi Police is the first authority to decide who should be allowed to enter the

national Capital.

A bench headed by Chief Justice SA Bobde, while hearing the Centre's application seeking an injunction against the proposed tractor or trolley march or any other kind of protest which seeks to disrupt the gathering and celebrations on January 26, said that the Delhi Police has all the authority to deal with the mat-

"Does the SC say as to what are the powers of police and how they will exercise them? We are not going to tell you what to do," said the bench, also comprising Justices LN Rao and Vineet Saran.

The SC told Attorney General KK Venugopal that it will take up the matter for hearing on January 20.

The question of entering into Delhi is a law and order matter and will be determined by the police," the bench said, adding, "Mr Attorney General, we are adjourning the matter and you have all the authority to deal with this matter."

Unions: Farmers have constitutional right to take out tractor rally

New Delhi: Protesting union leaders on Monday said farmers have a constitutional right to take out their tractor rally peacefully and asserted that thousands of people will par-ticipate in the proposed event on January 26. The reaction came after the SC said the Delhi Police is the first authority to decide the entry of

Day after jab, man dies in UP; vaccine did not cause death, says Govt

turnout in Delhi, only 8 get shots at AIIMS on Mon

PNS/AGENCY ■ MORADABAD/ LUCKNOW/NEW DELHI

After a 46-year-old health Worker died in Uttar Pradesh's Moradabad district a day after receiving the coron-avirus vaccination, the family blamed his death on vaccination on Monday. However, the autopsy report attributing the death to "cardio-pulmonary disease", officials said on

Meanwhile, nearly 3,600

Dip in vaccination healthcare workers received the Covid-19 vaccine shots in Delhi on Monday, a further dip in the figures compared to that on opening day of the immunisation drive, with sources saying just eight medical staff got the jabs at AIIMS.

The family of Mahipal, ine family of Manipal, who was working as ward boy in State-run Deen Dayal Upadhaya Hospital in Moradabad, said he was not suffering from any ailment other than fever and cough, and blamed his death on vaccination. However, the UP Government said the man died due to septicemic shock and cardiac arrest and the death was not related to the Covid-19 vac-

Adhikari: I'll defeat her by 50K votes in Nandigram or I will

quit politics for ever

SAUGAR SENGUPTA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has once again looked up to Nandigram for a slice of political luck and as an apparent strategy to blunt the impact of the defection of her erstwhile spearhead, Suvendu Adhikari, a powerful mass leader of the

region.

Mamata on Monday told a huge rally at the "ground zero" of what they call Trinamool's "farm revolution" that she was more than eager to contest from the place as this was a

lucky ground for her.
"I will fight will fight from



Nandigram... Rather I will fight both from Nandigram and Bhawanipore... My soul has told me that this place is lucky for me... it is a holy . and that I should fight from Nandigram... I have always started my campaign for the Assembly polls from this place," Mamata said once again attacking the "turncoats" who

quit the TMC before elections and vowing once again not to let the BJP capture Bengal.
"You may win many elec-

tions, you may become all powerful, you may be the Prime Minister of India and you may rule the world but I vow from this holy land of

Chief Minister. "I welcome her to Nandigram... which catapult-

ed her to power and which she remembered after five years... Let her contest Nandigram and if I am fielded by my party there I take a vow today that if I cannot defeat her by a margin of half-a-lakh votes then I will quit politics,"

protesting farmers into Delhi.



Balloons, flowers, sanitisers and smiling faces welcomed Class 10 and 12 students in schools in the national Capital on Monday as they returned to campuses after over 10 months. The students who were elated to be able to attend the first offline come out of school after attending their first class after over 10 months

Tandav makers apologise unconditionally

Reaction comes after **I&B** Ministry notice and FIR against web series for hurting

religious sentiments PNS NEW DELHI/LUCKNOW

he makers of the Amazon The makers of the Amazon Prime Video series Tandav on Monday apologised unconditionally after complaints that one of its episodes had hurt

"Hindu sentiments". The apology came after a grievances against the series.



Broadcasting informed us regarding a large number of

and persons and events is pure-

zones

ly coincidental. The cast and crew did not have any intention to offend the sentiments of any individual, caste, community, race, religion or religious beliefs or insult or outrage any insti-tution, political party or person, living or deed living or dead.

"The cast and crew of

Tandav take cognisance of the concerns expressed by the people and unconditionally apol-

hurt anybody's sentiments, the statement said.

A complaint filed by an Uttar Pradesh policeman said that 17 minutes into the first episode, "people dressed up in a very bad manner to represent Hindu gods and goddesses... shown to speak in a very uncalled for language... that hurts religious sentiments".

grievances and petitions received on various facets of the web series with serious con-The statement from the cast and crew of Tandav said, "We have been closely moni-FB, Twitter officials case was registered against the makers of the web series in Lucknow and the Information toring viewer reactions to the web series Tandav and today cerns and apprehensions regarding its content hurting over citizens' rights and Union Broadcasting during a discussion, the Ministry of Information and the sentiments of the people Ministry sought the view of the "Tandav is a work of fiction and any resemblance to acts Amazon Prime on a flood of

CAPSULE

RAFALE TO FEATURE IN REPUBLIC DAY PARADE New Delhi: The newly inducted Rafale fighter aircraft will feature in India's Republic Day parade on January 26 and culminate the flypast by carrying out the

'Vertical Charlie' formation — the aircraft flies at low altitude pulls up vertically and conducts altitude - the Indian Air Force said on Monday

3 KILLED IN J&K IN DEC WERE MILITANTS: IGP Srinagar: The three youths

killed in a gunfight with security forces in Lawaypora last month were involved in militancy, Inspector General of Police Kashmir Viiav Kumar said on Monday and added that police will soon convince their parents of it with concrete evidence.

105 tigers die in 2020, 60% in protected

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

After dropping to 95 in 2019, the number of tiger deaths breached 100-figure mark again in 2020. At least 60 per cent of these deaths have taken place in the protected zones for big cats in the country, as per the data from the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).

The tiger mortality, which stood at 101, 110 and 121 in the three consecutive years before 2019, is now 105 deaths. Analysis of the data shows that last year every month more than 5 tigers were killed except in March when the

The reason for the mortality varies from natural deaths, human-animal conflict, includ-

ing electrocution, and poaching. Developmental pressure has been already taking its toll on their habitats.

India is home to about 70 per cent of the global tiger population. Today, India has 50 reserves having 2,967 tigers. Of the 105 deaths in 2020,

one has been categorised as seizure and another poaching.
As per the NTCA, the country's nodal body working on welfare and protection of tigers, in seizures, a big cat is presumed dead on the basis of the body parts seized by authorities.

In 103 cases, the exact cause of the deaths is yet to be verified and investigation details are awaited. Madhya Pradesh topped

the list of mortalities with 26 tigers followed by Maharashtra

17. Kerala reported 10 deaths, closely trailed by Karnataka with 9 mortalities. It is the sixth year in a row that Madhya Pradesh has topped the list of States with the highest number of tiger deaths in the country. Month-wise, April proved to be lethal for the tigers when

the period.

country losing 15 tigers during

the highest number of mortalities was reported with the

At least 60 per cent tigers died inside the tiger reserves, suggesting territorial infighting among the predators for space. Though the data available from

the NTCA does not specify the cause of death in 103 cases, experts feel that it may be due to poisoning and electrocution due to man-animal conflicts.

Forty per cent of the total mortalities were reported from outside the tiger habitats, which the wildlife experts have termed as a cause of worry They said that this indicates that either the big cats were in search of food or were forced to move out in the fringes of the reserves due to the loss of their territories to the younger ones. This leaves them vulner-

able, the experts said.

The total cases of tiger deaths in four years (2015-2018) are 418 which means on an average eight tigers died every month for the past four

House panel summons

PNS NEW DELHI

 $T_{ing}^{he\ parliamentary\ stand-} \\ committee \quad on \\ Information\ Technology\ (IT)$ has summoned officials of Twitter and Facebook on January 21 in connection with the prevention of misuse of social media.

The panel would discuss measures of safeguarding citizens' rights and ways to prevent misuse of social media in the light of the evidence presented to it by the committee.

"Evidence of representatives of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and to hear the views of the representatives of Facebook and Twitter on the subject 'safeguarding citizens' rights and prevention of misuse of social/online news media platforms, including special emphasis on women security in the digital space, according to Lok Sabha Secretariat notice.

This would be the agenda of the committee's next meeting. The sitting will be held from 4 pm onwards on January 21, it said.

The 31-member parliamentary standing committee on IT is headed by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor.

Continued on Page 2

Don't join WhatsApp if not accepting new

policy, says Delhi HC

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Monday said accepting the new privacy policy of social messaging app WhatsApp was a "volution" think and one can be so that the privacy of the policy of the poli untary" thing and one can choose not to use or join that platform if one did not agree with its terms and conditions. "It is a private app. Don't join it. It is a vol-untary thing, don't accept it. Use some other app," Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva said.



NIA NOTICES ON FARMER LEADERS — Do these farmers look like ultras, Capt asks Centre

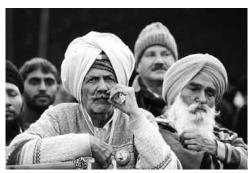
PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Condemning the issuance of NIA notices to several farmers and their supporters in tation, Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Monday said that such armtwisting tactics would not weaken the resolve of the farmers to fight for their rights and their future.

"Do these farmers look like secessionists and terrorists?" asked the Chief Minister, slamming the BJP-led Government at the Centre for resorting to such reprehensible and oppressive tactics in their desperation to undermine the peacefully protesting farmers'

fighting spirit.
"But these measures will not succeed in destroying the resolve of the farmers, rather the Centre will only end up provoking them into stronger reaction," he said, questioning the intent of the Central Government, "which seemed bent on pushing the farmers over the edge through such intimidatory actions"

Capt Amarinder warned



that BJP's most powerful minds will not be able to control the situation if things get irre-trievably out of hand.

"Instead of resolving the crisis triggered by the draconian legislations, the BIP-led Central Government is resorting to victimization and harassment of the protesting farmers and their supporters," the Chief Minister pointed out, dubbing it a regressive step that would lead to further hardening of the farmers' stance.

It was obvious, said the Chief Minister, that the BJP-led NDA Government neither cared for the farmers and their concerns, nor understood their psyche. "Punjabis are fighters by nature, they are imbued with the fighting spirit which makes them among the best warriors in the world," he said, adding that the Centre's coercive actions will only provoke the farmers from Punjab to react

shock over the Government of India's unrelenting opposition to the farmers' genuine and jus-tified demands and its total failure to empathize with the concerns of the farmers who have been braving the record cold of Delhi, with

Capt Amarinder expressed



many of them succumbing to the harsh weather and prolonged exposure.
"Not only has the Centre

been standing on ego in its adamant refusal to repeal the black farm laws, it is actively and shamelessly indulging in strong-arm tactics to suppress the voice of the farmers," he said, pointing to the IT notices issued to several big arhtiyas of Punjab about a month ago and now the NIA notices that were clearly aimed at pressur-izing the farmers into withdrawing their stir.

These low-level actions will not suppress the voice of the farmers, or those millions of

'annadaatas' in their battle for survival, said the Chief Minister, adding that if the Central Government had any shame left it should immediwithdraw the farm laws and sit down across the table with all the stakeholders, especially the farmers, to usher in an era of genuine agricultural

INTIMIDATING AGI-TATING FARMERS THROUGH CENTRAL AGENCIES, A DISGRACE TO MODI GOVT: AAP Strongly condemning the

notices being sent by the central agencies to the farmers, social workers, and organizations, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Monday termed it as shameful and "highly reprehensible to use central agencies to suppress the farmers' movement".

"It is highly reprehensible

to use central agencies to sup-press the farmers' movement, who are fighting for truth and justice. It is a disgraceful act of the government to send notices to various help-aid societies, social organizations, and journalists, supporting the agitation Punjab unit president Bhagwant Mann.

Mann said that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Central Government had first tried to tarnish the image of the movement by calling farmers as terrorists, Khalistanis, agents of Pakistan and China; and now was trying to weaken the agitation by issuing notices through government agencies, to those supporting the farmers' movement.

'The Modi Government at the Centre is playing a double standard. On one hand, it is negotiating with the farmer's organisations to find a solution and on the other hand, is sending notices through NIA to intimidate the farmers' leaders and their supporters," he added. Mann said that the Modi

Government should listen to the people of the country rather than the corporate houses. "For the benefit of the farmers the Central Government should stop its anti-people activities and immediately repeal the three black laws. accepting the direct and clear demands of the farmers," he

Punjab and Haryana farmers observe Mahila Kisan Divas

Chandigarh: Ahead of the proposed tractor rally on Republic Day, farmers protesting against the Centre's new agri laws on Monday observed "Mahila Kisan Divas" in recognition of the contribution and support of women in the protests. At various places in Puniah and Harvana, women speakers managed the stage

and the protest site. In Punjab's Barnala, a function was held where the women members of Bharatiya Kisan Union (Ekta-Ugrahan) staged protests at Dhanaula village. BKU(U) outfit woman activist Sukhdeep Kaur said, "We want to give a message that we fully stand behind our brothers who are protesting against the farm laws. We will keep our fight on till the farm laws are repealed by the

Events as part of "Mahila Kisan Divas" were held at various places, including Barnala, Ferozepur, Amritsar, Patiala, Moga in Punjab and Hisar, Jind, Bhiwani and Sonipat dis-

tricts in Haryana.

Meanwhile, ahead of the proposed tractor rally, farmers' bodies in Punjab and Haryana have started preparations to mobilise the peasants. Farmers leaders on Monday said later this week, several batches of peasants are set to begin their march from Punjab and Harvana in their tractor-trolley for the rally. PNS

Punjab to open its varsities, colleges from Thursday

Punjab Government on Monday decided to reopen all the Government aided and non-aided colleges including all the Government and private universities from January 21

All the higher educational institutes have to follow the guidelines issued by the Punjab Government regarding COVID-19 from time to time. For the same, the state Higher Education Department has issued a detailed letter to all the universities and colleges.

BJP MLA in soup after 'defending' cyber criminals to get smarter increased to 150 in U'khand

PNS RANCHI

A video clip of BJP MLA Randhir Singh defending cyber criminals in Jamtara and instead blaming the victims for not being smart enough to deal with phishing calls has gone viral on social media, grabbing eyeballs and raising many eyebrows, in as well as outside the political fraternity.

In the video, which is claimed to have been shot on January 15, the Sarath legislator is heard saying that police should not unnecessarily harass the people of his con-stituency over matters of cyber crime, and instead make the victims of cyber fraud smarter.

"Nobody has ever been able to dupe any resident of my con-stituency. If illiterate people of our region are so smart that they can dupe educated people of other states then whose fault is it?" the former

gathering in the viral video. "Why do the literate people of other states provide their personal details to callers over the phone? If police harass our people without any evi-dence, then I will have no option but to gherao police stations," he

Jamtara, which has gained the infamy of being the cyber crime capital of the country, is home to several gangs of "Panchvi Fail" cybercriminals, who have duped several rich and educated people living in the metros, say police. Around 200 Kilometers north of Ranchi, Jamtara is said to be the Indian equivalent of the Romanian town of Ra^mnicu Va^lcea, dubbed Scamville, which is the global capital for cyber criminals. Last year, Netflix released a web series on the cyber criminals of Jamtara and named it 'Jamtara

Sabka Number Ayega'. According to police, cyber criminals in Jamtara are most dependent



MLA Randhir Singh

on phishing, a procedure in which cyber frauds disguise as trustworthy representatives of banks and finance companies over phone calls and ask for personal banking details of their

The BJP MLA's remarks come at a time when the governments at the centre as well as in the state are running extensive awareness campaigns against cyber crime through various latforms. Sarath, from where Singh is a two-time MLA, falls in Deoghar

In the video, Singh also goes on to jokingly say that there was no harm if money from other states and countries was coming to Jharkhand through cyber fraud. The former minister did not respond to phone calls from The Pioneer on Monday. An SMS and a WhatsApp text, ask ing for his comments on the viral

video has been sent to Singh, and his

However, BJP spokespersor

Pratul Shahdeo questioned the authenticity of the video and said that demeaning the MLA was not right until the authenticity of the video was established. "The video is not clear, and there is no way to match the audio of the clip with the lip movement of the former minister. In this era of doctored videos and editing techniques, I think the video clip needs to be examined before jumping to conclusions," he

Asks cyber | MNREGA work days to be

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The work days under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) will be increased from 100 days to 150 days in the Uttarakhand soon. The financial provision for this purpose will be made from the State fund. Chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat said this while chairing the meet-ing of the state employment guarantee council at the secretariat on Monday. The Chief Minister also launched the Ajivika app on the

The CM said that good work had been done under MNREGA in some districts. All the districts should exchange their work experience in order to bring about further improvement in the work. Rawat said that the district magistrates should review the works done under MNREGA at the district level every 15 days. Harder work is needed to compensate for the work affected due to the Covid-19 pandemic, he said.

The CM directed officials that well planned work should be underwell planned work should be under-taken to facilitate the revival of water sources. GIS mapping of river revival works should also be done. Further, the average of work days under MNREGA in the districts should be increased. Special efforts should be done under MNREGA for water culture and water conservation, agriculture development, nutrition campaign, livelihood resource development and marketing facility develop-ment, said the CM. It was decided in the meeting

that works proposed by departments under state plan and district plan, which can easily be executed under MNREGA should be accorded priority under the scheme so that good use of the state plan and district plan fund can be made under some different head. Officials

informed in the meeting that there are a total of 12.19 lakh job card holders under MNREGÁ in the state. Of these, 67.19 per cent are active job card holders. There are 58.69 per cent active labourers in the state while 53.65 per cent of the job card holders are women. In the past year the number of job card holders in the state has increased by 2.66 lakh. When it comes to time ly payment of wages and job card verification, Uttarakhand is ranked second at the national level. The minimum wage for unskilled labour under MNREGA is Rs 201 per day. Further, out of the budget approved for financial year 2020-21, 80 per cent of the amount has been The Rural Development and

Migration Commission vice chair man Sharad Singh Negi, additional chief secretary Manisha Panwar, additional secretary Vandana Singh and other officials concerned were also present in the meeting.

SAD demands SC probe into 'Call | Gate' scandal involving Goswami

PNS CHANDIGARH

Expressing surprise over why the Central Government had not taken note of the "Call Gate" scandal involving Republic television editor Arnab Goswami, the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) on Monday said that the BJP Government should not let any media house compromise the national security at any

cost. SAD leader and former Minister Maheshinder Singh Grewal said that it was shocking that despite disclosures revealing that Goswami had even leaked information about Balakot strikes, the NDA

"Keeping in view the fact Dasgupta.

that the Central Government

order an inquiry into the Broadcast Audience Research Council

has done nothing in the case, we demand that the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court probe the case as the nation wants the truth in the case to be presented before the people," said Grewal adding that the Chief Justice could even constitute a double bench to hear the entire case in a time bound

Grewal also requested the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to launch a separate investigation against officials of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) who leaked sensitive information to Goswami on a regular basis as revealed in conversaons between the latter and the Partho

Marandi attacks J'khand Govt on 'poor' law and order JMM, Cong seek proof, deplore

Marandi's statement

PNS ■ DHANBAD/RANCHI

 $F^{\text{ormer Chief Minister and}}_{\text{BJP legislative party leader}}_{\text{Babulal Marandi on Monday}}$ charged the State government of ignoring the deteriorating law and order situation of the State. He went on to say that the ministers of the State are handin- glove with Maoists and hold meetings with them dur-

ing night hours.
Talking to media persons here on Monday, Marandi alleged that the law and order situation has deteriorated and

and they hold meetings during night hours. Police have lost their morale and senior officers rather than tackling the deteriorating law and order situation threaten to break the legs of complainants", said the

leader. Crime against women is on rise and the Maoist activities have increased in Jharkhand since the coalition Government took over. Those Maoists, who had left Jharkhand due to police operations during the BJP government rule have back, Marandi.

"Most unfortunate matter is that the Home department is with the chief minister and the that was prior to November that was prior to November 15/2000. "The ministers of state are "Statution of Marandi and said that was prior to November time the government has blocked the funds required for sleep over dues he said, "Even if the same to development," said Marandi. On Jharkhand - DVC tus- sleep over dues he said, "Even if the same to development," said Marandi. On Jharkhand - DVC tus- sleep over dues he said, "Even if the same to development," said Marandi. On Jharkhand - DVC tus- sleep over dues he said, "Even if the same to development," said Marandi. On Jharkhand - DVC tus- sleep over dues he said, "Even if the same to development," said Marandi. On Jharkhand - DVC tus- sleep over dues he said, "Even if the same to development," said Marandi. On Jharkhand - DVC tus- sleep over dues he said, "Even if the same to development," said Marandi. On Jharkhand - DVC tus- sleep over dues he said, "Even if the same to development," said Marandi. On Jharkhand - DVC tus- sleep over dues he said, "Even if the same to development," said Marandi. On Jharkhand - DVC tus- sleep over dues he said, "Even if the same to development," said Marandi. On Jharkhand - DVC tus- sleep over dues he said, "Even if the same to development," said Marandi. On Jharkhand - DVC tus- sleep over dues he said, "Even if the same to development," said Marandi. On Jharkhand - DVC tus- sleep over dues he said, "Even if the same to development," said Marandi. On Jharkhand - DVC tus- sleep over dues he said, "Even if the same to development," said Marandi. On Jharkhand - DVC tus- sleep over dues he said, "Even if the same to development," said Marandi. On Jharkhand - DVC tus- sleep over dues he said, "Even if the same to development," said Marandi. On Jharkhand - DVC tus- sleep over dues he said, "Even if the same to development," said Marandi. On Jharkhand - DVC tus- sleep over dues he said, "Even if the same to development," said Marandi. On Jharkhand - DVC



instalment based payments and could have maintained the instalment payments."

Addressing the ST/SC Morcha meeting at Nirsa Marandi said, the people belonging to the ST/SC communities are not belonging to the state of the st munities are not being given their due. If BJP forms gov-ernment he would see that all due advantages be given to the members of the communities

Dhanbad MP PN Singh, MLA Raj Sinha besides a host of senior members of party was present during the press con-

Meanwhile, coalition partners in the government Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) and Congress reacted

JMM General Secretary and Spokesperson, Vinod Pandey said that Marandi held the post of Chief Minister of the State for almost two year and he should help the Government if he has any evidence on the issue but only talking and levelling baseless allegations are not expected from a person like him. JMM is completely denying from such allegations and criticizes Marandi for levelling such kinds of allegations without any

Jharkhand Pradesh Congress Committee (JPCC) Spokesperson, Alok Dubey also echoed a similar view and said that if Marandi has any evidence then he should come

CM SOREN MEETS COAL MINISTER, CONG PRESIDENT IN DELHI

Discusses State issues with senior leaders

PNS ■ RANCHI

hief Minister Hemant Chief Minister rieman.
Soren on Monday met
Congress president Sonia
Gandhi, senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Union Coal a year after the JMM-Congress-RJD alliance formed government in Jharkhand.

While the CM termed meeting with Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi a courtesy meet, he said that discussions were held on the works being done in the State and the roadmap for the next four

"I met Sonia ji and Rahul ji after a year. It's the beginning of the year and such courtesy meetings are natural. We have





Chief Minister Hemant Soren meets Congress president Sonia Gandhi in New Delhi on Monday

year and several issues related to development works going on in the State were discussed alongwith the roadmap for the next four year," he said. Later in the day the CM also met Union coal Minister Prahlad Joshi and discussed several issues with the latter. In a series of Tweets the Union Coal Minister said, "CM Jharkhand, Shri @HemantSorenJMM ji called on me. Discussed mat ters relating to the mineral rich State of Jharkhand. Government under PM Shri @NarendraModi ii is committed to the development of the State and welfare of its people."

"Implored him for facili-tating early operationalisation of coal blocks to increase production in the State. Also requested his support for optimal utilisation of mineral resources to increase revenue for the State and employment opportunities for the people of Jharkhand," he tweeted

the pioneer RAIPUR | TUESDAY | JANUARY 19, 2021

Bird flu reaches Bastar, Dantewada



STAFF REPORTER

 $B^{\text{ird flu}}_{\text{death}}$ is to blame for the death of three birds in Bastar and Dantewada districts of Chhattisgarh, an

official said on Monday.

With this, cases of avian influenza have been confirmed in three districts Bastar, Dantewada and Balod. an official press

Samples of a crow and a pigeon found dead at separate places in Jagdalpur, the headquarters of Bastar district, and of a dead crow in Bacheli town of Dantewada were sent for testing to the

National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases (NIHSAD) in Bhopal on nuary 14

"Reports of all the three samples came out positive for H5N8 avian influenza

virus on Sunday," the release

However, the infection has not been reported in poultry birds in the two

cases, all districts in Chhattisgarh have been put on alert and directed to follow protocols laid down by the central government.

As per the bio-security measures, areas within a radius of one km from the two places in Jagdalpur where the crow and pigeon were found dead have been declared "infected zones". said Laxmi Ajgale, Joint Director of Veterinary services in Bastar.

A Rapid Response Team has launched necessary action, she said, adding that disinfectants are being sprayed in the areas and poultry birds are being

Similar measures have also been undertaken at Bacheli town where a bird was found dead, another

Last week, samples of some chickens found dead at a poultry farm in Balod district had tested positive for the avian influenza.

CAMPA okays ₹1,534 cr of proposals for action plan



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

L Compensatory Afforestation Management Planning Authority (CAMPA) on Monday approved proposals worth ₹1,534 crore for 2021-22 to increase productivity of forest

areas and other things.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Steering Committee of CAMPA held under the chairmanship of In-charge Chief Secretary Subrat Sahoo here.
The proposals were approved

under the annual action plan for 2021-22 to increase productivity of forest areas, compensatory plantation, restoring bamboo forests, wildlife management and to increase ground water

conservation.
The Chief Executive Officer of CAMPA, V.P. Srinivasa Rao, said that out of the innovative schemes implemented by the state government, work is being done to treat all the small and big drains in the forest areas from their point of origin to the

mpletion point.
In the 2019-20 action plan,

vation structures are being constructed in 4.58 lakh hectare catchment areas of 863 drains in the forest area, Rao said.

Construction work of 12.70 lakh water conservation structures have been started at a cost of ₹210 crore in 3.11 lakh hectare area of 1,092 drains for 2020-21.

Also, implementation of schemes like Maanv Sangwari Yoiana in human-elephant conflict zones of the state is being undertaken to improve habitat and awareness campaign, Rao said.

One police officer gets fresh posting, two posts swapped

RAIPUR: The Chhattisgarh government on Monday issued fresh posting orders for three state cadre police offi-

orders for three state caute police offi-cers in a minor reshuffle.

One officer got a new post while two officers swapped the posts they held.

According to an official order, Nagri Sub Divisional Officer of Police (SDOP)

in Dhamtari district, Nitish Kumar Thakur, has been posted as In-charge Zonal Superintendent of Police (Special Branch) in Bastar. Anil Soni, who was an Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) in Janjgir-Champa, is now a Mungeli ASP. The ASP in Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi (GPM), Sanjay Kumar Mahadeva, who had been appointed ASP in Mungeli district, has been sent to Janjgir-Champa as ASP.

Eight Naxalites surrender

Eight Naxalites surrendered in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada district

With this, 248 Naxalites, including with bounties on their heads, have laid down arms in the district since the 'Lon Varratu' campaign, which means "Return to your home/village" in Gondi dialect, started in June last year, an official said.

The eight, including a woman, said they surrendered due to their disappointment with the Maoist ideology and because they were encouraged by their former colleagues who laid down weapons, Dantewada Superintendent of Police Abhishek Pallava said.

Of the eight, Suresh Oyami (20) was active as a member of Platoon No Committee of the Maoists and carried a reward of ₹2 lakh on his head.

Three others -- Jogi Madvi (19), Pradip alias Pandru Kovasi (20) and Sule Kawasi (35) -- carried rewards of ₹1 lakh each, he said.

The other four were part of the outlawed outfit's lower hierarchy, the officer added

"All of them were involved in attacks on police teams, planting explosives and damaging government property, including railway tracks, and killings of civilians in Dantewada and Bijapur districts," he said.

They were given immediate assistance of ₹10,000 each and will get further help as per the government's surrender and rehabilitation policy, he added.

न्यायालय जिला दण्डाधिकारी राजनांदगांव (छ.ग.)

स्पूचना पुत्र , अधूचना पुत्र , अधूचना पुत्र , अधूचना पुत्र , अध्यय जमारणांव दिनांक / 122028 आवेदक प्राधिकृत अधिकारी बँक ऑफ इंडिया शाखा सिर्विक सेन्टर मिलाई जिला दुर्ग (छ.ग.) के द्वारा आवेदन य अंतर्गत यात्रा सी विवीध आस्त्रियों का प्रतिभृतिकरण एवं पुर्वगठन और प्रतिभृतिक्रित का प्रतिन अधिनियम 2002 के ताव्रत सिक्थर्ड अस्त्रेस्त का क्षत्रतंन अधिन स्थापन क्षत्रे आते स्थापन क्षत्र का स्थापन स्थित आते स्थापन क्षत्र का स्थापन स्थापन क्षत्र का स्थापन स्यापन स्थापन स्यापन स्थापन स्य नहत सिक्युर्ड असेटस का कब्जा प्राप्त किये जाने तहत स्वयुड अस्तरस का कब्जा प्राप्त किय जान हेंचु आवेदन पत्र प्रस्तुत किया गया है। परन्तुत आवेदन पत्र में मेसर्स आर.एस.इंजीनियरिंग सीजीएव वी कालेगी एकता परिसर मालवीय नगर तहसील एवं जिला दुर्ग तथा भी ए.सोमन आ.स्व.ए.के.श्रीयरन, श्री एस.सन्त आ.श्री एस.सोमन, श्रीमती रेत्या गावर घ.पं.कुरूच गावर, मौजीवाश श्री लालेगी एकता प्रतिस्थ मावरा, जीएव बी कालोनी एकता परिसर मालवीय नगः साआएव वा कालाना एकता पारतर मालवाय नगर तहसील एवं जिला दूर्ग तथा श्री सन्जू सोमन आ.एस.सोमन, श्रीमती अन्वाली सोमन u.पं.एस.सोमन निवासी प्लॉट नं.301/302 सूर्याविहार जूनवानी मिलाई तहसील व जिला दूर्ग एवं आर तथा नावर ध.पं.श्री के.पी.आर.नावर निवासी बी-32 चौहान हाउसिंग काम्पलेक्स जूनवानी भिलाई तहसील एवं जिला दुर्ग को

i सुनवाई दिनांक 20.01.2021 को प्रात: 11.00 बजे मेसर्स आर.एस. इंजीनियरिंग सीजीएच बी होनी एकता परिसर मालवीय नगर तहसील एव जिला दुर्ग तथा श्री ए.सोमन आ.स्व.ए.के.श्रीधरन जिला दुर्ग तथा श्री ए.सोमन आ.स्व.ए.के.श्रीपरन एस सन्त आ.श्री एस. सोमन, श्रीमती रुवा नावर प्र. कुरूल नावर, सीजीएख बी कालेनी एकता परिसर मालवीय नगर तहसील एवं जिला दुर्ग तथा श्री सन्जू सोमन आ.एस.सोमन, श्रीमती अव्याली सोमन प्र. त्या, सामन निवासी च्लाट मं. उठा/302 सूर्याविहार जूनवानी मिलाई नहसील एवं जिला दुर्ग एवं आर राधा नावर प्र. श्री के. ग्री आ.सा-वार जूनवानी मिलाई तहसील एवं जिला दुर्ग की उपस्थित हेतु मरूरण निवास किया गया है। इस सूरना पत्र के माध्यम से सभी अनावेदक पक्ष को सुचित किया जाता है कि वे

अनावदक पक्ष को सुमाई हैन नया जाता है कि व नियत दिनांक को सुनाई हैन नयाताञ्च करनेक्टर राजनांदगांव में उक्त दिनांक एवं समय को अनिवार्य रूप से उपस्थित होवे। नियत दिनांक को उपस्थित होये। नियत दिनांक को अनुपरिथत रहने पर प्रकरण में तदनुसार अग्रिम कार्यवाही की जिला दण्डाधिकारी

न्यायालय कलेक्टर, दुर्ग जिला-दुर्ग (छत्तीसगढ़) व्यक्तिगत उपस्थिति समन रा.प्र.क.162 / ब-121 / वर्ष 2019-2

ाधिकृत अधिकारी, बेंक ऑफ इंडिया, शाखा- सिविक सेंटर मिलाई, तहसील व जिला दुर्ग (छ.ग.) देविती

मेवर्स- आर.एस इंजिनियरिंग पाना- प्लॉट नं. ए/168, प्रथम तत छ.ग. हाउ. बोर्ड कॉलेमी एकता परितर मातवीय नवर तह, व जिला ट्र पार्टनर - 1. एस. सीमण आ. ए.के. शीधरण 2. एस. सानता आ. एस. सीमण 4. के.पी.आर. नेर आ.कुरूप नेर 2. संप्र सीमण आ. एस. सीमण (गार्टरर) देगों ता लांचिर ने अ. आ.य. वृद्धा विद्या तुम्बानी फिल 4. आर. राधा नेर पति छस. सीमण (गार्टरर) दोगों ता लांचिर ने अ. आ.य. वृद्धा विद्या तुम्बानी फिल 4. आर. राधा नेर पति छस. पी. आर. नेर (गार्टरर) पता- बी-12. बोहान हार्जिंग व्याम्पलेसा जुनवानी फिल

और प्रतिभूतिहित प्रवर्तन अधिनियम, 2002 व पारा 14 के अन्तर्गत अनावेदकों द्वारा आवेदर का भाग मकान नं, 301 प्लॉट नं, ए/301,2 एवं छ.नं. 749/5,749/3 का भाग (पुराना) नया छ.नं. 749/25, क्षेत्रफल 5216 वर्गफीट को काया राशि की अदायगी नहीं करने के कारण रिक्त भौतिक आधिया मं प्राप्त करने हेतु प्रस्तुत आवेदन पत्र पर प्रकरण संस्थित कर प्राकृतिक चाया सिद्धांत के अन्तर्गत अनाबेदक को समक्ष सुनवाई किये जाने हेतु सुचना पत्र जारी कर आहत किया गया था। तामितकता द्वारा टीप दी गई कि समयाभाव के कारण जारी नोटिस अदम तामित वापस प्राप्त। का भाग मकान नं. 301 प्लॉट नं. ए/301,2 ए

चैंकि अनावेदकों को प्रकरण में सम चुंकि अनावेदकों को प्रकरण में समक्ष सुनवाई का युवित्युक्त अवसर प्रदात किया जाना है। अताएव इस समन के जिरिये अनावेदक को आदेश दिवा जाता है कि आप इस मामले की आगामी पेशी दिनांक 01/02/2021 को कलेक्टर, दुर्ग के न्यायालय में व्यक्तिगत रूप से अनिवार्यत: उपस्थित होकर अपना पक्ष प्रस्तुत करें। यह आप नियांत्रित सुनवाई तिथि को अनुपश्चित पाये गये तो तो अपने की सुनवाई आपकी गैरहाजिंगे में की जावंत्री।
आज दिनांक 02/01/2021 को मेरे इस्तावर

आज दिनांक 02/01/2021 को मेरे हस्ता मुहर)

कार्यालय मुख्य चिकित्सा एवं स्वास्थ्य अधिकारी जिला - उत्तर बस्तर कांकेर (छ.ग.)

कार्यालय मुख्य चिकित्सा एवं स्वास्थ्य अधिकारी के डी.एम.एफ. मद अंतर्गत विशेषज्ञ चिकित्सक संविदा भर्ती हेतु आवेदन पत्र दिनांक 29.01.2021 समय 11.00 बजे से कार्यालय सिविल सर्जन सह अस्पताल अधीक्षक जिल चिकित्सालय कांकेर में अपनी उपस्थिति देवें। उपरोक्त पद संबंधित विस्तत जानकारी कार्यालय कलेक्टर/मुख्य चिकित्सा एवं स्वास्थ्य अधिकारी जिला उत्तर बस्तर कांकेर के सूचना पटल व जिले के वेब साइट www.kanker.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है।

S. no.	Post Name		Educational Qualification	Perpose Salary (Per Month)
	Specialist (Medicine)		Essential	
1	District Hospital	1	Qualification - MBBS & PG	Salary@ 2,10,000/-
2	Specialist (Surgeon)		Degree/Diploma in	Negotiable
	District Hospital	1	Respective Specialty	(Based on
	Specialist (Child)		With Registration in Concerned Medical Council Salary Negotiable, as per esential Qualification & Clinical Work Experiance.	Qualification & Clinical Work
3	District Hospital	1		Experience)
	Specialist			
4	District Hospital	1		
	Specialist (Chest & TB)			
5	District Hospital			
	Specialist (Anesthesia)			
6	CHC Bhanupratappur	1	1	
	Radiologist			
7	District Hospital	1		
	Total -	7		

G- 86393/5 Ryp/Dtd 18.1.21

जिला उत्तर बस्तर कांकेर (छ.ग.)

CM flags off ration truck for farmers protesting in Delhi



STAFF REPORTER

hhattisgarh Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Monday flagged off a

truck loaded with ration and also ₹66,500 cash for farmers protesting on Delhi's borders against the three

The truck, ferrying the

NSUI members, took off from Baghel's official residence here, a press release said.

Chhattisgarh NSUI members had launched a campaign 'Ek rupiya daan Ek paili dhaan'. They collected 53 tonnes of paddy and ₹66,500 which were sent to the farmers.

State NSUI President Akash Sharma said the collection was launched on January 5. The drive was held in all districts and village Panchayats.

Along with ration, daily use items like disposable plates, glass, spoons and, tea cups, water bottles, oil, rice, dal and spices were also sent

the mountains, creating

rivers. Even storms and

We had no complications, medical staff tell Singh Deo

RAIPUR: Chhattisgarh Health Minister T.S. Singh Deo was on Monday told by workers at the Jagdalpur district hospital that they did not face uneasiness or complications after being administered Covid vaccine.

Singh Deo asked them about their experience after the vaccination, to which they said it did not cause any complications, a press release said.

They said they only faced pain at the spot where they were injected.

The Civil Surgeon of the hospital said all the staff members who vaccinated are back on duty.

OFFICE OF THE PROJECT DIRECTOR, CSRSP, (ADB PROJECT) PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, SIRPUR BHAWAN, RAIPUR (C.G.)

E-mail:- pdadb.raipur.cg@gov.in, Tel./FAX 0771-2331427 NOTICE FOR INVITATION OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

FOR GROUP-B ROADS (1st Call)

I. Government of Chhattisgarh, Public Works Department, (CSRSP) (hereinafter referred to as 'Employer' or 'Client'), is engaged in rehabilitation and upgrading of State Highways and MDRs across the state under Chhattisgarh State Road Sector Project. To facilitate this process, GoCG, PWD intends to engage the GoCG, PWD intends to engage the services of technically enconsultancy firms to prepare Detailed Project Report (DPR)
Rehabilitation & Upgrading of SH & MDRs for following Group:

	ichabilitation & Opgrading of 511 & InDic for following Group.					
S. No	Name of Work	Number of roads		PAC (Rs. in Lakhs)	Bid Security (INR in Lakhs)	Time for Completion
	C on sultancy Services for Survey, Feasibility Study & Preparation of DPR for Group-B Roads (ADB Loan-4)		302.20	518.98	3.00	6 Months

- 2. The details of preparation and submission of proposals can be seen in the RFP document which can be obtained between 10.30 hrs to 17.30 hrs on all working days upto 15-02-2021 from the Office of Project Director, CSRSP, ADB Project, Raipur (C.G.), India and can also be viewed and downloaded from our website "https://proc.cgstate.gov.in" and Official Website of CGPWD: "https://pwd.cg.nic.in".
- . The Consultant shall be selected on the basis of QCBS (80:20) Method.

Last date of bid submission - 16.02.2021 at 15:00 Hrs. IST. Pre-bid Meeting - 06.02.2021.

 Modifications/Amendments/Corrigendum, if any shall not be advertised in the news papers but, shall be published in the aforesaid web site only. The client reserves the right to cancel this invitation for RFP at any time without assigning any reason therefor.

Project Director Raipur (C.G.)

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DURG CIRCLE DURG (C.G.

e- Procurement Tender Notice

	Online tenders in form "A" percentage rate basis are invited on behalf of ${\bf Governor}$ of ${\bf Chhattisgarh}$ dated 01.02.2021 :-					
Tender System & NIT No.	System & (NIT No.					
223/70676	CONSTRUCTION OF REST HOUSE. AT NAGPURA DISTTDURG	72.14				
224/70677	224/70677 Construction of Approach Road for Internal Road Ispat Nagar (1/31) to Colony Road Risali Length-400 Mt					
	225/70679 Construction of Approach Road for Main Road To S.LR Office At Station Maroda Length-500 Mtr					
	226/70680 Construction of Approach Road for Durg Utai Road To Internal Road Police Line Campus at Newai Length-650 Mtr					
	Construction of Approach Road, Main Road to Internal Road Indira Chowk to Station Maroda Length- 700 Mtr.	41.52				
	Approach Road for Durg Utai Road To Internal Road Maa Kalyani Mandir Road at Maroda Tank Length-700 Mtr	41.52				
229/70683	APPROACH ROAD MAIN ROAD TO PRAGATI NAGAR STREET 20 A AT RISALI Length-700 Mtr					
230/70684 Approach Main Road to Internal Road Gandhi Nagar Maitri Kunj West Street No. 12,13,14, & 15 At Risali Length-750 Mtr		44.49				
231/70686	231/70686 Approach Road Main Road to Internal Road Govt.High School Station Maroda Length-800 Mtr					
232/70687	232/70687 Approach Road Ritesh Deshlahara House to Santosh Ahirwar House at Newai (West) Length-800 Mtr					
233/70688	Approach Road Main Road to Internal Road Jedu Kosare House to Dashara Maidan Newai (West) Length-800 Mtr	47.45				
234/70689	Approach Main Road To Internal Road Suresh yadav Home to Jivrakhan Sahu Home, Newai West Length-840 Mtr	49.83				
235/70690	235/70690 Approach Main Road To Internal Road Santosh yadav Home to Nadi Chowk Newai West Length-840 Mtr 236/70691 Approach Main Road To Internal Road Jiwrakhan Sahu Home to Purnanand Home (Khadan Para) Newai West Length-					
236/70691						
237/70692	CONSTRUCTION OF RAMTARA BHANPURI ROAD IN KM 1.00 Under Sub Division No 2 Balod	35.16				
Note-	Note-					

- 1- NIT No 223,224,225,226,227,228,229,230,231,232,233 & 234 are under Publice Works Depatment Durg Division Durg and NIT No 235 are under Publice Works Depatment Balod Division
- General Conditions, detailed NIT, Tender documents & other information of the above construction work downloaded from the Eprocurement web portal or departmental website
- http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in.

 NIT No. & Name of the Work should be essentially mentioned on the envelope through the Registerd Post/Speed Post in this office.

Superintending Engineer P.W.D., Durg Circle Durg (C.G.) Tel. 0788-2210876

Sun's energy is soul to universe: Indubhavanand

STAFF REPORTER

RAIPUR

The Sun is the energy for the entire universe as we receive both heat and light from it, and one cannot imagine life without the Sun, said Dr Indubhavanand

Maharaj.

He was addressing the 'Surya Upasana' being organ-ized on the occasion of 'Paush' month on the third Sunday at the ashram of Jagatguru Shankaracharya Dwarka Sharda Peetadhishwar Swami Swaroopanand Saraswati in



He said it is the Sun

which converts water in the

oceans into vapour leading

One cannot imagine life on earth minus the Sun, said Dr Indubhavanand.

Therefore, the Sun acts as the eternal soul for life and the universe. It provides the light energy for the Moon and other planets in the solar system. The sun releases calcium and gases useful for humans. So, worshipping the Sun is the moral responsibility of every living being, he

He added that so in the auspicious month of Paush, one should offer water to the 'Sun' god.

G- 86400/4 Ryp/Dtd 18.1.21

winds occur due to heat Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delhi\text{i}New Delhi only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement, before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Ploneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.

10TH ROUND OF TALKS TOMORROW ————

Agri Min bats for farm reforms, defends laws

Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, on Monday said that the pre-vious Governments could not introduce these reforms because of pressure tactics.
"These reforms will go a

long way in elevating the living standard of farmers. Whenever any reform is introduced. impediments are bound to come in the way," Tomar

The tenth round of talks between the Centre and 41 protesting farmers' unions is scheduled for Wednesday at 12 noon at Vigyan Bhawan in the heart of the national Capital. Separately, a Supreme Court-appointed panel to resolve the crisis is also scheduled to hold its first meeting on Tuesday. The previous rounds of talks between the Government and farmers have failed to reach any concrete results, as protesting unions have stuck to their main demand for repealing the new laws, but the Government has refused to do

"Misinformation is being spread across the country that MSP (minimum support price) is being discontinued



but the government has made it clear that the MSP will continue. Procurement on MSP has also been increased. Pulses-oilseeds have also been included in the MSP. These laws were expected earlier but the previous government could not implement because of pressure. It was the Modi government that took a bold step and brought these laws passed in Parliament... Whenever a good thing hap-pens, there are obstacles," Tomar said while addressing a national conference on recent agriculture reforms, Myths vs Facts organized by Confederation of NGOs of rural India.

The statement is being seen as a reiteration of the gov-ernment's stand that it was only willing to discuss the laws

has been rejected by farmers. who called the last round of talks "120 per cent failure". The minister added that the laws were made after extensive discussions between experts, scientists and farmer unions based on recommendations of a panel led by Professor MS Swaminathan, the father of India's Green

Revolution. He also cited agriculture budget figures for this fiscal against those in 2013-14 when the PM Modi-led government first came to power to showcase the government's commitment towards farmers' welfare. "There will be a five-fold increase in the agriculture budget," he added.

On eve of the tenth round of meeting, a delegation of farmers representing over 270 farmer producer organizations from Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Karnataka, riadesn, Assam, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh and Odisha met Minister of State for Agriculture Parshottam Rupala and appealed not to repeal the Minister of State for Agriculture Kailash Choudhury was also present in

Cold wave warning extended | Avian influenza till Jan 22 in north India

North India will continue to reel under the grip of an intense cold wave for a few more days. The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) on Monday extended the cold wave warning in north the cold wave warning in north

India till January 22.

According to the IMD, change in wind direction from easterly to westerly/north westerly is likely to bring down minimum temperature by 2 to 4 degree Celsius during the next three days and after that rise by 2-4 degree Celsius over the northwest India. RK Jenamani, the senior

scientist, IMD, said that the warning for the cold wave in North India has been extended till January 22. Earlier, the IMD had issued a cold wave warning for January 13-15 and then extended it till January 18. A few days back, the weather bureau had issued a cold wave warning for 13-15 January and then extended it till 18 January. A cold day is when the minimum temperature is less than 10 degrees Celsius and the maximum is at least 4.5 degrees Celsius below normal.

However, Jenamani said that the dense fog spread across northern plains in Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand will begin lifting



Vehicles ply in New Delhi in thick fog

from Tuesday. Dense fog will begin lifting from Tuesday over northern plains in Punjab, Harvana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, This will lead to hotter days and colder nights.

"A fresh Western Disturbance is likely to affect Western Himalayan Region from 22nd January. Under the influence of its interaction with low level easterlies from 23rd January; scattered to wide-spread rain/snow likely over Western Himalayan Region during 22nd-24th January," the IMD said in a tweet.

"Under the influence of lower level wind reversal from easterly to westerly/northwest-erly, Cold Wave conditions likely in isolated pockets over East Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana, Chandigarh & Delhi during 18th-20th and West Uttar Pradesh and north Rajasthan during 19th-21st

Ranian Dimri I Pioneer

January, 2021," the IMD said. In Rajasthan, the night temperatures dipped to near-zero, and Pilani recorded a temperature of 0.4 degrees Celsius, followed by Churu, which witnessed a temperature of 1.9 degrees Celsius.

Meanwhile, dense fog could be witnessed in parts of Uttar Pradesh as major cities such as Agra, Kanpur and Jhansi recorded below six degrees Celsius temperatures, significantly below season's normal. Moderate fog is expected over isolated places in the state over Tuesday and Wednesday. In Punjab and Haryana too, the temperatures remained below normal levels. Bathinda recorded 3.4 degrees Celsius, while Gurdaspur and Faridkot wit-nessed 7 and 5.5 degrees Celsius respectively. Chandigarh recorded a low temperature of 8.3 degrees Celsius.

confirmed in 14 States: Centre

The Centre on Monday said I that avian influenza has been confirmed in 14 States across the country so far. Of them, avian influenza has been confirmed in five states in poultry birds while in nine States it is confirmed in crow/migratory and wild

birds. "Further, avian influenza has been confirmed in samples of the dead heron from Tis Hazari, and in crow from Red Fort, Delhi and advisory in this regard has been issued to Delhi for taking necessary action," it

According to the ministry of animal husbandry, culling and sanitization operations have been completed in the epicenters of Latur district in Village Kendrewadi, Village Kendrewadi, Ahmedpur, Village Sukani, and Village Tondar (Vajrawadi) in Udgir taluk and village Kurdwadi in Ausa taluk. Further, in Madhya

Pradesh (Districts of Harda and Mandsaur) and Chhattisgarh (District Balod), rapid response teams have been deployed for the culling of poultry birds around one km radius of epi-

centers of the outbreak in poul-try. Culling operation of poultry is continuing in the epicenters of Haryana (District Panchkula).

"In Maharashtra, rapid response teams has been deployed and culling of poul-try birds is underway in all the affected epicenters," it said.

According to the CRISIL's analysis that rated 87 poultry companies comprising nearly 30 percent of the industry's rev enue, the bird flu has chopped around 30 percent off broiler chicken volume, bringing down daily chicken demand in the country from 100 lakh kg in December 2020 to an estimat-70 lakh kg in January 2021.

Apart from this, the rating agency added that wholesale prices of broiler chicken have crashed 20-30 percent from Rs 105-110 per kg in December to Rs 80 per kg. Following this, the overall revenue could decline 30-40 percent in January 2021 due to a fall in

realizations and volume.

It noted that as wholesale prices usually correct sharply following such outbreaks, the fall in prices tends to be tem-

COVID-19 Need to invest in health, funding to WHO: Health Min

OVID-19 pandemic has Crevealed the need to invest in health, and the call for sustainable funding to the World Health Organisation (WHO) so that the global body can fully respond to public health needs. Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan said on

He pointed out that any proposed increase in budget needs to also consider the global economic impact of the disease.

The Minister, who chaired the 148th session of WHO Executive Board through video conference, said the poorest and most vulnerable are the hardest hit by COVID-19 as the impact of the crisis will reverse hard-won development gains and hamper progress towards achieving Sustainable achieving Sust Development Goals,

Stressing the need to ensure fair and equitable distribution of coronavirus vaccines, Dr Harshvardhan said the pandemic has presented an

world who continue working under difficult and challenging circumstances to deal with the pandemic. He also offered his condolences to the families whose dear ones died due to the disease, according to a statement by the health min-

istry.
"We all know how difficult the year 2020 has been for the whole world... how humanity has battled this crisis with all its might, but it has also been a year in which the wisdom and evidence of science was judiciously adopted. I call the year 2020 as the 'year of science' and a 'year of incredible scientific

achievement.
"In less than 12 months, researchers have characterised a novel illness, sequenced a new virus' genome, developed diag-nostics, produced treatment protocols, and established the efficacy of drugs and vaccines in randomised controlled trials," Vardhan was quoted as saying by the ministry.

The Union minister also expressed optimism that in opportunity whereby "health" has been placed on the global agenda of Governments, partners and donors.

He thanked the medical professionals, scientists and researchers as well as other as presented and successfully reversed through committed political leadership and sustained global cooperation and solidarity.

Avoid alcohol, immunosuppressants before, after receiving vaccine: Docs

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Doctors have warned that people should avoid drinking alcohol or taking immunosuppressant drugs in the days before and after receiving the Covid-19 vaccine to ensure that it works properly. "People will have to

observe extra precautions during the 28 days gap between the two doses for the vaccine to become effective. The beneficiaries should also refrain from visiting crowded places, wear face masks, use sanitizers, min-imise contacts and refrain from consuming alcohol or immunosuppressant drugs," said Dr Jugal Kishore Director Professor and Head, Department of Community Medicine, VMMC and Safdarjung Hospital in the national Capital.

"It's a strain on the body. If

we want to stay healthy and have a strong immune response, don't drink alcohol," he said.

Dr Ramesh Keshav, Head Cardiac Anesthesia Department at the RML Hospital in the national Capital, who took the first shot on the first day of the roll out of the vaccine drive agreed saying that heavy drinking and drug abuse should in other times otherwise also has to be avoided as they compromise with the



He cited the Union Health Ministry's guideline that said that protective levels of antibodies are generally developed two weeks after receiving the

second dose of vaccines.

Dr Kishore explained that alcohol consumption, intake of steroids and tobacco may lead to impaired liver function in a nated and the person's immune response may be compromised.
"In such a case, the person

may not develop adequate immunogenicity and the purpose of vaccination is defeated," he said.

In fact, existing scientific literature on alcohol and the immune system shows that excess alcohol is an immunosuppressant so people who drink a lot are more suscepti-ble to infections, a view supported by the doctors world

"Heavy drinkers have many problems and poor immune function is one of them," immunologist Eleanor Riley at the University of

or wall infarction with

Cardiopulmonary failure. The

Edinburgh, UK said. Heavy alcohol use is also associated with a number of

other health problems, including an increased risk of heart disease, cancer, and liver dis-While alcohol should be avoided, a team of researchers

in their study has suggested that health behaviours and depression, stress, or loneliness also have been known to alter the body's ability to develop an immune response to vaccines including the new Covid-19

The international organisation Association for Psychological Science (APS) said that simple interventions, however, may maximise the vaccine's initial effectiveness. It quoted the study which rec-ommends exercising and getting a good night's sleep in the 24 hours before vaccination. The report has been accepted for publication in the journal Perspectives on Psychological

Health experts say that while vaccination programmes are being rolled out in various countries, not everyone will gain the full benefit immediately. "Environmental factors, as well as an individual's genetics and physical and mental health, can weaken the body's immune system, slowing the response to a vaccine," as per the APS.

CBI arrests NFR officials in ₹1 crore bribery case

The CBI has arrested a Chief Administrative Officer of North East Frontier Railway (NFR), Maligaon (Assam), a Deputy Chief Engineer, an Assistant Executive Engineer of NFR, an employee of private company based at Guwahati (Assam) and a private person (relative of the arrested CAO) in a case related to alleged bribery of ₹ 1 crore.

The agency recovered ₹2.39 crore in cash during searches at 26 locations, including Delhi. Uttarakhand, Assam, Tripura and West Bengal, linked to the five accused per-The arrested accused are

the CAO Mahendra Singh Chauhan, Deputy Chief Engineer Hem Chand Borah, Assistant Executive Engineer (AEN) Lamxi Kant Verma, an employee of ABCI Infrastructures Pvt. Ltd. Bhupendra Rawat and private person Indra Singh. "The total amount of ₹2.39

crore was recovered. The searches includes an alleged bribe of ₹1 crore, which exchanged hands on Sunday. During searches, a sum of ₹18.5 lakh and ₹6.5 lakh have been recovered from the premises of Deputy Chief Engineer and Assistant Executive Engineer (AEN) respectively. In addition, ₹60 lakh was recovered from Dehradun and ₹54 lakh from Guwahati premises of CAO, on

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, on Monday, inaugurated Road Safety

"Till now, we have been

Gadkari also said that there



It was alleged that the accused were abusing their official position for obtaining illegal gratification. It was further alleged that the arrested director of the private company was in contact with the CAO in various on-going projects in the NFR region

Sunday. Besides this, there has been recovery of jewellery and documents related to property from these locations," the CBI said in a statement.
Earlier, the CBI had regis-

tered a case against the accused persons and unknown others under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and Prevention of Corruption Act.

It was alleged that the accused were abusing their

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari

official position for obtaining illegal gratification. It was further alleged that the arrested director of the private company was in contact with the CAO in various on-going projects in the NFR region. It was also alleged that on his demand, the said Director, through his employee, delivered a bribe of Rs.1 crore to the relative of said CAO at his residence in Dehradun. "The accused allegedly exchanging bribe money were caught yes-terday. The alleged bribe of Rs One crore was recovered," it

The agency had on Sunday busted a major corruption racket. It was alleged that some senior public functionaries of NFR were involved in corrupt practices with private contrac-tors for the on-going projects under the division. The con-tractors were allegedly being facilitated in awarding the contracts, processing of subsequent bills and release of paytionaries in lieu of bribe, it further said adding investigation

580 adverse events following immunisation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Out of total of 3,81,305 beneficiaries, who have so far been vaccinated for coronavirus since the rollout of the anti-Covid jab drive on Sunday, at least 580 adverse events fol lowing immunization (AEFI) have been reported in the country. The Union Health Ministry said that seven were hospitalised but none of them was serious.

It also said that the death of two persons soon after taking Covid-19 vaccine in Uttai Pradesh and Karnataka was not related to the jab.

Manohar Agnani, Additional Secretary in the Union Health Ministry, while addressing a Press briefing On Monday, till 5 pm, 1,48,266 beneficiaries were vaccinated across 25 States and Union **Territories, taking** the total number of the vaccinated people to 3,81,305

here on Monday said that they died due to heart related ailments. Agnani said "a cumu-lative 580 adverse events following immunization (AEFIs) and seven hospitalizations have so far been reported in the country since the nationwide COVID inoculation drive which began on January 16. Majority complained fever, headache and nausea, according to the provisional data of ongoing vaccination drive.

He said that of the two deaths reported, death of the 52 year male from Moradabad, UP (who was vaccinated on Sunday and died next day is not related to vaccination as per the post mortem report. Death was caused due to cardiopulmonary disease. Similarly, he said that the second death which was of a

post mortem is being conducted," he said. The Government however hasn't given any details about the adverse reactions happened for which particular vaccine.

On Monday, till 5 pm, 1,48,266 beneficiaries were vaccinated across 25 states and Union territories, taking the total tall of the vaccinated people to 3,81,305. On the first day ie Saturday around 2 lakh people were inoculated, said Agnani.

Of the 1,48,266 beneficiaries who were administered the male (43), a resident of Bellary, Karnataka was vaccinated on vaccine on Monday, 8,656 were from Bihar, 1,822 from Assam, 36,888 from Karnataka, 7,070 from Kerala, 6,665 from Saturday and died Monday "The cause of death is anteri-

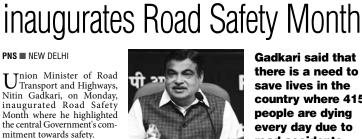
Madhya Pradesh, 7,628 from Tamil Nadu, 10,352 from Telangana, 11,588 from West Bengal and 311 were from

In Delhi, three hospitalisations were reported, out of which, two have been discharged, and one with fainting is under observation at Max Hospital, Patparganj. In Uttarakhand, one of the

Month where he highlighted beneficiaries is stable and under observation at AIIMS the central Government's commitment towards safety. Rishikesh, the official stated. In observing National Road Safety Chhattisgarh, one beneficiary Week. But from today, we will is under observation, while in Karnataka, two cases of hospi observe National Road Safety Month. 70% of deaths are in the talizations were reported, he age group of 18-45 years," Nitin Gadkari said. said. "No case of serious/severe AEFI attributable to vaccination till date," the additional secretary added. is a need to save lives in the

country where 415 people are dying every day due to road accidents. "If we wait till 2030, 6-7 lakhs more people will die. So, we've made a commitment that before 2025, road accidents and deaths due to it will be brought down by 50% with help of people's participation," Gadkari added.

In 2020, the Central Government had participated in a conference in Sweden, where a vision was conceptu-



Gadkari said that there is a need to save lives in the country where 415 people are dying every day due to road accidents

alised - to have zero road fatalities in India by 2030, he said. 'We had promised to reduce such fatalities by 50%. Tamil Nadu has done it, with a

success rate of 53%.," Gadkari Providing details of his ministry about an increased target of per day roads construction, Gadkari said, "We have achieved the target of constructing 30 kilometres of road, I believe that by the end of

March, perhaps we will achieve the target of constructing 40 kilometres of road per day."
"World Bank and ADB (Asian Development Bank) approved two projects worth ?7,000 crore each. We'll receive

approval from finance ministry

crore to improve black spots -Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways added The event at Vigyan Bhavan was also attended by Defence Minister Rajnath

soon. So, we'll spend ?14,000

Singh, Union minister VK Singh and chief executive offi-cer (CEO) of Niti Aayog Amitabh Kant Globally India is one of the

worst-hit nations when it comes to road accidents. India accounts for about 5 lakh road accidents annually, one of the highest in the world, in which about 1.5 lakh people die and another 3 lakh become crip-

R.	NAME OF BOARD CORP./AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
LT.	UHBVN	NIT NO. 296/P&D/ 2020- 21(BID NO. B-637)	SYSTEM STRENGTHENING OF 11 KV LINES WITH BIFURCATION/TRIFURCATION OF OVERLOADED FEEDERS UNDER OPERATION CIRCLE UHBVN, PANIPAT ON TURNKEY BASIS. CLOSING DATED: 27.01.2021 OPENING DATE: 28.01.2021	www.uhbvn.org.in	01723019143 xendd2@uhbvn.org.i
	UHBVN	NIT NO. 297/P&D/ 2020- 21(BID NO. B-638)	SYSTEM STRENGTHENING OF 11 KV LINES WITH BIFURCATION/TRIFURCATION OF OVERLOADED FEEDERS AND INSTALLATION OF NEW DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMERS UNDER OPERATION CIRCLE UHBWN, JHAJJAR ON TURNIKEY BASIS. CLOSING DATE: 27.01.2021 OPENING DATE: 28.01.2021	www.uhbvn.org.in	01723019143 xendd2@uhbvn.org.ir
	UHBVN	NIT NO. 298/P&D/ 2020- 21(BID NO. B-639)	SYSTEM STRENGTHENING OF 11 KV LINES WITH BIFURCATION/TRIFURCATION OF OVERLOADED FEEDERS AND INSTALLATION OF NEW DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMERS UNDER OPERATION CIRCLE UHBVN, KURUSHETRA ON TURNKEY BASIS. CLOSING DATE: 27.01.2021 OPENING DATE: 28.01.2021	www.uhbvn.org.in	01723019143 xendd2@uhbvn.org.i
	UHBVN	NIT NO. 299/P&D/ 2020- 21(BID NO. B-640)	SYSTEM STRENGTHENING OF 11 KV LINES WITH BIFURCATION/TRIFURCATION OF OVERLOADED FEEDERS AND INSTALLATION OF NEW DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMERS UNDER OPERATION CIRCLE UHBVN, VAMUNANAGAR ON TURNKEY BASIS. CLOSING DATE: 27.01.2021 OPENING DATE: 28.01.2021	www.uhbvn.org.in	01723019143 xendd2@uhbvn.org.ii

Terrorists desperate to disturb communal harmony: J&K DGP

3 killed in Lawaypora last month involved in militancy, says IGP

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

head of the Republic Day A head of the reputations in Jammu & Kashmir, Director General of Police Dilbagh Singh on Monday claimed there are inputs that the terrorists are keen to carry out some mis-chief as they are desperate to disturb communal harmony, peace and order in the

Chairing a high level secu-

senior officers of Police, Army, BSF, CRPF and Intelligence agencies here in the police headquarters the DGP said that the year 2021 will have its own challenges as new strategies have been adopted by Pakistan with new terror operatives emerging on ground which need to be countered.

Last week, a tunnel was

detected along the International border in the

Samba sector by the BSF

The security agencies are still investigating whether the same was recently used to push armed infiltrators inside the Indian territory or not. On the occasion DGP also directed that the deployments for republic day may be beefed up and the QRTs, escorts, guards will have to be alert.

He directed that all

arrangements be made so that 26th January celebrations are held peacefully. He said that there are inputs that the terrorists are keen to carry out some mischief as they are desperate to disturb communal harmony, peace and order. He directed the officers to take care of vulnerable persons and places to thwart the nefarious designs of enemies.He said that well coordinated surveilto undo nefarious plans of the

The high level security review meeting was attended by COS 16 Corps Major General Sharad Kapoor, IGP Jammu Zone Mukesh Singh, IGP CRPF Jammu P. S. Ranpise, DIG Udhampur Reasi Range Sujit Kumar, DIG Doda Kistwar Ramban Range Abdul Jabbar, DIG BSF Jammu S. K. Singh, SSP Jammu Shreedhar SSP ČIV PHQ Rajesh Bali, SSP CID CI Jammu Tahir Saiad Bhat, SSP CID SB Jammu Rohit Baskotra and other senior officers. Meanwhile, in Srinagar

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir range, Vijay Kumar said that the three youth killed in Lawaypora gun-fight were involved in militancy and that the police will soon present 'concrete evidence' to their parents. He said that the bodies of

slain militants aren't being handed over to families in

ic as people would assemble in funerals and break the Covid protocol.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of a road safety week function in Srinagar, the IGP said: "We have collected 60 percent evidence and in next days. we will collect more evidence including the technical one and will first convince the parents of slain trio that their sons were involved in militancy and were providing logistic support to militants"

IGP Kumar while replying to a query that the father of one of the slain youth has demand-

Earlier this month, the families of the trio staged a protest at the Press Enclave in Srinagar, demanding a probe and return of the bodies.

The IGP said that, of late, youth are being lured into militancy as OGWs as they are being provided with pistols

and grenades.
"Yesterday, we arrested a youth from Anantnag, along with a pistol and grenade who was tasked to kill someone. We are at it and will counter the trend through human tracking and this is our top priority," he

8 cows mowed down by train, 6 injured

Etawah (Uttar Pradesh): Eight cows were killed and six were injured after speeding Rajdhani Express mowed them down near Tamera Ki Madaiya village on Delhi-Howrah route in Jaswantnagar area of Etawah

The incident took place on Sunday, between Jaswantnagar and Balrai railway stations.

According to the villagers, a herd of cattle was grazing near the tracks when 14 of them were mowed down by the Rajdhani Express.

Eight cows died on the spot, while six suffered critical

The gateman and villagers alerted the district officials including SDM Jaswantnagar Jyotsana Bandhu, who rushed to the spot. The SDM supervised the rescue operation and shifted the six injured animals to a nearby gaushala for treat-

ment, said the police.

"We have shifted the injured cows to a nearby 'gaushala' for treatment. It appears that the incident occurred due to heavy fog in the area. Further investigations are underway in this regard," said the SDM. PTI

Kolkata: In a grim reminder for the Election Commission of India that comingAssembly elections in the State could be splattered in blood, supporters of Trinamool Congress and the BJP clashed at three places with rods and brickbats during a three-km saffron rally led by Suvendu Adhikari and Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh in South Kolkata.

The incident tended to mimic the December 10 attack on NJP president JP Nadda's convoy at Diamond Harbour with a group of Trinamool supporters cap-tured on camera throwing brickbats at the BJP rally passing down the SP Mukherjee Road some two km away from Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's Kalighat res-

The initial attack by the TMC men sparked the clash when the BJP men counter attacked, sources said. "The BJP workers then chased them right inside their mohalla (locality) and beat them up," sources said adding the clashes took place near Charu Market, a few hundred yards away from the Tipu Sultan Mosque. The police rushed to the spot and controlled the crowd,

BJP, TMC clash at Suvendu rally

sources said. Subsequently the TMC men too gathered at different places and attacked the BJP men who were returning from the rally. A number of people were injured in the skirmish, sources said adding motorbikes and some shops were

also vandalized

Reacting to Monday's incident Adhikari a former Bengal Minister said "we had obtained the necessary police permission for this rally but still they made a scanty police bandobast making room for some TMC men to mount the attack... it was a preplanned attack as a few men were seen pelting stones before disappearing inside the lanes...But these tactics will not work because eople of Bengal are with us and

they want a change."

Bengal Minister Arup Biswas however blamed the BJP workers "who came from outside and attacked our men who were just fixing party flags for future political programmes." PNS

NCB nabs drug peddler, extracts cocaine pellets from his abdomen

because of the Covid-19 pan-

demic, bodies of slain militants

aren't being handed over to

their families." If we hand over

the bodies, people will assem-

ble for funerals and break the covid protocol, which would

endanger the lives of people. The bodies of slain militants are

being buried in the presence of

their family members."

The families of the slain

youth have demanded a probe into their killings, saying they were innocent and were killed in a staged gunfight. Several

political parties have also demanded a fair probe into the

A Nigerian drug peddler's effort to befool the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) sleuths fell flat on his flat, as the NCB – though the doctors' intervention --had a dozen of Cocaine pellets extracted from abdominal cavity where they had reached after he had gulped seeing the agency officials consists a section of the sectio cials come to arrest him.

The NCB said here on Monday that the incident took place on January 14 when its officials zeroed in on the accused Nigerian Ifeamyichukwu Pius moving around a fivestar hotel at Juhu to deliver pellets containing Cocaine. At that time, Pius had concealed Cocaine

pellets in his mouth. Seeing the NCB officials rush towards him, the accused peddler

gulped a dozen pellets – containing 1 gram each of Cocaine and the Cocaine pellets landed in his stomach.

Without losing any time, the NCB officials rushed him to J J Hospital, where an xray and CT scan examination confirmed that the pellets were lodged in his abdominal cavity. The doctors extracted the dozen pellets from his abdomen. The retrieved cocaine pellets were handed over to the NCB

"Accused Nigerian drug peddler was discharged from the hospital today. We are try-ing to ascertain his antecedents and also who are his associates in Mumbai," NCB's Zonal Director Sameer Wankhede said. This is the first instance where a peddler

was carrying drugs in his mouth and dis-tributing them to the customers.

K'taka's anti-cow slaughter law comes into effect from Monday

Bengaluru: The anti-cow slaughter ordinance came into effect in Karnataka on Monday, with provisions of up to seven years in jail and (or) a fine of up to Rs 10 lakh for those 'illegally' involved in cow slaugh tering, smuggling or selling of beef in the State.
"All provisions of the Karnataka Prevention of

Slaughter and Preservation of Cattle Ordinance, 2020 to come into force from January 18," the Karnataka government has said in an order.

The new amended law bans transportation of cattle within Karnataka or to other states. The transportation is allowed only with due permission from the competent authority and against the payment of fee, if the purpose is to use cattle only for the agri-cultural or animal husbandry activities.

The Karnataka Prevention of Slaughter and Preservation of Cattle Act, 2020, which envisages a ban on all forms of cattle slaughter and stringent punishment for offenders, is a revised version of a Bill that was passed in 2010 when the BJP was in

Subsequently in 2013, Congress came to power and the BJP's 2010 contentious Bill was shelved. The Congress had reverted to the less stringent Karnataka Prevention of Cow Slaughter and Preservation of Animals Act, 1964, which allows cow slaughter with certain restrictions.

While the 1964 law banned the killing of "any cow or calf of she-buffalo", it allowed the slaughter of bullock, buffalo-male or female if it was certified by a competent authority to be above the age of 12 years or incapacitated for breeding or deemed

Due to lack of majority in the Upper House, the ruling BJP was unable to move this Bill there and decided to take an Ordinance route and promulgated the Ordinance on December 28.

After the state Cabinet passed it, the Ordinance was sent for the approval of the Governor Vajubhai Rudabhai Vala. The Ordinance was formally approved on January 5 and it is coming into effect in the state from Monday onwards.

According to the order, three to seven years imprisonment and a fine starting from Rs 50,000 to Rs 5 lakh can be imposed under this law and subMAHA PANCHAYAT POLLS -

MVA Govt wrests power in majority of gram panchayats **BJP CLAIMS IT HAS EMERGED AS NUMBER ONE PARTY**

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

he ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi The ruling Mana VINAS (MVA) partners - Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress - wrested power in Maharashtra on Monday, amid claims by the Opposition BJP that it had emerged number one party in the

Given that the Gram Panchavat elections are not fought on party symbols, there was no official data on the poll outcome. However, unconfirmed reports indicated that the ruling MVA had collectively captured power in a maximum number of Gram Panchayats in the elections to 14,234 local self-bodies that went to polls.

However, as per the election results available till late in the evening suggested that of the total gram panchayats that went to polls, the candidates in elections in 1,523 local bod-

ies were elected unopposed.
From the results trends available, the ruling Shiv Sena had emerged as single largest party with 1,900 gram panchqyats in its kitty already, while its alliance partner NCP had also captured power 1,507 gram panchayats and the Congresss had walked away with 1,365 gram panchayats. On its, the BJP competing neck and neck with the Shiv Sena by winning little below or around 1900 gram panch-

On his part, Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee Chairman and State Revenue Minister Balasaheb Thorat claimed that the MVA partners had won 80 per cent of the 14,000-odd gram panchayats that went to polls and that the Congress had won a majority in 4000 gram panchyats across the state.

"With these results, it is clear that IANS their faith in the work done by the Marathwada.

Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi government in the last one year. The BJP has suffered a crushing defeat in the state and the BJP leaders should accept the defeat with open heart instead of misleading the people by giving false fig-ures," Thorat said.

In a related development, former

chief minister and senior BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis claimed that the BJP had emerged as the number one party in the Gram Panchayat elections. "In Vidarbha, we have scored a pheneominal victory. In Konkan we are getting good results. Especially in Sindhudurg where Rane family and Ravindra Chavamn worked, we have won 80 per cent of the Grampanchayats," Fadnavis said.

Disputing the claims of a victory by Fadnavis, Thoart said that the people of the state had shown great faith in the MVA government and the results of today's Gram Panchayat elections have further validated their trust."In Kolhapur, Nandurbar, Latur, Nanded, Amravati, Yavatmal, Nagpur, Wardha, Chandrapur, Osmanabad, Washim and Buldhana districts, Congress has emerged as the No. 1 party. The people have shown faith in the candidates of Congress, NCP and Shiv Sena by defeating BJP in these elections as well just like they did in the recent legislative council elec-

tions," he said.

Thorat said that in the Vidarbha region, the Congress party has achieved great success and has won more than 50 per cent of the Gram Panchayats. The people of Vidarbha have helped Congress gain unprecedented success in these elections Thorat also expressed confidence that the Congress would emerge as the number one party in Marathwada. The voting percentage and seats of the

BJP candidates file nomination for UP Vidhan Parishad

Lucknow: All ten BJP candidates for the biennial elections to the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council on Monday filed their nomination papers. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was present when the candidates

present when the candidates filed their nomination papers.

Among the candidates are state BJP chief Swatantra Dev Singh, Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma, former bureaucrat Arvind Sharma, Layman crat Arvind Sharma, Laxman Prasad Acharya, Salil Bishnoi,

Manvendra Singh, Ashwini Tyagi, Dharamvir Prajapati and Surendra Chaudhary.

Earlier, all the candidates reached the BJP's state headquarters where they were given ers to the beating of 'dhols'. The candidates offered prayers at a temple and then went together to the Vidhan Bhawan, located across the road, to file the nom

Kerala reports app to monitor 3.346 fresh attendance of Covid cases



new Covid-19 cases, said state's Health Minister K.K. Shailaia adding that the test positivity rate now stands at 10.11 per As many as 68,399 people

facilities across the state.

Ernakulam has the highest number with 574 cases, while Kasargod with the least numbers with 574 infections.

As many as 2,965 positive cases are through contacts.At least 17 fatalities were reported on Monday, pushing the toll in the state to 3,480. 53 health workers have tested positive for the coronavirus on Monday.

2,09,786 people are under observation at various places in the state. Of this 1,98,681 are at various hospitals in the

Andhra introduces school students

that students of Government schools in Andhra Pradesh do not play truant, the State Government on Monday launched a special mobile app to monitor the regular attendance of the students in all the schools.

The app was designed to eview the students' attendance, which can be accessed both by the teachers and the parents.

Officials said that 90 per

Officials said that 90 per cent of the information pertaining to the guardians and their wards has been furnished into the app.

The application will send an alert message to the parents about their child's attendance on a delibbatic. The appropries of the parents about their child's attendance on a delibbatic. The appropries are sent as the sent and a delibbatic.

a daily basis. The same message will also be sent to the village and ward volunteer, an integral cog in the decentralization of governance system introduced in the southern state.

"If the child is absent for rvation in the ascertain the reasons," said the IANS official.

will visit the household and in light of January 9 at Sri Nookalamma Temple in Kakinada's Kondayyapalem.

night of January 9 at Sri Crime, that two tridents were damaged, police managed to arrest Rao on Monday. IANS while 11,105 under observation | will visit the household and

Andhra cops nab drunken butcher for breaking Kakinada temple tridents

IAS officer's brother found dead

Saharanpur (UP): The body of Ankur Agarwal, brother of Luv Agarwal, an IAS officer posted in the Health Ministry, was found

in mysterious circumstances in the Sarsawan industrial area on Monday night. Ankur's licensed pistol was found lying near his

SP (rural) Saharanpur said that prima facie, it seemed to be a case of suicide but further investigations would reveal the rea-

sons behind the death. Sources said that a family dispute may have led to Ankur taking the drastic step. Further details ar

Senior police officials reached the site on learning of the inci-

in mysterious circumstances

dent and sent the body for post-mortem analysis.

Kakinada: At a time when allegations of multiple temple attacks are making headlines in Andhra Pradesh, the initiative of installing surveillance cameras at all religious places has enabled the state's East Godavari district police on Monday to arrest a drunken butcher for damaging the tridents (trishul) of a local temple in Kakinada more than a

The police arrested Vanumu Lakshmana Rao, 39, a resident of Kondayyapalem in Kakinada, and also managed to procure the footage of his criminal act. The police shared footage of an inebriated Rao dancing and talking in front of the goddess idols holding the tridents and touching them.

In another video captured by a CCTV camera from the left side, Rao raised his hand and pushed the idol's trident, resulting in its top part break-

ing.
He committed the crime in just 10 minutes: between 10:20

"He (Rao) was subjected to a thorough interrogation. The arrested accused has confessed to have committed this

offence," said a police official. On that fateful day, Rao borrowed his friend's bicycle and got drunk. He later went to the temple, broke the tridents and went away.

In the footage shared by the police, the bicycle was found fallen on the ground as Rao was seen dancing, talking and breaking the tridents, even as passersby zipped by on the road beside unbothered.

"Priest of the temple attended as usual in the morning at about 6 a.m. on January 10th and noticed that the two tridents outside the temple were partly broken," said the

The cement idols standing on either sides of the Nookalamma temple's entry door used to hold two tridents.

Following a complaint by the temple's committee president Karri Gangaraju at 1 p.m.

Kerala's Padma Sree awardee does not have a house to stay!

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

It's time for Republic Day and celebrities in Kerala are agog to know who are all those who have made it to the list of this vear's list of civilian awards viz Padma Sri, Padma Bhushan etc.

People in Kerala are obsessed with the titles of Padma Sree and other Padma awards. The year 2010 saw film director Ranjith making "Pranchiyettan the Saint", a movie that set the box office on fire. The film is about a businessman in Thrissur who was duped Rs 1.5 crore by a conman promising the former a Padma Sree award.

The craze for these awards is visible only in Kerala though the titles come with a lot of do and don'ts issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs. The winner is accorded State honors during his/her final rites with police band playing the Last Post and gun salute. The winner is not expected to display the honorifics anywhere including his/her visiting card.



too. But there were reports about a celebrity in the State spending Rs four crore for this

Perumbavoor, a small town in Ernakulam district city has a Padma Sree awardee who does not have a house to stay. Acharya Kunhol, a Sanskrit scholar who works round-theclock for the upliftment of the awarded Padma Sree last year But he stays in a thatched shed even one year after the title was conferred on him by the

President of India. Though it is customary on awardee, nobody from the Kerala Government had extended that courtesy to him till date. "Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan issued a state-ment condemning the Centre for not awarding the titles to at least one person in the list of nearly 50 persons that was submitted by Kerala Government. No need to specify that all the names in the list were strong critics of Narendra Modi. But Vijayan failed to congratulate Acharya Kunhol," said K K Sudhakaran, secretary. Tapasya and a close associate of the Acharya.

the part of the State administration to congratulate the

Last year, The Pioneer had reported about the pathetic situation of the hut in which the Acharya stays. He had expressed his helplessness in offering a cup of black coffee when a group of media persons had called on him. "I have no complaints against anybody and am content with whatever the God has given me," said the Acharya who keeps himself

busy by teaching Sanskrit to the poor children around. Though has contacts with all the leading politicians in the State the Acharya has not approached any one of them with requests for help.

His children are all named

after persons who revolutionized the world through selles services. Ambedkar, Golda Meir, Martin Luther King, Sa Lakshmi , Devadas and Amritanandamayi! Bobby Chemmannur, a

business baron from Kerala's Thrissur has said that he was approached by people in the government with the offer of a Padma Sree. "But when they demanded Rs 50 lakh to meet the initial expenses, I backed out. Later I heard a Kerala entrepreneur who paid Rs 4.5 crore was honored with a Padma Sree," said Padma Sree, said Chemmannur who is known for his friendship with late

Diego Maradonna. He refused to divulge details about the per-



sons and the year of the inci-

Diaspora power

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First the United Kingdom, now in the United States. Members of the Indian diaspora are rising to power



t is said about the Indian diaspora in the Western world, whether they are first-generation immigrants or third or even fourth-generation immigrants, that they have a humongous amount of influence compared to the size of the 'Indian' community in those countries. In Kamala Harris, a half-Jamaican, half-Tamilian woman, a person of partial Indian ethnicity (Harris identifies as 'Black' despite being raised by her Tamilian mother) is rising to one of the most powerful offices in the United States (US) and many openly predict that this role is an audition for a potential run as President very soon. Harris also speaks fluent Sanskrit and Tamil and is believed to be a distant cousin of India's Foreign Minister S Jaishankar.

Along with Harris, we are now informed that over 20 Indian-origin members of the Biden-Harris Administration will start their jobs on January 20, and in doing so this administration has come a long way from the lily-White Trump Administration and even the Obama Administration where actor Kalpen Modi (stage name 'Kal Penn') was the most notable American of Indian origin. Harris however, is not the first Indian in a major office of state in a western nation, that would be the Indian-origin ministers in Boris Johnson's Cabinet, Chancellor Rishi Sunak and Home Secretary Priti Patel. While we in India should feel proud of the achievements of our brethren on foreign shores, many of whom have overcome institutional racism to rise to the top, we must not forget a couple of things. While many of these people might be proud of their Indian heritage, none of them owe anything to the country of their origin. Indeed, if any of them come from lower down the social ladder in India, they might even have an antithetical view and might be hostile towards India.

In fact, it is very likely that Indian-origin politicians and bureaucrats in power in the West, might use that power to put a squeeze on Indian policymaking, indeed some like US Representative Pramila Jayapal have tried doing just that. That said, global realpolitik and the western world's need to position India as a bulwark against China might make all this posturing a moot point. The Quad alliance between Australia, Japan, the US and India is a reality that will not go away. But, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's miscalculation in supporting US President Donald Trump during his 2019 visit to Houston and Trump's visit to India last year, might have potential after-effects for Indian policymakers going forward. And while celebrating the success of Indians in the US we must not forget a few realities that we tend to ignore. Many Indians tend to "ghettoise" when they go to the West, something clearly visible in cities like San Jose, California and Edison, New Jersey, it would be remiss of us in India to ignore this fact. It is also true that a vast majority of Indians in the western world are not just upper caste immigrants but also extremely insular. Indeed social caste mobility in India is easier than in communities who have immigrated to the West as their social outlook is stuck in the past while India has progressed.

OTT Tandav

Though the saffron brigade might be trying to derive mileage, but OTT content does need to be cleaned up



he ongoing controversy over *Amazon Prime's* new web series 'Tanday' is not something new to the country and similar contentious debates took place at the time of the release of movies like the Deepika Padukone-starrer Padmaavat and Aamir Khan's PK. The political drama, in which Saif Ali Khan, Dimple Kapadia and Mohammed Zeeshan Ayyub have played lead roles was released on the Over-the-Top (OTT) media platform on January 15. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders have taken umbrage at a scene in which Ayyub performs a play as Lord Shiva. With Maharashtra BJP MLA Ram Kadam filing a police complaint at Mumbai's Ghatkopar Police Station and seeking the boycott of the series, it

becomes amply clear that the row is politically-motivated and the saffron brigade will leave no stone unturned to derive maximum mileage out of the issue. Particularly in view of the forthcoming West Bengal elections, as the saffron party portray's itself as the "protector" of the faith. That Kadam is refusing to budge from his demand of a boycott of the series despite the cast and crew issuing an "unconditional" apology on Monday evening, clarifying that they did not intend to offend religious beliefs or sentiments, is a clear indication of this. They also referred to parts of a disclaimer that is an industry standard and said 'Tandav' was a "work of fiction" and that "any resemblance to acts and persons and events is purely coincidental." Kadam has now gone one step ahead and asked all Hindus to shun Amazon's shopping site and content platform. So obviously he is spoiling for a fight. Fortunately, an online series rules out the possibility of aggressive Hindu fringe elements threatening the audience and burning movie theatres.

Another BJP leader Manoj Kotak, the MP from Mumbai North-East, wrote to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) expressing strong objections to the web series. He too, demanded an immediate ban on the streaming of the show. With the BJP being in power at the Centre, the I&B Ministry has reportedly sought a response from *Amazon Prime* officials. The Government recently brought OTT platforms such as Netflix, Amazon Prime Video and Disney + Hotstar, besides other online news and current affairs content, under the ambit of the I&B Ministry, giving it powers to regulate policies and rules for the digital space. The advocates of free speech have always underscored that the right to freedom of speech and expression cannot be curtailed and the Indian Constitution guarantees it. Though one agrees with this sentime, and the fact that the right to expression is sacrosanct, it doesn't give anyone a licence to hurt the religious sentiments of any community by insulting their gods and goddess or by potraying them in a bad light. But that said, one cannot but help wonder how is it that "Hindu sentiments" were never as fragile as they are today. Has not India always been a country that has been proud of its tolerant nature and the fact that we follow the Gandhians principles of "ahimsa." Are we now a nation that is deeply divided and intolerance towards even an imagined slight is the new normal? How then, are we any different from those who waged a war against Charlie Hebdo? Needless to say, the controversy surrounding 'Tandav' and the slight, real or imagined, has provided more fodder to fringe elements who thrive on disturbing communal harmony and targeting minorities. As a result of this, two FIRs have been registered against the makers of the show, one in Mumbai and the other in Lucknow. Reportedly, the charges include promoting enmity between different religious groups, race, destruction, damage or defilement of a place of worship or an object held sacred. Things are definitely going to be tough for the makers of 'Tandav'. But one wonders why the upholders of Indian culture and values don't raise a hue and cry over the kind of content that we see on the OTT platform, which is saturated with violence, nudity, abuses, derogatory gestures and remarks. It would be wonderful to clean up the content overall, instead of just focusing on religion.

opanion

Good to focus on skill

The NEP is more in tune with national priorities and contemporary realities. It pays attention to areas that had been neglected for long



A SURYA PRAKASH

fter decades of intransi-Government and policymakers in the education sector have come up with a National Education Policy (NEP) which is more in tune with national priorities and contemporary realities. This is so because the new policy pays special attention to three very important areas that have been neglected for long — holistic and multidisciplinary education, vocational education and impartation of skills and equalisation of opportunity for digital education.

The Centre has drafted education policies in the past. However, like many things which were thought of earlier, these plans have fallen by the wayside for the lack of foresight, funds and commitment. Eventually they just ended up as a string of shibboleths - high sounding but vacuous prose - just meant for the printer contracted by the Government to make a killing!

But, this time it is different because it seeks to diagnose and confront the real problems that we face in the field of education, be it early childhood care and learning, curriculum and pedagogy in schools, language education, holistic and integrated learning, vocational education and promotion of Indian languages, art and culture. It is difficult in a single column to cover all aspects of this policy, so better limit the attention to just a few aspects like holistic, multidisciplinary and vocational education. The NEP talks about the mul-

tidisciplinary approach of universities like Takshashila and Nalanda where good education meant good knowledge of 64 "kalaas" or arts which included singing, painting, chemistry, mathematics, medicine, engineering and vocational subjects such as carpentry, clothmaking and soft skills such as communication and debating. In other words, it was holistic knowledge complete, comprehensive education that gave an individual more than rudimentary understanding of various disciplines of learning and equipped him/her for life's challenges. The NEP says: "The very idea that all branches of creative human endeavour, including mathematics, science, vocationa subjects, professional subjects and soft skills should be considered arts has distinctly Indian origins." Therefore, this ancient under-standing of education "must be brought back to Indian education. as it is exactly the kind of educa-tion that will be required for the



the NEP, if implemented with utmost commitment, will revolutionise higher education in the country, which fell into the rut of clearly separating the arts and the sciences for decades as if these disciplines were enemies of one another. This policy was pursued with such ferocity that even students who acquired Masters' and Ph.D degrees felt a sense of incompleteness to their education and understanding of the world, and consequently lost out to their peers in the west ern world who were blessed with holistic education.

It is indeed sad that our politicians, bureaucrats and educationists persisted with such a policy that segmented knowledge, put students into a strait jacket and virtually prohibited them from venturing into areas outside their syllabus.

All those responsible for this short-sighted policy must be identified and asked why they subjected millions of Indian students to such mindless compartmentalisation.

The second issue is vocational training. Since Independence, Indians were told that blue-collar jobs like running a lathe machine or being a fitter or turner in a factory; operating a bulldozer or heavy earth-moving equipment; carpentry, plumbing, basic electrical work and so on were meant for the less educated or those who passed out of Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs). Good middle

THE CENTRE HAS DRAFTED EDUCATION POLICIES IN THE PAST. HOWEVER, LIKE MANY THINGS WHICH WERE THOUGHT OF

EARLIER, THESE PLANS HAVE FALLEN BY THE WAYSIDE FOR THE LACK OF FORESIGHT, FUNDS AND COMMITMENT

class boys would go to college,

acquire their degrees (with very little skills) and become "boxwal lahs" or private sector executives or teachers. The less fortunate among them would become Government clerks, whereas the smarter ones would take civil service exams and become babus. Further, "safe" Government jobs became the ultimate dream for the youth. The system did not ignite the entrepreneurial instincts of students or challenge

Thus, persons with passable lan-guage skills and a smattering of English were the smart guys with good incomes, whereas the ones with real skills — the lathe operators, the electricians and so on who ran our industries and the manufacturing sector, who kept the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) rising — belonged to a lower grade, the

working class.

This anomaly persisted for decades because the Indian middle class declared that a degree certificate was a must to enter its precincts and to be in its marriage market. This could have been easily set right by awarding degrees after threeyear training at an ITI to those passing out. Finally, the new NEP recognises this lacuna and seeks to remedy it.

It is indeed a shame that this onvoluted middle class habit of honouring skill-less education was allowed to persist for over 70 years after Independence.

This has cost us dearly, because the 12th Five-Year Plan

estimated that only five per cent of the Indian workforce in the age group of 19-24 years received formal vocational education, whereas it was 52 per cent in the US, 75 per cent in Germany and 96 per cent in South Korea. That means the most advanced nations have a high percentage of youth with vocational education, something that the Indian middle class and policymakers scoffed

at. This happened because voca tional education was focused largely on grade eighth dropouts or students in class 11 and 12 who opted for vocational train-

As a result "vocational education is perceived to be inferi-or to mainstream education and is meant largely for students who are unable to cope with the lat-ter", says the NEP. It also seeks to overcome the social status hier-archy associated with vocation-

al education. So, now, the plan is that 50 per cent of students through school and higher education should have vocational education by 2025. It will also be possible for students with vocational skills to get Bachelor's degrees. Alternately, students in undergraduate courses can ioin fouryear multidisciplinary programmes and walk out with worthwhile skills apart from their degrees. In short, the apartheid created by the education system separating the skilled and qualified certificate holders from the unskilled but "packaged degreewallahs" will come to an end. The day we see the skilled workers getting their due, India will take a big leap forward.

We must now keep the pressure on the Government and policymakers to see that the NEP is implemented with utmost nesty and diligence.

(The writer is an author specialising in democracy studies. The views expressed are

Why hurt feelings?

Sir — Taking cognisance of complaints that Hindu gods and goddesses have been ridiculed in the web series 'Tanday', the

Ministry of Information and

Broadcasting sought an explana-

tion from the online streaming platform *Amazon Prime Video*. In

the end the series has proved to

be one more case of controver-

shows are produced only to cre-

ate controversies and get the eve-

balls. It seems that the makers of

the web series have deliberately

mocked Hindu gods and disre-

spected Hindu religious senti-

ments for their own selfish gains.

The show clearly reveals a lack-

adaisical attempt at portraying India's diverse polity.

It is quite clear that such

sial cinema.

NDBITE

Today, India is taking major decisions with confidence. It is not only doing things bigger but

Prime Ministe Narendra Modi



To protect the lives and health of the people I will get the situation back to normal as soon as possible. What is

Japanese Prime Ministe Yoshihide Suga



Apart from nepotism and the movie mafia, the mos awful thing about being you go to sleep



The boy has become a man on this tour. Sirai, leader of the attack in his first Test series and he has led





SC leaves Govt in a tizzy

Sir — It is sad that the Supreme Court on Monday refused to pass any order on the farmers' proposed tractor rally which seeks to disrupt Republic Day (R-Day) celebrations on January 26 in the Capital. The apex court Bench headed by the Chief Justice of India (CJI) said that the proposed tractor rally by the farmers protesting on the borders comes under the category of "law and order" and Delhi Police is the first authority to decide who should be allowed to enter the Capital and it was not the job of the Supreme Court. CJI Bobde's order came as a great setback to the Centre. Now, the chances of violence on R-Day have increased manifold as the police might deal with the farmers in a high-handed manner which will in turn instigate the cultivators to retaliate with force.

Further, if any rally or protest by the farmers disrupts the R-Day parade, it will be an embar rassment to the country as it is associated with the nation's pride. With this the Centre and the Delhi Police are in fix as they have no clue what to do now

Bhagwan Thadani

Inoculation is a turning point in the COVID war

nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive launched on January 16 has put the country in immunisation mode and marked a turning point in the fight against the pandemic. It was, literally and figuratively, a shot in the arm. In this pandemic time the vaccines are the best thing to happen to us. Vaccines are lifesavers and constitute an effective pharmacological intervention for providing immunity against the Coronavirus that has caused a global health emergency. They will result in great gains n public health as time goes by.

It is true that vaccination is yet to pick up pace in many parts of the country. While the plan is to inoculate 100 people in each centre daily it may not always be possible to reach the set target. With time, the picture will become less hazy. People should have confidence in the vaccines. They must shed their inhibitions and turn up at the vaccination sessions. Apart from logistics and practicalities, people need to have trust in the safety and effectiveness of vaccines and realise the importance of immunisation to make the drive a success. It is important to allay fears and uncertainties. In this context, dissemination of information assumes



added importance

The country's top political executives should consider taking the jab to inspire confidence, as was done by Joe Biden and many other world leaders. The Government must also consider leaving the choice of the vaccine to the recipients. It should give the country's impoverished citizens the vaccine for free. G David Milton

Tamil Nadu

India is the land of peace, harmony and tolerance. Nobody has the right to hurt the sentiments of a religious community just for the sake of entertainment. So, it is in the interest of every one that such films should be outrightly banned.

Krishnan Ramani Coimbatore

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Mamata's tactical move Sir — With Bengal Chief Minister

Mamata Banerjee announcing that she will contest the Bengal Assembly election from Nandigram, politics in the State has taken an interesting turn. Now, the fight for the BJP is definitely not a cakewalk and the party will have to devise its strategy accordingly. The announcement is significant as Nandigram is the constituency of her former right hand man Suvendu Adhikari, who crossed over to the BIP last month. Only the future will tell whether the announcement will help "Didi" and stop the defections from her party to the BJP. She has also supported the ongoing farmers' agitation which

days in Delhi-NCR. In 2007, as many as 14 people were killed in clashes in Nandigram between protesting farmers and the police. In the subsequent election, the TMC crafted the "Ma, Maati, Manush" campaign and registered a landslide victor

has been continuing for over 50

Yash Pal Ralhan

analysis

FIRSTCOLUMN

Leading from the front

During the Coronavirus pandemic the SCR showed the country how to turn an adversity into an opportunity



RAM ACHARYA

the COVID-19 pandemic may have severely impacted the Indian economy but the South Central Railway (SCR) rose to the occasion by running scores of Shramik Special trains for ferrying thousands of migrant labourers out of Hyderabad to cities and towns in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh (UP) and Odisha. Sensing the growing and urgent nationwide clamour for immigrant labourers to be allowed to head home by train — as opposed to them being forced to trek kilometres (km) on foot, with many of the workers dying in the process — the SCR was first off the mark. It took the initiative of helping out the hungry, impoverished and tired workers who had reached a breaking point. The SCR began an immigrant labour special train from Lingampally near Hyderabad to Hatia in Jharkhand as early as May 1, 2020, followed by 242 special trains from its stations located in Telangana, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh to various stations in North and North-West India. During the next two months, the SCR transported over 3,13,500 passengers and reportedly at the peak of the operations, 43Shramik Specials were rolled out in a short span of 12 hours.

In the midst of the raging Coronavirus pandemic, the SCR created a safe environment for the labourers who were heading back to their hometowns and villages. The SCR ensured social distancing, repeated sanitising of all trains, use of hand sanitisers by all, contactless thermal scanning and ticket checking through cameras by the ticket checking staff. Plus, the employees deputed at stations wore Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) suits, gloves and facial shields, in order to ensure that they and the passengers remained safe from the virus. They also made sure that the passengers were masks and followed other COVID protocols. If they had not done so, the consequences for the people returning home and the towns and villages would have been disastrous. Special arrangements for food at specified intervals were made for originating trains as well as those that were passing through, with the support of the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) and several Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). As though the COVID-19 contagion was not enough of a crisis for the nation to deal with, disaster struck on May 5 when a major gas leak was reported at Vizag. Consequently, the movement of all trains, including the Shramik Specials had to be halted through the city, and they had to be diverted on alternative routes after a short delay.

However, the shutting down of passenger trains was an oppor-

tunity for the SCR to run more of freight and special parcel trains, allow ing it to earn revenue when general economic activity was on the decline, nationwide. Weekly special parcel trains were run from the New Kacheguda goods shed near Hyderabad to New Guwahati, carrying fish, dry fish, eggs, lemon, oil, ghee and so on. The COVID-19 outbreak offered the Railways an opportunity to capture new freight, too and it began loading industrial salt from the Kakinada Sea Ports Limited; rice from Nagireddipalli; pulses from Kadapa; onions from Nagarsol; dry chillies from Reddypalem and last but not the least turmeric from Nizamabad, all destined for Bangladesh.

The all-India rail traffic having been reduced to less than half of its peak levels enabled the SCR to carry out a major overhaul of the iconic bridge over the mighty Godavari River. Built in 1977, the bridge was in need of repair and a major overhaul, but it was almost impossible to shut it down for extended periods on such a busy route. Due to the pandemic, the repair work was undertaken after a gap of almost 43 years, including track renewal over the entire length of the threekm-long bridge, by ensuring a 36-hour complete shutdown of traffic Track replacement work was carried out with the aid of Plasser Quick Relaying System (PQRS) machines after carrying out deep screening work over all the six spans, while the road traffic continued on the lower deck. Similarly, scissors crossovers that had been laid way back in 1970 in Kazipet with wooden sleepers, could now be replaced with Pre-Stressed Concrete (PSC) sleepers, thanks to the possibility of shutting down traffic for 72 hours, which was unthinkable before the pandemic hit the country. Similarly, the Vijayawada yard, a major facility for the North-South and East Coast freight movement had wooden sleep-ers on its north and south end turnouts. These were replaced with PSC ones during the lockdown period. In all, 8,257 km of track was patrolled on foot and the sidings were completed. Thanks to the steep decline in passenger traffic, 44 km of track between Akola and Akot of the vital North-South link of Akola-Khandwa was converted from metre to broad

gauge and 149 km of existing single-line track was doubled. With five major hospitals and 44 health units spread over its network, the SCR could play a key role in providing critically needed faciltites such as quarantine centres, in which 1,017 beds were set up in a short span of three weeks. The SCR's premier and oldest workshop belonging to the era of the Nizam State Railways also rose to the occasion by building automatic hand sanitiser dispensers, foot-operated taps and water coolers. These were located at public places such as canteens and main gates, keeping the SCR staff and the passengers safe and earning the SCR tonnes of goodwill. During the pandemic the SCR showed the country how to turn any adversity into an opportunity.

(The writer is former member, Railway Board. The views expressed

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

BRINGING KARNATAKA'S MARATHI-SPEAKING AND CULTURAL REGION INTO MAHARASHTRA WILL BE A TRIBUTE TO SOLDIERS MARTYRED IN THE BORDER WAR. -MAHARASHTRA CHIEF MINISTER

UDDHAV THACKERAY





REGIONALISM AND TALK OF LINGUISTICS ARE DETRIMENTAL TO THE UNITY OF THE COUNTRY. I CONDEMN THIS.

—KARNATAKA CHIEF MINISTER

India must stand its ground

All objections raised by the USTR on the DST levied by India on foreign tech firms are baseless. The Govt must not yield to the pressure tactics of the US administration by withdrawing the tax



UTTAM GUPTA

n its findings on the Section 301 probe conducted under the US Trade Act, 1974, the US Trade. Representative (USTR) has *inter alia* concluded that India's digital services taxes (DST) or the so-called equalisation levy (EL) at the rate of two per cent, unfairly targets US companies. The USTR raised three aspects that, it alleges, are inconsistent with global tax principles: First, the levy on US companies has extra-territorial application; second, DST is a tax on the firm's revenue, not its income and third, it subjects US companies to double tax-

The above findings could lead to the US impos ing duties on Indian goods; restrictions on import of goods and services; restrictions/denial on issuance of service sector authorisations; asking India for compensatory trade benefits and taking binding commitments from New Delhi to phase

out the levy.

The stance taken by the US Administration is untenable and totally unjustified. At the outset, let us take a close look at the DST and the reason why India had to introduce it.

The operations of multinational corporations (MNCs) are transnational, with entities located in several countries involving a high-level of inter-dependence and cross-border flow of goods and services between them, as also direct supplies to retailers and consumers. For firms such as Google, Facebook and Amazon, who do business in digital mode, physical boundaries get blurred. They structure their investment arms through a maze of subsidiaries held outside India in low-tax jurisdictions such as Singapore, Mauritius and Ireland

These technology giants invoice Indian customers through these offshore entities despite having significant revenue, users or paying customers in the country, even as their Indian entity is crafted more like a service company or commission agent to the parent company located abroad. This helps them in booking an overwhelming share of revenues in the parent company (registered in a tax haven) while a very small portion of service/commission revenue and income is reported in the entity registered in India.

In short, these firms make money from their

operations in India but don't pay taxes to the Government. On the other hand, India-based ecommerce operators are subject to taxes in the country for revenue generated from the Indian

To address this anomaly, in 2016, the Narendra Modi Government introduced EL with an intent to tax Business to Business (B2B) and e-commerce/digital transactions. This tax is levied at six per cent on the payment made by a resident firm to foreign e-commerce companies for online adver-tisements run on the latter's platform. While making a payment, the resident firm has to deduct tax from the consideration payable and deposit it to

the department.

Through an amendment to the Finance Act, 2020, the scope of EL was extended to all sales, gross receipts or turnover of non-residents not having a Permanent Establishment (PE is a fixed place of business normally located in the territory of the source country), who is providing the online sale of goods or provision of services or both to a per-son residing in India or a non-resident in specific circumstances, such as the sale of advertisement targeted to the Indian market or sale of data collected from it. This levy is at two per cent on the



USE A DISINGENUOUS ARCHITECTURE TO SHOW REVENUE GENERATED FROM INDIAN OPERATIONS AS HAPPENING

IN FOREIGN JURISDICTIONS AND THEN, CLAIM THAT THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT HAS NO RIGHT TO TAX THEIR THEY AND THE US **ADMINISTRATION** CAN'T GET AWAY FROM THE FACT THAT THEY ARE MAKING PROFIT FROM THEIR OPERATIONS ON



INDIAN SOIL.

HENCE, THEY

ARE LIABLE



ator and is payable directly to the Central Government on a quarterly

Though the USTR has objected to the two per cent DST, it is silent on the six per cent EL on online advertising revenue. All the aforementioned objections raised by it are untenable. At the outset, the levy does not discriminate against any US company as it applies equally to all non-resident e-commerce operators, irrespective of their country of residence. Just because out of the 119 companies likely to be taxed, 72 per cent happen to be American, does not mean that the lat-ter alone have been targeted.

Second, contrary to what is claimed by the USTR, the levy is applied only on sales occurring in the territory of India through digital means. Consequently, the charge that it has extra-territorial appli-

cation is baseless.

It is ironical that the digital giants first use a disingenuous architecture to show revenue generated from Indian opera-tions as happening in foreign jurisdic-tions and then, claim that the Indian Government has no right to tax their profits. But, they and the US administration can't get away from the fact that they are making profit from their operations on Indian soil. Hence, they are liable to tax here. In the normal course, for a for-eign firm having a PE from where it conducts transactions — including sales made in India — and maintains accounts, receipts, expenditure, profit and so on for local operations, the tax department has a smooth sail. But technological giants don't have a PE on Indian soil. To overcome this hurdle, in 2018, a committee set up by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) had mooted the concept of digital permanent establishment (DPF). The Income-Tax Act provides for levy of tax on the profit attributed to the Indian operations of such offshore enterprises in the country. The committee proposed tax at the rate of 30-40 per cent, depending on the user base and revenues (only firms with a user base over 2,00,000 would be considered).

As a follow up, in the Finance Act 2018, the Government proposed that "such offshore firms should be taxed in India if they have a market presence above a threshold to be defined in terms of their customer base and revenue." But this needs an amendment to India's tax treaties with all its trade and investment partners. Till that is done (a time-consuming process) the Government has levied tax on the amount received or receivable by an e-

amount received of receivable by an e-commerce operator.

This brings us to the third charge lev-eled by the USTR: "The DST taxes a company's revenue, not its income." Ideally, the profits (or income) made by the foreign entity from its operations in India should be taxed. However, in view of the digital giants not having a PE here and the concept of DPE yet to get incorporated in tax treaties with India's trade and investment partners or till such time an agreement at the international level which is acceptable to all is reached, a levy on the revenue is the only logical way forward. However, efforts are already way torward. However, efforts are already being made under the aegis of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to arrive at a so-called base erosion profit shifting (BEPS) framework agreement. The OECD had released a draft report on "taxing digital companies" on October 9, 2019, however, progress got stalled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As for the accusation of US compa-

is for them to sort out with the country where it is incorporated (or country of residence). Merely because they pay tax in the country of residence resulting in double taxation, it can't be a valid basis for denying tax to a jurisdiction where it is legitimately due (India). Even so, sevral countries of residence happen to be low or nil tax jurisdictions or they pro-vide set-off for taxes paid by MNCs in the country of operation, effectively ensuring nil tax.

India's right to collect tax is also in sync with the stance taken by the OECD under the BEPS framework agreement. It states: "Profits of MNCs should be available for taxation in the country where their customers are, irrespective of any physical presence in that market, and that a formula should be evolved for such taxation.

To conclude, all objections raised by the USTR on the two per cent DST levied by the Indian Government on foreign technology companies are baseless and unsubstantiated. India must not yield to the pressure tactics of the US adminis-

ration by withdrawing the tax.

At the same time, India should work for early finalisation of the BEPS framework agreement at the OECD. It should evolve a consensus on acceptance of the DPE concept and also get ready with a criteria for treating a foreign company as a DPE. The criteria should give appropriate weight to three crucial parameters i.e. the number of users, paying customers or annual revenue. The tax rate on such companies — treated as DPE should be equal to the rate applicable to domestic companies to ensure fair play and non-discrimination. (The writer is a New Delhi-based

policy analyst. The views expressed

Lady Luck has been very kind to Biden

Joe's years in office will be enlivened by a Republican civil war, quite likely ending in a permanent split of the American Right



GWYNNF DYER

S President-elect Joe Biden is thrice-blessed. Not only did he win the Democratic nomination and then the presidential election but as a result of the events of January 6 — when supporters of outgoing President Donald Trump attacked Capitol Hill — he takes office when the Republican Opposition is in utter disarray and likely to stay that way for a long time. None of that was foreor

dained, or even very likely. "Just days ago the media and the pundits had declared this candidacy dead," Biden marvelled almost exactly a year ago after winning the South Carolina primary election by a landslide. It had been dead, too, until African-American voters in South Carolina gave him their over whelming support.

It was the first primary he had yon, and it put him back in the race. Two days later Biden won 10 out of 14 States on "Super Tuesday" and practically wrapped the nomination up. But if South Carolina had sched-uled its primary even a few days later, he would have gone into "Super Tuesday" as a loser and probably been written off.

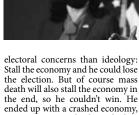
So he got lucky once but it was a bad year for a Democrat to be running for the presidency. Donald Trump was mocked and loathed by the rest of the world and by almost exactly half the US population but Trump's "base" didn't care and the US economy was in excellent shape.

The US media were doing their best to make the presidential race look exciting, because that's what they were going to have to talk and write about through most of 2020. But the fact is that incumbent US

presidents running for re-election when the economy is good almost always win. Riden's second stroke of luck

came just 10 days before he won the South Carolina primary, when the first case of COVID-19 showed up in America. By March it was run ning wild, but Trump, aware that his re-election depended on a booming economy, avoiding taking any pub-lic health measures that would slow it down. Other populist leaders did the same. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has been a week or two late on every pandemic-related decision and Britain's per capita COVID death toll is even worse than America's. President Jair Bolsonaro in Brazil downplayed the COVID threat, as did Prime Minister Viktor Orban in Hungary and their people paid a high price, too. But none of them were running for re-election in 2020.

Trump's refusal to back anti-COVID measures like using masks, social distancing and a countrywide lockdown were driven more by



4,00,000 COVID deaths and a lost And then, incredibly, he gave Biden another gift: The assault on the Capitol Hill by his followers two weeks ago. In fact, Trump had wanted to join the thousands of hardcore followers who assembled

at Capitol Hill and had told aides in the days leading up to the rally that he planned to accompany them to demonstrate his ire at Congress as it moved to certify Biden's November election victory. But the Secret Service kept warning him that agents could not guarantee his safety if he went ahead. Trump relented and instead hunkered down at the White House to watch television images of the mob rioting he is

accused of triggering.

Before that attack on Capitol

Hill, Biden was facing a grim time in office, with at least 70 per cent of Republican voters and a majority of Republicans in the House of Representatives seduced by Trump's "big lie" that he really won the election by a landslide and that the Democrats had somehow "stolen" it. It was Adolf Hitler, not Joseph Goebbels, who gave the technique that name, but it still works.

'In the big lie there is always a certain force of credibility," Hitler wrote in 'Mein Kampf (My Struggle)': "Because...in the primitive simplicity of their minds (the great masses) more readily fall victim to the big lie than the small lie, since they themselves often tell small lies in little matters but would be ashamed to resort to large-scale falsehoods.

"It would never come into their heads to fabricate colossal untruths, and they would not believe that others could have the impudence to distort the truth so infamously. Even though the facts which prove this to be so may be brought clearly to their minds, they will still doubt and

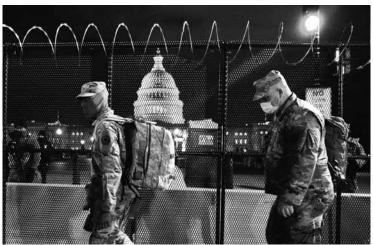
waver and will continue to think that there may be some other explana-That is what Biden faced only

two weeks ago: A nightmare time in office with the "big lie" rampant and Trump its proud purveyor. And then suddenly Trump, in his manic determination to hold onto power, sent his mob off to try a foredoomed coup in the "Temple of Democracy", as American commentators call it. End of game. Trump is discredited even with a modest but significant proportion of his own base and a growing number of Republican office-holders are in rebellion against the party's subservience to the "Tangerine Tyrant." Biden's years in office will be enlivened by a vicious Republican civil war, quite likely ending in a permanent split of the American Right. This will give Lucky Joe time to do some useful

(Gwynne Dyer's new book is 'Growing Pains: The Future of Democracy and Work.' The views expressed are personal.)

AHEAD OF BIDEN'S INAUGURATION '

US capital converted into garrison city



National Guard walk outside the US Capitol early Monday morning

inauguration of President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris on Wednesday, the American capital has been virtually turned into a garrison city, amidst multiple reports of threats and more armed violence by pro-Trump supporters to disrupt

In the aftermath of last week's Capitol riots, Washington DC is preparing for the scaled down inauguration of the 46th US President with extreme security measures - closing roads, erecting barbed wire fences and deploy ing more than 25,000 National Guards along with thousands of local police personnel and those

from other security agencies.

The area in and around Capitol Hill, a large part of Pennsylvania Avenue and the White House has been made

Special Train will be revised as under :-

Train No. & Name

02618 Hazrat Nizamuddin -

Ernakulam Jn. Special Express

out of bounds for the general public with eight-feet high iron barricades being erected

US Marshals are deploying 4,000 officers to Washington DC. Major parts of the majestic National Mall, which during the inauguration is usually thronged by thousands of peo-ple, have been closed off.

The entire city is on highalert as authorities are receiving multiple reports of violent threats from various groups at the level of the incident that happened on January 6 -- when hundreds of supporters of out-going President Donald Trump stormed Capitol Hill, disrupting the constitutional process of certification of electoral college

The unprecedented vio-lence forced hundreds of lawmakers to take shelter at safe locations within the iconic building amidst vandalism by

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This is notified for the information of rail passengers that the timings of following

For any kind information such as detailed Time-Table and stations enroute etc.

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

06:12/06:15

07:05/07:10

ing, sanitization etc, may be followed in the trains and at the ther precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensure

Please join us on 🔠 🚮 🖹

05:12/05:15

06:35/06:40

Station

Kalyan Jn.

Panvel

the mob. At least five people, including a police officer, died

in the incident.

Despite the heightened security concerns, Biden plans to go ahead with the inauguration ceremony in its tradition-

In addition to converting downtown Washington D.C. Into a fortress, security in and around 50 State Capitols has also been put on high alert to ensure a peaceful transition of

"I think this will be an inauguration unlike any other. It was already destined to be, given Covid concerns and some of the limited seating and public access. But having our fellow Americans storm the Capitol in an attempt to overthrow the government certainly warrants heightened security," Mayor of Washington DC, Muriel Bowser, told NBC News. *PTI*

19.01.2021

Harris prepares for central role in Biden's WH

will make history on Wednesday when she becomes the nation's first female vice president — and the first Black woman and the first woman of South Asian descent to hold But that's only where her

boundary-breaking role begins. With the confluence of crises confronting Joe Biden's administration — and an even-

ly divided Senate in which she would deliver the tie-breaking vote — Harris is shaping up to be a central player in addressing everything from the coro-navirus pandemic to criminal iustice reform.

Symone Sanders, Harris' chief spokeswoman, said that while the vice president-elect's portfolio hasn't been fully defined yet, she has a hand in

all aspects of Biden's agenda. "all hands on deck "There are pieces that their early months."



Biden may specifically ask her to champion, but outside of that she is at the table for everything, involved in everything, and giving input and feedback and being a supportive partner to him on all pieces," she said.

People working closely with Harris on the transition resist the idea of siloing her into any specific issue early on, because the sheer number of challenges the Biden adminis-

Kremlin critic to be kept in custody for 30 days: Lawyer

Moscow: A judge on Monday ordered Alexei Navalny to be remanded in custody for 30 days, the Russian opposition leader's spokeswoman Kira Yarmysh said on Twitter.

The ruling concluded an hours-long court hearing set up at a police precinct where the politician was held since his arrest at a Moscow airport

Sunday. Navalny flew to Russia from Germany, where he had spent five months recovering from nerve agent poisoning that he blames on the Kremlin. He was detained at passport control at Sheremetyevo airport after flying in Sunday evening from Berlin, where he was treated following the poisoning

in August. Navalny's arrest prompted wave of criticism from US and European officials, adding to existing tension between Russia and West.

German Foreign Minister tration faces means it will be "all hands on deck" during their early months.

Heiko Maas noted that Navalny had returned of his own volition and said "it is completely incomprehensible that he was detained by Russian authorities immediately after his arrival."

"Russia is bound by its own constitution and by international commitments to the principle of the rule of law and e protection of civil rights," Maas added.

"These principles must of course also be applied to Alexei Navalny. He should be released immediately."

The politician's allies said Monday he was being held at a police precinct outside Moscow and has been refused access to his lawyer.

The court hearing into whether Navalny should remain in custody was hastily set up at the precinct itself, and the politician's lawyers said they were notified minutes before.

"It is impossible what is happening over here," Navalny said in video from the impovised court room, posted on his page in the messaging app Telegram.
"It is lawlessness of the

12 workers trapped

week ago in China

mine blast are alive

Beijing: Chinese state media say

12 out of 22 workers trapped for

a week by an explosion in a gold mine are alive, as hundreds of rescuers seek to bring them to

safety. The Xinhua News Agency

said on Monday a note passed

through a rescue shaft Sunday

night reported the fate of the

other 10 remains unknown.

The note said 4 of the workers

were injured and that the con-

dition of others was deteriorat-

ing because of a lack of fresh air

and an influx of water.

highest degree." Calls for Navalny's immediate release have come from European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, the office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab and top officials of other EU

US President-elect Joe Biden's pick for national security adviser called on Russian authorities to free Navalny.

"Mr Navalny should be immediately released, and the perpetrators of the outrageous attack on his life must be held accountable," Sullivan tweeted.

The outgoing US secretary of state, Mike Pompeo, said the US "strongly condemns" the decision to arrest Navalny.

Nevertheless, the judge ordered that Navalny be remanded in custody until Feb 15, Yarmysh said on Twitter. Navalny's lawyer Vadim Kobzev told the Interfax news agency that the defense plans to appeal the ruling.

Around the Globe

Bangui: Central African Republic's constitutional court on Monday upheld President Faustin Archange Touaderas re-election, raising the spectre of more violence days after rebels attempted to overtake the

Kathmandu: Nepal has detected its first case of the new coronavirus variant that was found in the LIK last month, the Ministry of Health and Population said on Monday.

Istanbul: Germany's foreign minister is scheduled to meet his Turkish counterpart in the Turkish capital, following a tumultuous year in Turkish-European relations

Moscow: Moscow is ready for a quick deal with the incoming administration of US President elect Joe Biden to extend the last which expires in just over two weeks, Russia's top diplomat said Monday. Months of talks between Russia and President Donald Trump's administration on the possible extension of the New START treaty have failed to narrow their differences. The pact is set to expire on Feb. 5.

London: Trucks owned by British shellfish firms descended Monday on Parliament in London to protest the Brexit-related red tape they claim is suffocating their

Tel Aviv (Israel): Israel's education minister is banning groups that call Israel an "apartheid state" from lecturing at schools — a move that targets one of the country's leading human rights groups after it began describing both Israel and its control of the Palestinian territories as a single "apartheid" system.

Uganda cops surround offices of Bobi Wine's Opposition party

Kampala: The opposition party of Ugandan presidential challenger Bobi Wine said on Monday that police have prevented top officials from going to their headquarters in the capital, Kampala, as they prepare to launch a legal challenge to Wine's house arrest.

Police swooped in at dawn at the offices of Wine's National Unity Platform, diverted traffic, and stopped people from entering, party spokesman Joel Ssenyonyi, told The Associated

Dubai: Saudi Arabia, for years

one of the world's most prolific executioners, dramatically

reduced the number of people

put to death last year, following

changes halting executions for non-violent drug-related crimes,

according to the government's

tally and independent observers.

The Saudi government's Human Rights Commission

said Monday it documented 27

time high of 184 executions the

year before as documented by

Amnesty International and

Human Rights Watch. The

change represents an 85 per

cent reduction in the number

of people put to death last year.

brought about in part by a moratorium on death penalties for drug-related offenses," the

The sharp decrease was

That's compared to an all-

executions in 2020.

Compared to 2019.

Dramatic drop in Saudi executions

after laws changed in 2020

Kyagulanyi Ssentamu, was the main opposition challenger in presidential elections last week that electoral authorities say long-time leader Yoweri Museveni won with 58 per cent of the vote.

Wine, who took 34 per cent of the vote, has rejected the official outcome as fraudulent and insists he will use all legal means to protest the "cookedup" results.

Saudi rights commission said.

When asked by The Associated Press, the commis-

sion said the new law ordering

a stop to such executions came

into effect sometime last year.

The new directive for judges

does not appear to have been published publicly and it was not immediately clear whether

the law was changed by royal decree, as is typically the case.

ed that Saudi Arabia last year

also ordered an end to the death penalty for crimes com-mitted by minors and ordered

judges to end the controversial practice of public flogging,

replacing it with jail time, fines

changes is 34-year-old Crown

Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who has the backing of his father, King Salman. *AP*

or community service. The force behind these

The AP previously report-

Wine's party has said it has video evidence of the military stuffing ballot boxes, casting ballots for people and chasing voters away from polling sta-Opposition lawmaker

Medard Sseggona, an attorney for Wine, said he feared police would seize any vital informa-tion related to the elections that was kept at the party's headquarters. Museveni has dismissed the claims of vote-rig-

Not right to vaccinate young before old: WHO

Geneva: The World Health Organisation chief on Monday lambasted drugmakers' profits and vaccine inequalities, saying it's "not right" that younger, healthier adults in wealthy countries get vaccinated against COVID-19 before older people or health care workers in poorer countries and charging that most vaccine makers have targeted locations where "profits

Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus kicked off WHO's week-long executive board meeting — virtually from its headquarters in Geneva by lamenting that one poor country received a mere 25 vaccine doses while over 39 million doses have been administered

in nearly 50 richer nations. "Just 25 doses have been given in one lowest income country — not 25 million, not 25,000 - just 25. I need to be blunt: The world is on the brink of a catastrophic moral failure," Tedros said. He did not specify the country, but a WHO spokeswoman identified it as Guinea.

"It's right that all Governments want to prioritize vaccinating their own health workers and older people first,"

"But it's not right that younger, healthier adults in rich countries are vaccinated before health workers and older people in poorer countries," he added. *AP*

E TENDER NOTICE YEAR 2020-2021

Gandhinagar Smart City Development Ltd. GANDHINAGAR MUNCIPAL CORPORATION

Multi Storied Building, B-Block, First Floor, Sector-11, Gandhinagar Gandhinagar Smart City Development Ltd., is inviting tenders for the work given below. Bids are

IIIVILEG IOI LITE			
Tender No. Name of Work		Tender Fee	E.M.D.
GSCDL-ICT-	"Selection of system integrator for implementation of	25000/-	60,00,000/-
02-2020/21	ICCC components (Adaptive traffic controlling system,		
	Traffic Enforcement system, General surveillance) and		
	Geographical Information system in extended area of		
	Gandhinagar municipal corporation		

Dt.19/01/2021 to Dt.23/02/2021 up to 17.00 hours. Pre Bid Meeting will be Scheduled on date Dt.03/02/2021

Any documents for the necessary support of tender bid must be scanned in the electronic format and submitted online on www.nprocure.com. The technical bids and the amount of tender fees and the Demand Draft of EMD shall be submitted in hard copy in name of CEO, Gandhinagar Smart City Development Ltd. upto Dt.01/03/2021 by registered post or speed post till 17.00 hours. Only those offers will be opened

Online Technical Bid Opening Dt. 02/03/2021 at 11.00 hrs. lace:- Gandhinagar

Date:- 19/01/2021 No/INF/VPN/2021/G/1774

Municipal Commissioner, Gandhinagar and Chairman Gandhinagar Smart City Development Ltd.

Appeal for Identification

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



No. 182

General Public is hereby informed that one girl namely Soni D/o Yogesh Gour R/o H.No. C-5/254, JJ Colony Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped since 20.12.2020 from the area of P.S. Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi. In this regard a case vides FIR No. 687/20 dated 21.12.2020 has been registered at PS. Bhalswa, Dairy, Delhi. The description of missing/ ed girl is as under :

Name: Soni, Father's Name: Yogesh Gour, Age: 16 years, Height: 4'5", Face: Round, Complexion: Fair, Wearing Pink T-Shirt, Black Pant and Black & Red Colour Jacket with Grey Colour sliper in feet. ID Mark: A mole on lip. If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned.

Website · http://chi.nic.in P.S., Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi Ph.: 011-27811933 .: 011-24368638, 24368641 27811934 DP/693/ON/2020

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE

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

ed being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation. Reconstruction

The undersigned being the Authorized Onliner of Incl. 2 Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Nectoristruction 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 property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

	Sr. Name of the No. Borrower/ Loan Account Number		Description of Property/ Date of Physical Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
	1.	Ashutosh Verma/ Namrata Verma LBGUR00002094732	A 063, 6 Th Floor, Tower A, India Bulls, Enigma Sector 110, Gurgaon Haryana, Gurgaon 122001/ January 15, 2021	October 31, 2015 / Rs. 1,27,88,424/-	Delhi/ Ncr
The shove mentioned horrowers (s.V. quarantors (s.) are hereby given a 30 day notice to renay 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.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that this person Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: 32-35 Years, Sex: Male, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Shallow, Built: Strong, Injury Mark: Head Injuries & Face Damage, Wearing: Red Colour Check Shirt & Black Pant has been found dead between KM

Pole No. 1527/29831 Railway Track Near Okhla Railway Station, New Delhi on dated 13.01.2021 at 00:20 AM. In this regard a DD No. 1A, dated 13.01,2021 has been registered at

P.S. Hazrat Nizamuddin, New Delhi, Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far.

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

DP/44/RLY/2021

P.S. Hazrat Nizamuddin, New Delhi Ph.: 011-24356743, 024358593



General public is here by informed that one male Namely: Rati Ram, S/o Girdhari, R/o B-221. Ph-I. Ashok Vihar, Delhi, Age: 45 years. Height: 5'5", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Long, Built: Thin, Wearing: Black Colour Jacket & Pant and Red Chappal has been

missing since 28.12.2020 at 15:18. In this regard a DD No. 43A, dated 29.12.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Ashok Vihar, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this male but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this male kindly

E-Mail: cic@cbi.gov.in Website: http://cbi.nic.in Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641

inform to the following.

P.S. Ashok Vihar, Delhi Ph. 011-27243066, 8750870221 DP/591/NW/2021

SEARCH OF MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one lady (depicted in the photo), Namely: Rani Devi, W/o: Sh. Prem Kumar, R/o: A-208, Shakurpur, Delhi Aged: 26 years, has been missing since 23.12.2020 from her house in the area of PS Subhash Place, Delhi. In this regard a case vide DD No. 38A. Dated 25.12.2020, has been lodged at P.S. Subhash Place, Delhi. Her physical

description is as under: Height: 5'1" Feet. Complexion: Wheatish.

DP/605/NW/2021.

Face: Round, Built: Medium, Clothing: Red Colour Suit, Black Colour Salwar and Black Colour Hawai Chapple in feet. Any person is having any information/clue about this missing lady

may inform SHO, Subhash Place, Delhi cic@cbi.gov.nic.in or website : http://cbi.nic.in Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641 P.S. Subhash Place, Delhi

Ph.: 011-27356336, 27353014, 8750870224

Rani Devi

Black Baniyan, Mochoo name underwear & Black Colour Sports Shoes in Feet, Place of Recovery: Found dead on 15.01.2021 at KM Pole No. 15/15-



person Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: 25-26 Yrs., Height: 5'5", Sex: Male, Complexion: Wheatish, Injury Marks: In train accident hand and neck were found separated from the body near the shoulder. Wearing: Red Colour Jacket, Black Colour T-Shirt, Light Green Colour Pant,

General public is hereby informed that one

15/17 UP Line Siraspur, Delhi In this regard DD No. 2A, U/s 174 CrPC, Dated 15.01.2021 has been lodged at Police Station, Subzi Mandi Railway Station, Delhi. Any clue come to notice please inform

P.S. Subzi Mandi Railway Station, Delhi 21 Ph.: 011-23692455, 8800154439 DP/45/RLY/2021

Sensex slumps for second day as bears tighten grip

-470.40

0.76 Power Grid -3.50

Bajaj Fin -3.44

HDFC Bank shines after O₃ show

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmarks wilted the second consecutive session on Monday as investors stayed on the back foot amid lacklustre global cues.

A sharp drop in the rupee further sapped risk appetite, though gains in market heavyweights RIL and HDFC Bank cushioned the fall.

After a choppy session, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 470.40 points or 0.96 per cent lower at 48,564.27.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty tumbled 152.40 points or 1.06 per cent to 14,281.30. ONGC was the top loser in

the Sensex pack, slumping 4.59 per cent, followed by Sun Pharma, IndusInd Bank, PowerGrid, Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv, SBI and NTPC.

Only four index stocks closed in the green — Reliance Industries, Titan, HDFC Bank and ITC, climbing up to 2.37

HDFC Bank spurted 1.15 per cent after the country's largest private sector lender on

rising Covid-19 cases clouded optimism over economic recovery, even as Chinese shares rose after positive GDP "Domestic equities wit-nessed pullback for second consecutive day as weak global cues continued to weigh on investors' sentiments...While underlying strength of markets remains intact considering

Global markets retreated as

PTI GRAPHICS



Saturday reported a 14.36 per cent jump in consolidated net profit to ₹8,760 crore for the December quarter, sustained growth in corporate earnings in 3Q FY21 with upbeat managements' com-mentaries and commencement driven by a surge in core

HDFC Bank 0.91 Hindalco -4.28

Eicher Motors0.09 JSW Steel -4.25

"Additionally, favourable monetary policies of global central bankers, weak dollar and large fiscal stimulus in the US are expected to ensure sustain FPIs flow in domestic equities. However, for the week market is expected to be volatile ahead of some crucial global events. Further, as Union Budget is just two weeks away, rotational trading might be visible in the market," said Binod Modi, Head - Strategy at

WITHDRAWAL OF MONEY FROM PMC BANK——

Exceptions can be carved out for emergencies of depositors: HC to RBI

The Delhi High Court on Monday said that according to the Supreme Court's decision on withdrawal of money by depositors of scam-hit PMC bank for exigencies, excep-tions can be carved out for urgent medical and educa-

tional requirements.
A Bench of Chief Justice DN Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh asked the depositors, whose needs have been highlighted before the court in a PIL, to once again approach the RBI-appointed administrator of PMC bank giving details of

their financial needs along for medical or educational reasons within three weeks.

The Bench asked the administrator to look into the applications by the depositors and take a decision within a further period of two weeks and communicate the same to the court before the next date

of hearing on February 26.

During the hearing, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) told the court that the apex court asked it to consider the educational and medical requirements of depositors as per directives

issued by the top bank.

RBI said its directives only

provide for considering medical emergencies and not edu-cational emergencies which everyone would have.

The Bench, however, said the apex court has clearly mentioned both medical and educational emergencies and it was going to go by that.
The court was hearing an

application by consumer rights activist Bejon Kumar Misra seeking directions to the RBI to consider other needs of PMC Bank depositors such as education, weddings and dire financial position, not just serious medical emergencies as being done at present.



The 201st board meeting of the Noida Authority held in the meeting room of the Noida Authority's main administrative building, in Noida Sector-6 on Monday

INBRIEF

DEFENCE SECY INAUGURATES SWACHHATA PAKHWADA



New Delhi: Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar inaugurated the Swachhata Pakhwada at India Gate on Monday. The inaugural ceremony included a welcome address by a cadet, followed by a poem recital and sharing of experience by a cadet on the importance of adopting Swachhata in daily life to avoid diseases/Covid. Thereafter, the NCC cadets highlighted the significance of accepting Swachhata as a lifestyle through a well performed Nukkad Natak and finally the ceremony culminated with the flagging off of a Plog Run by the Defence

GOVT PLANS WILL MAKE BAGHPAT HAPPY: DM

Baghpat: Baghpat IAS Rajkamal Yadav of 2013 bench took charge as the 29th District Magistrate of Baghpat district. After taking official charge, the new District Magistrate Rajkamal Yadav made it clear that there is no effort left to reach the public's plans in the district.
Will not be left. Talking to the media, District

Magistrate Rajkamal Yadav said that work will be done to promote the services related to the Gram Panchayat and Health Department in the district. People will not be allowed to be deprived of the Government's scheme in Baghpat district. DM Rajkamal Yadav said that he is a resident of neighboring Ghaziabad district and has been posted in Lucknow, Ayush Department in the past. He assured that he will be ready at all times in the service of the public to make Baghpat district happy and efficient.

DTC AWARDED FOR LOWEST ACCIDENT RECORD

New Delhi: DTC has been conferred the Transport Minister's Road Safety Award for State Transport Undertakings (STUs) for the year 2019-20 & 2020-21 in the "Urban Operations" category for lowest rate of accidents. Rajnath Singh, Minister of Defence, Nitin Gadkari, Minister (RT&H), Gen.(Dr.) Vijay Kumar Singh, Minister of State (RT&H), Government of India, has given the award to Vijay Kumar Bidhudi, MD, DTC in a function held at Plenary Hall, Vigyan Bhawan

ITEL'S PREMIUM AFFORDABLE VISION 1 PRO SMARTPHONE New Delhi: itel, India's one of the best budget smartphone brands, announced the launch of yet another innovative and nextGen smartphone christened "Vision 1 PRO" with bigger screen 6.52 inch HD+ Waterdrop display bundled with trendy features like Triple Al Camera, multi-functional fingerprint sensor and face unlock for its

discerning customers in India. Priced at ₹6,599, Vision 1 PRO is equipped with 16.56 cm (6.52 inch) HD+ IPS Waterdrop Incell Display with 20:9 aspect ratio, 4,000mAh Li-Polymer battery and 2GB RAM +

CARRERA ORGANISES CYCLOTHON FOR MASSES TO STAY FIT New Delhi: With an aim to ignite passion among the masses to stay fir by cycling, Carrera, the flagship brand from the house of Safilo, conducted 26 km cyclothon — three riding groups: speedsters (experienced cyclists), midsters (cyclists with medium pace) and funsters (riders enjoying cycling as fun activity) — in New Delhi. "This event extends Carrera's philosophy of promoting a sustainable way of living," said Ashutosh Vaidya, MD & country head, Safilo India.

World shares retreat despite strong growth on \$ demand data from China

Tokyo: Markets got off to a slow start for the week despite news that the Chinese economy grew 2.3% in 2020 after a sharp contraction early in the year. Shares fell in Paris, London and Tokyo but advanced in Hong Kong and Shanghai. Most U.S. Markets are closed Monday for a

national holiday. Investors appear to have grown increasingly wary over the deepening economic dev-astation from the pandemic despite hopes that Covid-19 cines and fresh aid for the U.S. Economy might hasten a

global recovery.

Germany's DAX edged
0.1% lower to 13,769.97 and the CAC 40 in Paris shed 0.4% to 5,588.28. In Britain, the FTSE 100 lost less than 0.1% to 6,731.23. The futures for the S&P 500 and the Dow industrials both were down 0.3%. China was the first country to suffer outbreaks of the new coronavirus and the first major economy to begin recovering as meanwhile US, Europe and Japan are struggling with outbreaks. *AP*

₹ drops by 21p to 1-week low

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee plunged by 21 paise to settle at a week's low of 73.28 against the US dollar on Monday, tracking weak domestic equities and a rebound in the American cur-

At the interbank forex mar ket, the domestic unit opened at 73.21 against the greenback and swung between a low of 73.30 and a high of 73.18 during the session.

It finally settled down by 21

paise at 73.28, the lowest closing level since January 11. On Friday, the rupee had settled at 73.07 against the American currency. Meanwhile, the dol-lar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose

0.15 per cent to 90.91. "Indian rupee depreciated amid strong dollar and risk aversion in the domestic mar-kets," said Saif Mukadam, Research Analyst, Sharekhan

Demand for the US dollar increased on worries over rising coronavirus cases across the globe and decline in stock markets.

Nirmala holds pre-Budget meeting with State FMs

New Delhi: As part of pre-Budget deliberations, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday held a meeting with State Finance Ministers who suggested steps to revive growth and boost revenue collection against the backdrop of Covid-19 crisis.

The Finance Ministry in a statement said the meeting was held through video con-ference and was attended by Chief Ministers, deputy Chief

Forex intervention by

he Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is likely to The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is likely to spend at least \$20 billion more to support the rupee and increase the forex kitty through the

reminder of the financial year, taking its overall forex intervention to \$93 billion, according to a

of America Securities also expects the central bank to raise banks' HTM (held-to-maturity) lim-

its of excess government securities by 2 per cent of their books to fund the fiscal deficit if high forex intervention limits its open market oper-

The report by the Wall Street brokerage Bank

RBI to touch \$93 bn

by March: Report

Ministers and senior officers from the States and Union Territories and the Union Government. Sitharaman highlighted the

importance of this meeting as a sign of cooperative federalism and indicated the manner in which the Union Government was strongly supportive of States/Union Territories (with Legislature) fight against the pandemic.

PTI

crore in revenue arising on account of implementation of

Finance Ministry releases weekly instalment of ₹6K cr to States to meet GST compensation shortfall New Delhi: The Finance GST. The ministry in a state-

Ministry on Monday released the 12th instalment of ₹6,000 crore to States to meet the GST compensation shortfall, taking the total amount released so far under this window to

The Centre had set up a special borrowing window in October 2020 to meet the estimated shortfall of ₹1.10 lakh

ment said it has released the 12th weekly instalment of ₹6,000 crore to the states to meet the GST compensation shortfall. Out of this, an amount of ₹5,516.60 crore has been released to 23 States and ₹483.40 crore has been released to the 3 Union Territories (UT) with Legislative Assembly (Delhi, J&K & Puducherry), who are members of the GST Council. *PTI*

बिहार 🌋 सरकार जल संसाधन विभाग कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय

बाढ़ नियंत्रण एवं जल निस्सरण प्रमंडल, लालगंज E-mail - eefloodanddrainagedivlalganj@gmail.com/mobile-7463889918 अल्पकालीन पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या - 08 S.B.D / 2020-21

राष्ट्रीय स्पर्द्धा निविदा (केवल ई-टेन्डर पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

- ''						
ग्रुप	रं. कार्यं का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (लाखा रू० में)	अग्रधन की राशि (लाख रू० में)	परिमाण-विपन्न का मूल्य (क्षेवल ऑन लाईन गोड गें भुगतेय) रू० मे		कार्य समानित की अवधि/ तिथि
- 1	. 2	3	4	5	6	7
	तिरहुत तटवघ के 46.20 कि0मी0 से 46.45 कि0मी0 (प्राम-रामवीली), 46.52 कि0मी0 से 46.85 कि0मी0 की बीच (प्राम-चक्कियानावर) में कटाव निरोधक कार्य एवं 47.50 कि0मी0 से 47.85 कि0मी0 के बीच (प्राम-चक्कियानावर) में कटाव निरोधक कार्य एवं बंड बार के बीच (प्राम-चुलार) अवधिश्यत केड बार एवं बंड बार के बीच बान लूप का सुरक्षा हेतु कटाव निरोधक कार्य । एजंडा सं0-168 / 99 / 2021 एवं एजंडा सं0-168 / 20 / 2021	514.91	10.298	10000.00	5900.00	15.05.2021
2.	निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना निर्गत करने की तिथि	: दिनांक: 15.01	.2021			
3.	निविदा कागजात डाउनलोड करने की अवधि (सिर्फ	: दिनांक: 23.01	.2021 से दि	नांक-27.01.2021	के 3.00 बजे	अपराहन तक

निविदा कागजात डाउनलोड करने की अवधि (सिर्फ येबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर) प्री–बिड मीटिंग का समय, स्थान एवं तिथि

निविदा अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय

तकनीकी बिड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय

पर देखा जा सकता है ।

'नोवंदा खोलने का स्थान : eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर निवंदा की वैचता अवधि (निवंदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि: 120 दिन

(सिर्फ वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर) विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता

ः कार्यपालक अभियंता, बाढ नियंत्रण जल निरसरण प्रमंडल, लालगंज

(सिर्फ वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in सक्षम पदाधिकारी द्वारा बाद में घोषित की जायेगी

ंदिनाकः 25.01.2021 समय 3.00 बजे अपचाहन में, ज़बीक्षण अनियर का कार्यात्मय, बाढ़ नियंत्रण एवं जल निस्सरण अचल, मुजनकरपुर । ंदिनाकः 28.01.2021 समय 3.00 बजे अपचाहन तक। रिसर्च वैसमाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर) ंदिनाकः 30.01.2021 समय 3.30 बजे अपचाहन।

विशेष जानकारी प्राप्त करने हेतु वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in एवं वेबसाईट State.bihar.gov.in/prdbiha कार्यपालक अभियंता

बाढ़ नियंत्रण एवं जल निस्सरण प्रमंडल, लालगंज

PR. No. 011319 (WRD) 2020-21 नोवल कोरोना के संबंध में विस्तृत जानकारी एवं सहयोग हेतु 座 Toll Free No.: 🕇 🛛 पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं। खाद सामग्री- संबंधी किसी तरह की जानकारी अथवा सुझाद हेतु दूरभाष संख्या 0612-2217636 पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।

PNIT NO: ePT37/EE/RD/KCP/DIV/2020-21

DATED-14.01.2021

The Executive Engineer, R.D Kanchanpur Division, invites tender from eligible bidders up to 11.00 AM on 05.02.2021 for 01 (One) No. construction project. For details visit https://tripuratenders.gov.in.

Sd/

Executive Engineer RD Kanchanpur Division Kanchanpur, North Tripura

ICA/C-2833/2020-21

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE The Dv. Chief Engineer/TMC/Line, S.E. Road, New Delhi, for and on behalf of the Preside e-tender under Single Packet System for the under noted work: . Name of work and location | Annual Maintenance Contract for Servicing Repairing, Maintenance, Overhauling & Supply of Spares for 09 (Nine) Nos. OEM M/s Phooltas Transrail Ltd., Patna make UTV Track Machines working over Northern Railway for a period of one financial year 2020-21. One Financial year 2020-21 3. Approx. Cost of work Rs. 26.61 Lakhs 4. Cost of Tender Document Earnest Money amount (to be deposited Online) Tender bid may be uploaded upto 15:00 hrs o 6. Date & Time for submission 16.02.2021 on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.ir tender will be opened soon after 15:00 hrs on 16.02.2021. 7 Detailed Tender Notice & The detailed e-tender notice and Tender Docume is available on Railway website i.e. www.ireps.gov.ir www.ireps.gov.in from 02.02.2021 to 16.02.2021 The bidders who desire to participate against e-tenders, are advised to electronically registe themselves on the above website for which, they would require to, obtain class III digital certificate (if already not obtained) issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document. The Notice Board of the above office.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Re-Notice for Request for Proposal

No: RMSA/TL99/1307/2020/112 In inviting a reference to RFP No: RMSA/ATL/1304/2020/76 Dated: 17/12/2020, Samagra Shiksha (RMSA&SSA) Assam re-invites proposal affixing court fee stamp of minimum value Rs 8.25/- containing (a) Qualification expression, (b) Technical Proposal, (c) Commercial Proposal in separate file/folder from reputed Organizations for the supply of equipment and gadget of Tinkering Lab and training to students and teachers to implement Tinkering Lab in 99 Government/Provincialised High and Higher Secondary Schools in Assam.

Detailed RFP may be seen at "https://assamtenders.gov.in/" for eligibility, scope of work, terms and conditions etc. The tender document can be downloaded from "https://assamtenders.gov.in/"up to 27/01/2021 and making payment of non-refundable Tender Fee of Rs. 5.000/- (Rupees five thousand) only. RFP are to be uploaded on the prescribed tender form along with (a)

bid security or earnest money deposit (EMD) for an amount of Rs. 20,00,000/- (Rupees twenty lakhs) only, valid for a period of 90 days from the date of submission, in the form of Demand Draft in favor of Mission Director, RMSA, Assam, Guwahati payable at Guwahati The RFP will be received upto 1:30 pm on 27/01/2021 and will be opened on same day at 2:30 pm at the Office of the Mission Director, SS (RMSA & SSA), Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam.

Samagra Shiksha (RMSA), Assam reserves the right to amend or cancel the RFP without assigning any notice or reason thereof. Moreover, in case of non-availability of sufficient bidder (or less than three bidder), authority has to right to take decision without prior notice

Sd/-Executive Director. Samagra Shiksha (RMSA& SSA), Assam Janasanyog /CF/3963/20 Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

Aro granite industries Itd.

CIN: 1.74699DL 1988PL.C031510

Regd. Office: 1001, 10th Floor, DLF Tower A, Jasola, New Delh - 110025. Ph.: 011-41686169,
Fax: 011-26941984, Email: investorgreevance@arcille.com, Website: www.arcille.com

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Regulations 29 & 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations 2015, a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Friday, the 29th January, 2021 *inter-alia* to approve the Audited Financial Results for the Third Quarter and Nine Month period ending 31.12.2020. The above details of the said meeting are also available on the website of the Compani

www.arotile.com and also at the website of the Stock Exchanges www.bseindia.com and For Aro granite industries Itd.

Date: 18.01.2021

Sabyasachi Panigrahi Company Secretary & Compliance Officer.

PUBLIC NOTICE ice is hereby given on behalf of Mr toosh Devi w/o Mr. Hari Singh who is the terthe Property Pvt. Plot No. 11 & 12, are sasuring 7 Marle i.e., 213 Sq. Yos, out waw4Khata No. 1352, 1353, Mu. No. 25 I. No. 21 (8-0), Municipal Council Wan R. Sohna, Gurgaon, Haryana vide Sa dd dated 08.05.2019 Registered as D Deed dated 08.05.2019 Registered as D No. 1120 and mortgaging against the finance assistance from Ummeed Housing Finan Pvt. Ltd. That entire khasra admeasuring d. That entire khasra admeasu vas purchased by 5 people in 20 one of the purchaser transfer his husband in 2015. To comp ments of bank/NBFC, we gi quirements of bankNBFC, we give this biblic notice that if any person(s) having any ojection regarding ownership and/or ealing mortgage of the said property size reby requested to inlimate in writing to the dersigned within 10 days from the date of is notice, at below address. 269. Rama House, Ground Floor, asjid Moth, Opp. Uday Park, South Ext.II, New Delhi-49, Contact #011-40046318

ations (OMOs).

In the court of Sh. Shirish Aggarwal: (Central) Delhi-10054.

N.D.O.H. 15.02.202 Gulshan Kumar Bharti

Shri Gulshan Kumar Bharti S/o Late Shri Govind Parkash Bharti R/o 27/78, West Punjabi Bagh New Delhi-110026 ...Petitione

FOR SUCCESSION CERTIFICATE UNDER INDIAN SUCCESSION ACT. 1925

Whereas in the above noted petition the applicant/petitioner has applied for Succession Certificate to the Hon'ble Court Under Section 372 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 in respect of the debt and securities amount of Rs xxx. As Whereas the 15.02.2021 at 10' o clock in

the forencon has been fixed for hearing or the application notice is hereby given to this concerned.

court on this 15.01.2021. (Shirish Aggarwal)

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL



General public is hereby informed that this girl namely Shanti D/o Naresh Rai R/o H.No. A-441, J.J. Colony, Bawana, Delhi Age: 18 years Height: 5'2", Face: Long, Build: Medium, Complexion: Shallow wearing blue colour suit-salwar, white colour jacket and grey colour jutti in feet, has been missing since 22.12.2020 at about 02:00 P.M. from her house. In this regard DD No. 37A dated 23.12.2020

has been lodged at P.S. Narela Industrial Area, Outer Any person having any information or clue about this

missing/kidnapped girl may kindly inform to the following. SHO: P.S. Narela Industrial E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in Website: http://cbi.nic.in Fax: 24368639, Area Delhi Ph.: 011-27787592, Tel.: 24368638/24368641 27787593

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE Franch 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 belowmentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the roperty 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.	LBMRT00002440050	H No.116, Khasra No.514, Global City, Revenue Village Abdullapur, Meerut / January 15, 2021	August 18, 2020/ Rs. 22,79,833/-	Delhi					
The	The above, mentioned horrowers (s) augrantors (s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, also								

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 19, 2021 Place: Delhi/NCR

ATTACK

lists things one should keep in mind

affects the respiratory system and brings about many illnesses,

including the common cold and flu. The disease is likely to take a severe turn in elderly and people with co-morbidities. Most people infected with COVID-19 virus

s we enter the New Year newly discovered coronavirus that

with the hope of things returning to normal in

the days to come, our country might need to brace itself

for yet another virus attack.

Currently, the country with more than one billion population is facing a double whammy with coronavirus and avian flu looming

large. The Covid-19 pandemic has already brought our lives to a screeching halt in the past eleven months and to add to this, bird flu

or avian flu has knocked on the

With the country going through a tough time facing two major diseases at the same time,

people are bombarded with so much information that they can't seem contemplate the difference

between the diseases.

To address the dilemma, let us

figure out the differences between

What Is Avian Flu?
Bird flu or Avian influenza is caused by the H5N1 influenza virus, which occasionally infects

humans. These viruses are found

worldwide among wild aquatic birds and can infect domestic

poultry and other bird and animal

According to the WHO, avian flu is not normally known to

infect humans, however, sporadic human infections have occurred in

the past. Since the first case of

human infection in 1997, nearly 60 per cent of the people who have been infected with H5N1 have

What Is COVID-19?

doors yet again.

ShockingTruth

The post mortem report of a 46-year-old Government hospital employee in Moradabad, who died on Sunday evening, 24 hours after receiving a Covid vaccine shot, has found that the immediate cause of death was 'cardiogenic shock/septicemic shock' due to 'cardiopulmonary disease'



DOCYARD

DR DEEPAK DEWAN

MD, DM (Nephrology), Director Renal Sciences REGENCY SUPERSPECIALITY HOSPITAL



Drink water, flush toxins



 $W^{hen\ you\ have\ Diabetes,\ it's\ pivotal\ to\ take\ care\ of\ your\ kidneys\ as\ they\ perform\ an\ important\ job\ of\ filtering\ waste\ and\ removing\ it\ from\ your\ blood,\ maintaining\ water\ balance,\ taking\ care\ of\ bone\ health,\ synthesis\ of\ vitamin\ D\ \&\ erythro$ poietin a substance which maintains level of hemoglobin. But Diabetes can damage the kidneys and can result in progressive loss of its function. This becomes the leading cause of kidney failure globally. People with advance kidney failure need either dialysis or a kidney transplant. However, one can slow down the progression of kidney damage and keep it from getting worse by making certain modifications in their lifestyle, diet and being vigilant towards their health, besides seeking consultation from a Nephrologist.

Also, care during winters is especially essential for Diabetes patients. As the days shorten, we experience less of the sun, which can be a real mental challenge. The lack of sunlight means increased levels of stress and tiredness. Excess winters stresses and strains the body. This stress often releases hormones such as adrenalin and cortisol. These survival hormones cause the liver to release more glucose for energy, which can result in higher-than-normal blood sugar levels.

Diabetes can damage the kidneys and can predispose to clotting as the blood become thicker in this result in progressive season, coupled with diminished physical activity in winterments. Such conditions on the marks Such conditions This becomes the globally. However, **one can slow down**Besides the temperature and weather conditions, blood modifications in their ment to help us stay healthy

Similarly, the cold weather can ter months. Such conditionscan pose serious threats to the lives leading cause of of Diabetic patients, who also kidney failure tend to have increased blood

the progression of kidney damage by making certain making certain the single most important ele lifestyle, diet and outdoors. People suffering from Diabetes are prone to dehydrabeing vigilant tion, which can become dantowards their health gerous if left unchecked because it can lead to Diabeticketoacidosis. At the

same time, dehydration can cause confusion, which may make same time, denyaration can cause confusion, which may make a person unaware of low blood sugar. Therefore it's essential for Diabetes patients to remain well hydrated in winters and should test their blood sugar more frequently.

Taking care of kidneys

Control your blood pressure. High BP is more likely to cause kidney damage. It becomes essential to keep a check on BP for cardiovascular and renal health. If BP increases, it canpotentially lead to kidney damage. Keeping recommended cholesterol lev-

els is also essential for patients with Hypertension. salt as preservative. And salt intake is directly related to Hypertension. Your diet shouldn't have too much sugar as it produces an excess of toxins in your body. A diet based on fruits

wegetables, cereals, grains, and a high amount of fiber is the best way to take care of these vital organs.

Keep yourself well hydrated. Adequate hydration helps our kidneys dissolve and eliminate toxins and waste products from our body. Literally speaking our kidneys and other organs might dry out if we don't drink enough water. This means that they'll re-absorb or will be able to filter less toxins which will then accumulate in the body.

WARMFOODS

JAGGERY: Also known as gur, jaggery makes for the best companion for winters. is not only better than white sugar, but it also offers several health benefits.

It prevents constipation by aiding digestion. It activates the digestive enzymes in our body, thus helps in proper digestion of food. That's why many people prefer eat-

ing jaggery after a meal. It acts as a detox, as it helps cleanse the liver by flushing out nasty toxins from the body.

Jaggery is also loaded with antioxidants and minerals like zinc and selenium, which help prevent free-radicals; responsible for early ageing. It helps boost resistance against infections, hence

building stronger immunity. Eating a piece of jaggery daily can help women combat PMS symptoms including mood swings, menstrual cramps and abdominal pain.



remedies that

relieving the pain caused by

tant Over-the-counter decongestants can help decrease swelling and congestion by opening up your nasal passages

> pressure. Fourth, take help of hot water bag. Place a hot water bag on your chest or back for five 10 minutes. The heat will help relieve

the pain caused by cold. Fifth, take steam, Cover your face with a towel and inhale the steam for about 10-15 minutes. Steam can help release the mucus and hence, eliminate the pain.

infected with COVID-19 virus experience mild to moderate respiratory illness, and may recover soon, says the WHO.

Both bird flu and COVID-19 being flu-like illnesses present with overlapping features and it can be difficult to differentiate between the two. between the two. According to experts, the two illnesses present with symptoms including fever, cough, cold, body ache and breathlessness. In addition, patients with bird flu are likeby to develop encephalopathy (damage to the brain) and confusion. Covid-19 patients on the other hand, often present with diarrhoea and loss of sense of smell

We are still fighting the COVID-19 when news of Bird Flu

threw a curve ball yet again. DR MAHENDRA DADKE

While avian influenza rarely spreads from one human to another, Covid-19, on the contrary is highly contagious and spreads rapidly between human. The Coronavirus has a low mortality rate — around 1-3 per cent globally which is the opposite of avian

flu that has a high mortality rate.
Today, people are having a lot of questions or doubts about con-suming meat during this bird flu epidemic and also what precau-tions needs to be taken. People should not panic and tackle this sit-uation calmly. The most com-monly consumed poultry products are chicken, eggs or ducks in India COVID-19 is caused by a India.

ACCORDING TO THE UN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE **ORGANISATION** IF THE MEAT IS COOKED PROPERLY THEN IT WOULD BE SAFE TO CONSUME IT. HOWEVER, ONE **NEEDS TO MAKE SURE THAT THE COOKING TEMPERATURE IS ABOVE 70 DEGREE CELSIUS AND DURING THIS** PROCESS NO PART OF THE MEAT SHOULD BE LEFT UNCOOKED, HALF COOKED

OR RAW

Following a good skin care routine,

must, says DR SUSHRUTHA CK

According to the UN food and agriculture organisation if the meat is cooked properly then it would be safe to consume it. The precautions one must take is throughout the cooking process of chicken or any meat one needs to make sure that the boiling temperature or cooking temperature is above 70 degree Celsius and during this cooking process no part of the meat should be left uncooked, half cooked or raw. Any poultry product cooked above 70 degree Celsius would be safe and noninfected to consume.

People who have habit of eat-

ing raw eggs or raw meat especially raw eggs should be strictly avoided. Also poultry workers should wear protective gear while working in the farm or touching

working in the farm of touching any infected animal.

If you see any kind of symp-toms or infection in your body immediately consult a doctor. Till date we have not found any case of a patient who have cooked the meat properly and has been infected with the bird flu therefore, no need to panic.

Coronavirus is still an active outbreak and with the onset of avian flu, it's all the more important to take steps to reduce both your chance of contracting it and spread of disease if you do fall ill. Therefore, do not forget to practice social distancing, wear a mask where necessary, and wash your hands frequently with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water. Also, seek timely medical care if you have fever, cough and diffi-culty breathing.

The writer is Consultant Physician, Jupiter

PLATE FULL **OF HEALTH**



ccording to Grand View Research's A Market Analysis Report of Industrial Hemp 2020-2027, the global industrial hemp market size is expected to register a revenue-based CAGR of 15.8 per

cent over the forecast period, a sharp rise from USD 4.71 billion in 2019.

The expanding market of industrial hemp is driven by the growing demand for hemp oil and fibres in food and beverage, automotive, construction, textile industries and personal care. Additionally, low prices of crop encourage farmers to diversify their crop options, subsequently, increasing the number of producers. Further, increasing awareness regarding the dietary advantages of its oil, coupled with the growing demand from the personal care and cosmetics industries is expected to drive the market

Unlike popular belief, hemp does not have psychotropic effects on the human body. In fact, its seed has many healthy ben-efits and is actually 33 per cent protein. The small, brown seeds are rich in fibre, protein, and healthful fatty acids, including omega-6 and omega-3s. Their antioxidant properties may reduce symptoms of numerous ailments in addition to improving the health of the heart. The nutritional power and hardiness of hemp seed could significantly address the global protein needs and starvation problems.

Raw hemp seeds are one of the richest sources of complete protein as it is packed with 33-37 per cent pure digestible protein. Only algae such as marine phytoplankton, AFA blue-green algae and spirulina exceed hemp in protein. Additionally, 47 per cent of a hemp seed is composed of good fats, a vital composition of omega-3 and omega-6. Here are a few benefits of hemp seeds:

May control the risk of heart disease
Hemp seeds contain good amounts of
the amino acid arginine, which produces
nitric oxide in the body. It is a gas molecule that makes blood vessels relax and dilate, which leads to controlled blood pressure and a reduced risk of heart disease. According to Pub Med, increased arginine intake coupled with decreased levels of Creactive protein (CRP) and high levels of CRP is linked to heart disease in the major-

Helpful in skin disorders

A balance of omega-6 and omega-3 fatty acids in the human body are significant to the immune system and hemp seeds are a good source of these fatty acids with about a 3:1 ratio of omega-6 to omega-3. Hemp seed oil relieves people from dry skin, itchiness, inflammation and thus, reduces the need for skin medication.

A source of plant based protein
Plants often lack the amino acid lysine

which is why complete protein sources are rare in the plant kingdom. Hemp seeds are considered a complete protein source as they provide all the essential amino acids and contain high levels of arginine and glutamic acid.

Helps control stress and anxiety
Cannabidiol or CBD is considered a
cannabinoid which is leaf extract of the cannabis plant. CBD is known to have benefits on stress, seizure disorders, anxiety and

The writer is Director, Hemp Horizon

Dadi Ka Kehna

Headaches are common, more so if you don't prefer to cover your head during the

chilly winters. ROSHANI DÉVI shares remedies that can help relieve the pain

he cold breeze is sure to give many a headache if they don't prefer to cover their head with a scarf or cap. As painful as it can be. it is just as annoying. Here are a few

can help clear

Second, try warm compress. Moisten a washcloth with warm water and apply it to your face a few times a

day. This will help relieve the pain.
Third, try a deconges-

dry, and if it is not mois-turised, then it can lead to flaky skin. Following a good skin care routine, especially a nightlong moisturisation routine and using products infused with natural ingreand decreasing the pain and dients like Cocoa Butter and Wheat Germ Oil can be

beneficial in achieving nour-ished and hydrated skin during the winters. Additionally, for cracked lips, one can look for a lip balm with the goodness of herbs like Sweet Indrajao, and Carrot Seed Oil, as these ingredients help protect and nourish

chapped lips.

Below are a few tips for good skin care: Moisturise at bedtime: Moisturisers and winter skin

care regimen go hand in hand. As much as moistur-

With a drop in the humidity and temperature, our skin tends to get

ising skin right after a shower is necessary, moisturising before going to bed can help in waking up to healthy and rejuvenated skin. When looking for a moisturiser, opt for one with ingredients such as Cocoa Butter and Wheat Germ Oil. Cocoa Butter is known to retain skin's moisture and nourish it as well as making it sup-

Say no to flaky skin

especially a nightlong moisturisation one is a

ple, while Wheat Germ Oil a rich source of Vitamin E, helps protect skin from drying. Protect your lips: Winters and harsh cold winds can leave our lips dry

and chapped and hiding them under our masks can do more harm than we know. For smooth and supple lips, it is essential to use a good lip balm. The best way to choose the right lip balm is to look for one infused with goodness of herbs and oils like Sweet

Indrajao, Carrot Seed Oil, or Cocoa Butter, and Sal Butter. These ingredients are known to intensely moisturise lips to keep them soft

and supple.

Remind yourself to stav hydrated: Keeping yourself hydrated is impor tant during winter too. Drinking eight-12 glasses of water every day can help nourish and hydrate your

Include seasonal fruit in your diet: Veggies and fruit found during the season not only taste good but also contain ingredients that suit the body's need during that time of the year. Additionally, consuming food rich in Omega 3, Vitamin A, C, and E can be useful in having moisturised and healthy skin.

The writer is Ayurveda Expert, Research & Development, The Himalaya Drug Company

INBRIEF

In India, *chai* is not just a hot beverage, it's an emotion, slowly picking pace with the developing tastes of India! With the upcoming winter chill, VAHDAM® India, the digitally native consumer brand shipping India's finest teas and superfoods to over 104 countries has launched Instant Tea Chai Premixes.

With a massive shift to wellness and immunity boosting products across the globe, Vahdam has upgraded the daily chai routine by infusing these ready-to-drink pre-mixes with the goodness of healing spices and superfoods like Turmeric, Ashwagandha, Ginger, and blending it with real black tea and sugarless whole milk pow-

A one-of-a-kind chai premix, these contain only 35 calories per serving and are sweetened by less than two grams of organ-

ic cane sugar per serving with Stevia.
"Convenience is the key for the modern consumer today. Celebrating India's love for tea and addressing the need for daily doses of immunity, we have foraved into the market of instant tea chai premixes," said Bala Sarda, Founder, VAHDAM* India.

Turmeric Ginger for energy: A cup of wellness with turmeric and ginger for immunity, fatigue and improved digestion.

Ashwagandha Cinnamon for rejuvena-

tion: An earthy cup with ayurvedic adaptogenic ashwagandha and cinnamon for stress reduction, better sleep and powerful antibac-

Matcha Lemongrass for focus: A cup fortified with the superfood benefits for mindfulness, powerful antioxidant benefits and improved overall health.



Trend

Let's break patriarchy: Kajal

Actor KAJAL AGGARWAL treated fans to a candid question-answer session on social media.

The actor who got married recently was asked if she would continue acting. Kajal

replied saying it is time to break such notions of patri-

"Will you continue to do films? Please don't stop doing films," a user asked on her question-answer session on Instagram Stories.

'Of course, I will! Let's break patriarchy, high time?" said she.

A fan asked her about her resolution for 2021.

"Balance between home and work. Advancement in every aspect of life." she said



'Desmond Tutu once said: When the missionaries came to Africa, they had the Bible and we had the land.

They said, 'let us pray.' We close our eyes. When we opened them, we had the Bible and they had the land. Likewise, when social networking came, they had the WhatsApp and Facebook and we had the freedom. They said it's free. We close our eyes. When we opened them, we had WhatsApp and Facebook and they had our freedom. When anything is free, your freedom is the price.' -Juhi Chawla

AKSHAY OBEROI

agrees that the acting profession is difficult and can knock down people multiple times.

Talking about the industry being a brutal place, as it defines an actor on the basis of hits and misses. Akshay said, "It is brutal but that is the industry world over. It's not just Bollywood. In any cinematic industry, this is the way it works. It is an art made for commerce.

Justin welcomes his second child

So, if your part is not done well you don't have any takers.'

Singer-actor JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE and his wife, actress Jessica Biel, welcomed their second child in 2020. Timberlake has finally confirmed the news now. They have named their second child, a son,

The singer opened up about being a father of two during a virtual appearance on The Ellen De Generes Show.

"He's awesome and so cute. Nobody's sleeping," Timberlake joked, adding, "But we're thrilled and couldn't be happier. Very grateful.'



pregnancy.

The pandemic has changed Indians' outlook on health as 70 per cent Indians says they will rioritise dietary and lifestyle changes in 2021 to manage both emotional and physical health, according to a survey.

It added that 60 per cent

Indians say that they will de-pri-oritise going to a gym. For 73 per cent Indians, taste reigns supreme in their decision to buy food products and poor taste of health products is an obstacle to mak-ing the right dietary choices, said

the finding by Habbit.

A majority of Indians — 71 per cent, felt that their health is worse off today than pre COVID-19 due to broken eating and fitness habits. There are a number of reasons cited as barriers to betor reasons cited as parriers to bet-ter health. These are lack of time, poor taste of healthy prod-ucts, and confusing technical details of healthy products exag-gerated by the inability to make a choice among the various options. 72 per cent of survey respondents cite lack of time

Changing attitudes

A survey reveals that 70 per cent Indians prioritise dietary changes over going to the gym

while 66 per cent cite the poor taste of healthy items to be their biggest obstacle.

The survey respondents (100 per cent) correctly identified the difference between healthy and junk foods indicating high aware-ness about the ill effects of unhealthy options. However, a bulk — 73 per cent, highlighted that they would still consume unhealthy options since they are tasty, convenient and part of their daily lifestyle. Taste, thus reigns supreme in the decision to buy food and a majority still prefers tasty foods that also have nutritional benefits over healthy

As per the survey, 70 per cent respondents show a higher incli-



nation than before towards improving their health through dietary changes, whereas nearly one in four, 26 per cent would also like to make meditation a higher priority. 65 per cent indi-cate their increased reliance on medical and nutritional experts to help achieve their goals. More than 60 per cent of Indians have a reduced priority than earlier towards traditional gyms and fitness centres, owing to social distancing and avoidance of communal areas in COVID-19, and would prefer to exercise at home or do alternate physical activities

ilke running, cycling or aerobics.

"The survey highlights that
the myth that diet is secondary to
exercise in the health journey, is beginning to crumble, with respondents realising the importance of nutrition and prioritising changes in diet over exercise to achieve better physical and mental health. This is the new normal," said Dhruy Bhushan, Cofounder & CEO, Habbit.

ic continues to shift consumer habits towards being more health-conscious, there is an opportunity for food and nutrition companies to win on taste and fuel healthier lifestyles."

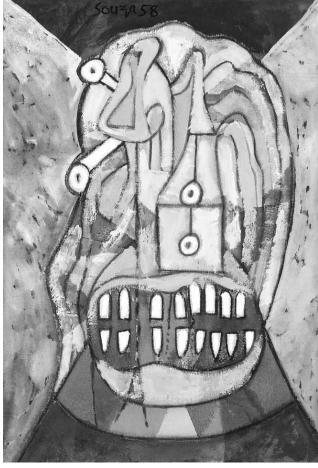
"Good nutrition is vital to a healthy life and is one of the most singularly important factors in overall health. The food we eat literally becomes who we are, and influences our physical, mental and even emotional well-being. Complemented with physical activity, it helps to maintain discipline of the body as well as the mind. If the body feels good, the mind will feel good. The pandemic has brought the importance of this balance to the centre, says nutritionist and wellness coach Avni Kaul

The online survey was conducted in the last quarter of 2020 with 2,428 adults across metros in India. All respondents are in the age group of 22-56 years and have an annual household income of more than ₹ 10 lakh.

Time and the connoisseur

Art, for VIRENDER KUMAR, was about an expressive vision and depth. With his passing, India lost a passionate art patron and collector, says Uma Nair





ast month, Delhi lost one of its finest collectors and gallery directors in the world of art — Virender Kumar of the prestigious Kumar Gallery. For almost 60 years, Virender had been collecting everything from miniatures to antiquity and specialised in contemporary Indian art, especially the Progressives as well as Bengal School

Among his prodigious collections, he was one of the main patrons of great Indian artists like the Progressives as well as Gopal Ghose and Sohan Qadri. In fact. sums of money to them each month for a work of art. With galleries in New York and Delhi, his knowledge of both antiquities and contemporary art was likened to being a collector with an epicurean eve In the 1990s, most of Francis vton Souza's solo shows in Delhi were held at the Kumar Gallery. In fact, when Tyeb Mehta moved to Delhi from London, it was Virender who gave him a small place to stay in exchange for a work of art every month.

Over the years, the artist with whom he became closest was Francis Newton Souza. In the 1990s, Souza would come and stay at Yatri Niwas for a month and Kumar Gallery would keep his suite replenished with canvasses, paints and paper. Souza preferred to come to Delhi during winter. Two important Souza retrospectives were held in 1999 and 2000. Yet another seminal retrospective was that of Gopal Ghose in 2015. The Sunder Nagar Gallery is a quaint and cute space for an art show but some of the shows were held at Sainik Farms in the Kumar Krishen Khanna's solo as well as a historic solo of Prodosh Das Gupta. Most of the Kumar Gallery buyers were the ex pat population from the embassies in

Then Kumar Gallery would open the year with an epic celebration series consisting of the gallery series and a numemerging artists. Among these, one of Virender's greatest discoveries was Ashok Bhowmick an artist of rare mettle who creates stunning figurative with

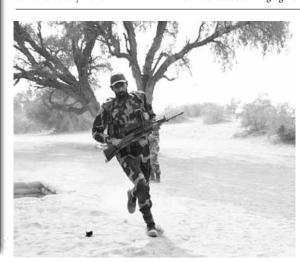




the cross hatching method. Bhowmick's solo shows at Kumar Gallery were some of the finest you could ever glimpse in terms of composition, depth of vision

and expression.

Virender had a deep interest in Buddhism, Jainism as well as the ancient sacred texts of India. As an individual, he was deeply spiritual as well as practical and knew his art. If there was one person who Souza trusted it was Virender Kumar. The Kumar Gallery shows always justified the dynamic nature of the art they reflected. The very denote imperial majesty, laden with a cer-tain ingenuity and depth of composition-al clarity in the range of mediums and expression. One of the finest abstract collections in the country could be seen unveiled in chapters during their celebra-tion shows each year. Art for Virender Kumar was about an expressive vision loses a collector and patron of the art world who had a passionate desire to col-



As the nation gears up to cel-ebrate its 72nd Republic Day, discovery+ is all set to launch the show — Mission Frontline. Featuring actor-producer Rana Daggubati, the show highlights the life of Border Security Force, our frontline heroes, fighting at the border to keep the country

In the special episode, Rana Daggubati will experience firsthand, the difficult life of a BSF Jawan and live with the border men at the Murar Post, Jaisalmer. The Jaisalmer base camp has one of the richest histories as it is home to rich martial traditions and a witness to numerous battles. Providing an intimate glimpse into the lives of border men who put themselves at risk every day, this special documen-tary is bound to evoke a deep

The unsung heroes

Featuring actor-producer RANA DAGGUBATI, Mission Frontline highlights the life of Border Security Force and the

extreme training its cadre goes through

sense of appreciation for these to track down and neutralise unsung heroes.

The audience will get to see

Rana in a never-seen-before avatar, performing tasks just like a Jawan, including physical training routines like learning to salute; running drill with weapons and backpack; fireman's lift and hurdle jump. Rana will also be trained to use weapons, firing live rounds, patrolling on Camel, taking part in a simulated mission

infiltrators and traveling on sand scooters among many other gru-

eling tasks.

Talking about his experience, Rana said, "India's Border Security Force — or the country's first line of defense has no holidays, no breaks and no breathers. If it isn't for those brave-hearts always on their toes, our nation stands at risk. I feel grateful to have been able to meet, live and

train with them. As a civilian and countryman, this experience gave me perspective on what goes into guarding our frontiers, 24/7. These Jawans are our lifeline, our guarantee to sovereignty, and the true heroes." He added, "Going by what I experienced in Jaisalmer, the show is a tribute to those Jawans' grit and spirit, with the intention to drive home some inspiration and gratitude for our

inspiration and gratitude for our defense forces, whose service we often take for granted"

Issac John, Direct-to-Consumer Head, APAC —
Discovery, said, "With exclusive access to the Indo-Pak border, the show gives the viewers a chance show gives the viewers a chance to know more about the lives of Iawans and the extreme training they go through."
(The show will premiere on

discovery+ from January 21.)

Cracking series finale in store

India need 324 more runs on final day to secure historic win at Gabba

Australia

West Indies1951-52

England 1982-83

Australia West Indies 1975-76

4th Test. Day 5

SONY TEN 1, 3 & SIX

for no loss with Rohit Sharma

and Shubman Gill at the

at Brisbane is 236 and that was

seven decades ago which is an indicator why this Australian ground can be equated with

Fort Knox. The home team

hasn't lost a game here since

also got better with figures of

4/61 and a match haul of seven

wickets. The most poignant moment was his apparent joy when he took the catch to help

Siraj pip him to the coveted

in the stands on the first working day of the week, the most

generous applause came from his partner in crime, who walked a foot behind him

clapping with gusto.

It was the kind of day that Test aficionados wait eagerly — ebbs and flows keeping every-

one on the edge of their seats. The possibility of rain adds

to the excitement and the

changing weather did affect the

contours of Australia skipper

Tim Paine's facial expressions which exhibited relief and

despair in equal measures.

Among the two captains

Paine is supposed to be the enforcer but this Indian team

hasn't stopped surprising its detractors with a spirit, which

has made this series one of the

five-for landmark.

Thakur's dream Test match

The highest target chased



Mohammed Siraj celebrates with teammate Mayank Agarwal after taking his maiden five-wicket haul in Test cricket

PTI BRISBANE

ndian pacers Mohammed Siraj and Shardul Thakur produced another inspirational effort in adverse circum-stances but India were set a a challenging target of 328 by Australia as the Border-Gavaskar Trophy headed

towards an exhilarating finale in the fourth Test here.

The target is a tricky one

and the Indian batsmen would get a fair idea whether to go for it by lunch on the final day, which is Tuesday. after Siraj and Thakur com-bined to share nine wickets while dismissing Australia for

294 in their second innings Siraj (19.5-5-73-5) punched way above his weight with his maiden five-wicket haul but couldn't prevent Australia from posting an imposing target for his team in only 75.5 overs of the second

innings batting.
At stumps, India were 4

Drawn series will be worse than 2018-19 loss: Ponting

Former Australian captain Ricky Ponting feels a drawn Test series against a severely depleted India will be a worse result for the hosts than the loss Border Gavaskar Trophy two years ago. The injury-ravaged Indian

team has shown great resilience and grit throughout the current tour of Australia. In the ongoing fourth and final Test, the tourists are without their premier fast bowlers, skipper Virat Kohli and a few specialist bats-men. "I think a drawn series will be worse than the loss a couple of years ago," Ponting told crick-

finest played in recent times. If Weather Gods don't decide to play the boss, there will be an official winner but certainly not a "loser". As Siraj showed that scuffed red kookaburra acknowledging the 957 people

This is the first Indian team which has earned well-wishers in exponential numbers for soldiering on manfully without any complaints.

A bowling attack with less than four-Test experience (if Thakur's debut is discounted)

et.Com.Au.
"That's the way I look at it, considering how hard India have found it going through 20 players in a series, (Australia) having (David) Warner back for the last couple of games, (Steve) Smith back for all them that they didn't have last time

"A draw would not only feel like a loss to them but be a worse result than last series," he

the moment. India need 324 runs with all 10 wickets in hand on the final day to pull off a historic win at the Gabba, while a draw will also see them retain the trophy.

got 20 wickets without being over-expensive.

Yes, a Mohammed Shami or Jasprit Bumrah's experience would have been invaluable but their absence showed that in terms of temperament, India's next batch of pacers are game-Yes, they would make mis-

takes but their predecessors also made plenty on their way

play on batsman's mind: Siraj it would be Steve Smith's wick et, there was extra bounce from the area where I thought An emotional Mohammed Siraj struggled to describe his maiden five-wicket haul in

Cracks on Gabba strip will

words but sounded a word of caution about the cracks on the

Gabba surface creating confusion in the Indian batsmen's

minds on the final day of

series, Siraj grabbed 5 for 73 in the Australian second innings

on Monday.

He believed that there are

a few spots on the surface, from where the ball might

rear up awkwardly when his team sets out to chase a record

target of 328 on Tuesday to win

the four-match series against

"When they bowl, obvi-ously there will be some con-

fusion, it will play in the mind of the batsmen that there are

cracks on the pitch but our batsmen are prepared for this.

We will come to know only

tomorrow," Siraj said at a virʻ-

When he was asked if he would be required in pursuit of the total, he replied: "If I get opportunity, then I will bat."

to win this series, especially

after so many injuries, despite

which our team fought hard in the first innings," he said.

Steve Smith was his favourite among the 13 wickets in the series, along with the dismissal of Marnus Labuschagne. "In the whole series, I feel

The short ball to get rid of

... But naturally our aim is

tual press conference.

Australia.

Playing in his maiden Test

I will get it. He is the best bats-men in the world and it gave me a lot of confidence, also the wicket of Labuschagne, it boosted my confidence.

The 26-year-old Hyderabad pacer thanked skipper Ajinkya Rahane for his constant support and encouragement.
"Also the kind of opportu-

nities that the youngsters got, whether it is Natarajan or Washington, all have grabbed them, every one has perfor-

"I will especially thank Aiinkya Rahane for trusting the youngsters and showing confidence in me, he was talking me all the time and it gave me a lot of confidence.

Having lost his father during the ongoing tour and being unable to go back for his last rites, Siraj had a difficult last two months but in the end, the hard work has reaped dividends.

"My dad had wished that his son would play and the entire world would watch him. I hope he could have been there to watch this day. This is because of his blessings that I have got a five wicket haul in Tests. I am speechless and can't express my feelings in

words."
"It was a tough situation, dad's demise. I got strength after talking to mom and my focus was to realise dad's

Rain, thunderstorm in weather forecast for Day 5

AFP ■ BRISBANE

All eyes will be on the weath-er forecast for Brisbane as the fourth and final Test between India and Australia concludes at the Gabba on

It's been a hard-fought series with the score tied at 1-1 for now. And with Australia getting bowled-out in their sec-



ond innings late in the third session on Monday, we're left with

ish to this India tour

A win or draw will help India retain the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, while a win is imperative for Australia.

Rain has already had a big say in the fourth Test, with the entire third session of day two being washed out and play being called off early on day four as well.

As per The Weather

Channel, there is a possibly of heavy rain in Brisbane on Tuesday. There could be scattered thunderstorms, with a 50% chance of rain.

There are more worrying signs for Australia, who would be keen to get a full day's play, as *AccuWeather* has also predicted the possibility of thun-derstorms in Brisbane on Tuesday.

Smith believes Oz are nicely placed | Eng go 1-0 up with 7-wicket win

PTI BRISBANE

ustralian batsman Steve A Smith reckons that with the Gabba track starting to play a few tricks, staying patient would be imperative for his team's bowlers when they defend an imposing 328 against a determined India on the last day of the fourth and final Test

India were 4/0 before the final session of the play was suspended early due to rain on the fourth day.

"I think the game is in a

I think the game is in a nice place for us. I think the wicket has started to play a few tricks today, couple of balls shot up," Smith said at the virtual post-day press conference.

"So, tomorrow it is just

going to be about bowling (in) good areas and letting the natural variation of the day five wicket sort of do its work and hopefully we can hold on to all the chances," he added.

The rain factor is also going to be a crucial one on the final day but Smith would rather focus on controllables.



tough question."

He said the Australian bowlers should remain patient and not go searching for too much. "The Indian players have obviously batted well. Obviously in Sydney, it was 130 (overs) or something, obviously it is a different wicket to that. But for us it is just being patient, not searching too much, bowling good areas and just letting it happen," the prolific batsman stressed.

"I think the more you sort of go searching for on these kind of tracks, then you prob-

'Starc will be good to go'

Brisbane: Leading pacer Mitchell Starc on Monday gave Australia an injury scare after he grabbed his ham-string but batting mainstay Stays Spith remained beneful Steve Smith remained hopeful that he would pull through a decisive final day in the fourth Test against India here.

Starc looked uncomfortable during his only over of India's second innings, but Smith expressed optimism that the 30-year-old would be

good to go on Tuesday.
"I'm sure he'll get assessed
by the medical staff and one thing I know about Mitchell is he's tough and he's played through some injuries before and got the job done, so he will be hopefully good to go tomorrow," said Smith. PTI

ably don't get the reward. So, it is just about hitting good areas consistently and letting the natural variation of the wicket

AP ■ GALLE

Jonny Bairstow and Dan Lawrence held their nerve in a 62-run unbroken stand to guide England to a seven-wick-et win over Sri Lanka on Monday on the fifth and final morning of the series-opening Test. England ensured it didn't have any more hiccups in eras-ing the remaining 36 required on the last day after Sri Lanka had set up a tricky 74-run target on a turning wicket. England had slumped to 14-

3 late on the fourth evening, included a crucial run-out of its captain Ioe Root for just 1. before Bairstow and Lawrence combined to usher the tourists

Bairstow remained unbeaten on 35 off 65 balls and Lawrence, who hit a gritty half century in the first innings of debut, finished 21 not out.

Sri Lanka had the chance of a breakthrough after England resumed on 38-3. Bairstow may have been out lbw off Dilruwarn Perera's off-spin in the third over, take its course," he reiterated. | but stand-in captain Dinesh



Chandimal didn't go for the television referral.

Bairstow eventually sealed the victory with a boundary when he swept Perera to square

"To come with little prep and play in the manner we have, has been really impressive," Root said after receiving his man-ofthe-match award.

The England captain praised the effort of his two spinners — Dom Bess and Jack

was his 100th assist for City

shot into the top corner from the

element to the celebrations as

Gundogan accepted congratu-

latory hugs from his team-

mates only for Fernandinho to

come along and remind of the need to keep their distance. After that, fist-bumps seemed

This time there was a comic

edge of the area.

Leach - who snared 14 wickets between them, each bagging

a five-wicket haul.

"Brilliant effort, particularly with the little cricket they've played recently," Root said. "Series like these are always

tough but without the prep it's testament to their characters."

The second Test of the two-match series will also be played at Galle, starting Friday. England swept the series 3-0 when it last toured Sri Lanka in 2018.



card for Messi in 753 appear ances for Barcelona, to go with his two reds for Argentina in ionel Messi was sent off for Lionel Messi was sent our for the first time playing for Barcelona as Athletic Bilbao 2005 and 2019. After so many years in football, Leo knows perfectly well when he is fit to play," said

Messi sees red

in Barca's defeat

stunned the Catalans to win the Spanish Super Cup on Sunday, a dramatic final finishing 3-2 after extra-time.

Moments Bilbao's momentous triumph was confirmed, Messi threw an arm at Asier Villalibre, who had earlier scored a 90thminute equaliser in normal time to deny Barca victory.

Antoine Griezmann's double looked to have sealed the trophy but Villalibre inter-

vened before Inaki Williams' fabulous strike three minutes into extra time proved decisive. Messi shook off a

thigh problem to start in Seville and was required Barcelona attempted to take the game to penalties.

Instead, the 33-yearold lost his temper at the end of a combative contest, reacting to a late challenge from Villalibre by swiping his hands across the back of his opponent.
It meant a first ever red

Olympics will be proof of

competition Clasico final by beating Real Madrid in the semi Thursday and pleted the set

Barca coach Ronald Koeman.

"We talked and he said he was in a good place to start. He

has survived the game, given the maximum, nothing more."

Messi's anger will take some of the limelight away

from Bilbao, who had

already denied the

title and the perfect start Marcelino Garcia Toral, who only took over as coach less than two weeks ago. But there was

praise too for his pre-Garitano, who oversaw this team reaching the Copa del Rey final last season, which earned qualification in the first

"This is for Gaizka Garitano and his coaching staff as well who brought us here," said Williams.

Inter beat Juventus to spice up Scudetto race Inter claimed a first victory over



AFP MILAN

Inter Milan defeated champions Juventus 2-0 to move level on points with Serie A leaders AC Milan on Sunday boosting their hopes of a first league title since 2010

Arturo Vidal got his head to a Nicolo Barella cross in the 12th minute for his first league goal for Inter Milan against his

Barella added the second seven minutes after the break as

Juventus since September 2016, ending a series of seven match-"It was a bad defeat, we did-

n't expect it, we couldn't have

put in a worse performance than this," said Juventus coach Andrea Pirlo after his second league defeat this season. "Our attitude was wrong, right from the start. We were too passive, fearful, we only

thought about the defensive Inter are equal on 40 points with local rivals Milan, who travel to Cagliari, with Juventus seven points behind the top two

"To win against a team like Juve you have to touch per-fection," said Inter coach Antonio Conte after his first win in four meetings against the club he led to the first three of their current run of nine consecutive league titles

"I'm happy for the lads because these are games that give you self-esteem and make you understand that we're on the right path.

Stones' brace fuels Man City win restraint as he fist-bumped Kyle Walker in recognition of what



AP MANCHESTER

John Stones scored his first Premier League goals for Manchester City in a 4-0 victo-ry over Crystal Palace to help his team leap up to second in the

Premier League.
The defender netted twice and Ilkay Gundogan and Raheem Sterling also scored fine goals as City claimed a fifth successive win by overpowering a Palace side missing Wilfried Zaha at the Etihad Stadium.

City moved above Liverpool after the champions drew 0-0 with Manchester United, which

has played a game more than its

right boot.

City, read it perfectly and rose to head home his first of the night He temporarily forgot the new protocols regarding goal celebra-tions as he ran off toward the corner flag and accepted a hug from Ruben Dias and Gabriel

De Bruyne showed more

The opening goal came after some De Bruyne brilliance in the 26th minute. The Belgian brilliantly controlled a cross-field pass from Sterling on the left and instinctively curled a cross into the area with the outside of his

Stones, in his fifth season at

to suffice. De Bruyne fired another shot narrowly wide before City got its third in the 68th. Guaita did well to keep out a firm header from Dias but the ball rebounded to Stones, who lashed it back into the net almost instinctively.

Sterling, making up for the frustration of a missed penalty in midweek, wrapped up a fine night's work for City when he curled home a free kick from

the edge of the area in the 88th.
Palace is 13th in the 20team standings.

victory over virus: Japan PM

Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga vowed on Monday to get the pandemic under control and hold the already postponed Olympics this summer with ample coronavirus protection.

In a speech opening a new Parliament session, Suga said his Government would revise laws to make anti-virus measures enforceable with penalties and

Early in the pandemic, Japan was able to keep its virus caseload manageable with nonbinding requests for businesses

to close or operate with social distancing and for people to stay

But recent weeks have seen several highs in new cases per day, in part blamed on eased attitudes toward the anti-virus measures, and doubts are growing as more contagious variants spread

while people wait for vaccines and the Olympics draw closer. Suga said his Government aimed to start vaccinations as early as late February.

"In order to restore sense of safety, I will get the coronavirus pandemic, which has raged worldwide and is now severely affecting Japan, under control as

soon as possible," Suga said.
"I will stand at the frontline of the battle while I get the people's cooperation." Suga pledged to achieve the Olympics as "a proof of

human victory against the coronavirus."
"We will have full anti-

infection measures in place and proceed with preparation with a determination to achieve the Games that can deliver hope and courage throughout the world," he said.

Recent media polls show about 80% of the Japanese public think the Olympics will not or should not happen.