

MONEY 6PETROL, DIESEL PRICES STEADY
EVEN AS CRUDE BOILS**WORLD 7**POPE FRANCIS, IRAQ'S TOP SHIA
CLERIC HOLD HISTORIC MEETING**SPORT 8**OUR BENCH STRENGTH
IS STRONG: KOHLI**Published From**DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL
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BJP pits Suvendu against Didi

**Bharati Ghosh, pacer
Ashok Dinda in BJP
list of 57 candidates****SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■**
KOLKATAseat of Nandigram against
Mamata Banerjee.The other two notable
names on the list are former
India pacer Ashok Dinda, who
will contest from Moyna in
East Midnapore, and former
IPS officer Bharati Ghosh, who
will take on another retired IPS
officer Humayun Kabir from
Debra Assembly seat in West
Midnapore.The saffron outfit
announced candidates for all
but three of the 60 seats which
will go to polls in the first two
of the eight-phase elections
that will start from March 27
and end on April 27. One seat
of Bagmundi in Purulia dis-
trict has been left for alliance
partner AJSU.Adhikari who reached
Nandigram from Delhi — to
a rousing welcome by party
supporters shouting Jai Shri
Ram slogans — hours before
the list was published by the
party top brass in the national
Capital, attacked the Chief
Minister for remembering
Nandigram during the elec-
tions time only."She is a rank outsider
here and I am the Bhumi-putra
(son of the soil)... she remem-
bers Nandigram that cata-
pulted her to power in 2011
only when the polls are round
the corner... the people of
Nandigram have decided to
teach her a lesson," said
Adhikari, who has already
vowed to defeat the Chief
Minister by half-a-lakh votes.Reacting to his statements,
senior TMC leader Saugata
Roy said, "The Trinamool does
not want to talk about traitors
who have stabbed in the back
of Mamata Banerjee. The peo-
ple will give him a befitting
reply." Adhikari, a former MP
and State Minister left the TMC
in December last year. He had
been the Man Friday of the
Bengal Chief Minister hand-
ling the party organisational
affairs in about a dozen districts
before he left the party.Mamata had released the
list of Trinamool Congress
candidates on Friday. The
TMC released the list for all
the 291 seats and left three
seats for alliance partner
Gorkha Janmukti Morcha. The
Left too had released its list of
candidates for the first two
phases on Friday.

Trivedi joins BJP; right man in right party now: Nadda

Former Union Minister Dinesh Trivedi joins BJP in the presence of the party
president JP Nadda in New Delhi on Saturday

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PNS ■ NEW DELHI**A**head of the West Bengal
Apolls, former Railway
Minister and Trinamool
Congress Member of
Parliament Dinesh Trivedi on
Saturday joined the BJP.BJP president JP Nadda
welcomed him into the party's
fold claiming that Trivedi
crossed over not on account of
"opportunism" but for the
"ideological reasons".The 70-year-old Trivedi
maintained that he has
switched sides to "serve the
country better"."This was the golden
moment I had been waiting
for," Trivedi said after joining
the BJP at party headquarters
here in the presence of Nadda
and Union Minister Piyush
Goyal.Trivedi resigned his Rajya
Sabha and Trinamool mem-
bership on February 12, say-
ing he felt "suffocated"
because of the violence in
West Bengal and his inability
to do anything about
it. Alluding to 'parivar' in West
Bengal, he said after joining
the BJP he felt being with the
"janta parivar".

Centre rushes teams to resurgent Maha, Punjab

**Return to Covid
test, track, treat,
Health Ministry
tells States, UTs****PNS ■ NEW DELHI****T**he Centre has rushed high-
level multi-disciplinary
public health teams to
Maharashtra and Punjab in
view of the increase in the
number of daily Covid-19 cases
being reported by these States.
It has also asked high-case
load States and Union
Territories like Maharashtra
and Gujarat to continue with
the strategy of "test, track and
treat" that had yielded rich di-
vidends at the height of the pan-
demic.The States have been asked
to collaborate with private hos-
pitals to open up vaccination
time-table for a minimum of 15
days and a maximum of 28
days at a time.Union Health Secretary
Rajesh Bhushan and NITI
Aayog member (Health) Dr
Vinod Paul on Saturday inter-
acted with health secretaries
and MDs of Haryana, Andhra
Pradesh, Odisha, Goa,
Himachal Pradesh,
Uttarakhand, Delhi and
Chandigarh, which have
reported increased number of
Covid cases in the last few days.**Turn on Page 4**Elderly people wait to get vaccinated against Covid-19 at Navi Mumbai Municipal
Corporation hospital at Vashi, Navi Mumbai on Saturday

PTI

Mental health problems in 20% Covid survivors: Study

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI**O**ne in every five Covid-19
survivors are showing
symptoms including fatigue,
cognitive problems and a range
of psychiatric problems, a
research review led by Oxford
Brookes University has noted.
It also painted a gloomy pic-
ture for the future, warning
that more number of people
will be affected by neuropsy-
chiatric and cognitive compli-
cations.The study has come close
on the heels of similar obser-
vation from the World HealthOrganization (WHO) officials
who recently noted that the
ongoing Coronavirus pan-
demic has caused more "mass
trauma" than World War II.The observation hold
importance in the context of
India where more number of
people with mental health dis-
order could pose further bur-
den on the already patchy
mental health care system.
One in seven people or a total
of 197.3 million people live
with mental illness in India,
according to the 2019 Global
Burden of Disease Study.**Turn on Page 4**

Adopt world-class systems, PM exhorts defence forces

**Modi addresses
Combined
Commanders'
meet in Guj****PNS ■ NEW DELHI****U**rging the defence forces to
keep pace with rapid
advancements in war fighting
capabilities all over world,
Prime Minister Narendra Modi
on Saturday asked them to
"rid themselves of legacy sys-
tems and practices that have
outlived their utility and rele-
vance."Making this observation
while addressing the
Combined Commanders'
Conference in Kevadia,
Gujarat, Modi also conveyed
his appreciation for the "re-
solute dedication" shown by
the armed forces over the past
year in the context of the cor-
ona pandemic and the chal-
lenging situation on the north-
ern border with China.He stressed the impor-
tance of enhancing indigeni-
sation in the national security
system, not just in sourcing
equipment and weapons butPrime Minister Narendra Modi visits an exhibition of innovations by our armed
forces during Combined Commanders' Conference at Kevadia, in Narmada district

PTI

also in the doctrines, proce-
dures and customs practised in
the armed forces, a statement
from the Prime Minister's
Office (PMO) said.Modi was briefed by the
Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)
about the discussions during
this year's conference, the state-
ment said. He particularly
appreciated the inclusion of
Junior Commissioned Officers
and Non-Commissioned
Officers this year.Incidentally, this was the
first time that personnel belowofficer rank were part of the
high-level meeting held annu-
ally. The jawans shared their
views on operational matters
with the top military leadership
besides the Prime Minister.Emphasising the need for
planning in both military and
civilian parts of the National
security architecture, Modi also
called for a "holistic approach,
focused on breaking down
civil-military silos and on ex-
pediting the speed of decision
making."**Turn on Page 4****STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL****P**resident Ram Nath Kovind
said that we will have to
make efforts to provide quick,
accessible and affordable justice
to the people of the country. For
this, we will have to work
towards providing justice to
people in their own dialect and
language. Kovind was address-
ing the inaugural session of All
India Judicial Academies'
Directors Retreat organised at
Manas Bhawan, Jabalpur on
Saturday.Those present on stage were
Governor Anandiben Patel,
Chief Justice of India Sharad
Arvind Bobde, Chief Minister
Shivraj Singh Chouhan,
Supreme Court Judge N.V.
Ramanna, Ashok Bhushan,
Hemant Gupta, Shripati
Ravindra Bhat, Chief Justice of
High Court Mohammad Rafiq
and Administrative Judge
Prakash Shrivastava.President Ram Nath
Kovind said that lower courts
are integral part of the judicial
system of the country. Our
judicial academies are doing the
important work of training the
law students having theoretical
knowledge as skilled and excel-
lent judges. The need now is to
expand the scope of the train-
ing of judges as well as other
judicial officers to expeditious-President Ram Nath Kovind lights a traditional lamp to inaugurate All India State Judicial Academies Directors' Retreat
organised by the High Court of Madhya Pradesh and State Judicial Academy in Jabalpur Madhya Pradesh on Saturday.
Governor Anandiben Patel, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Chief Justice SA Bobde were also present on the
occasion

Pioneer photo

ly settle pending lawsuits in the
country's courts, especially in
district courts.Kovind said "I am fortunate
to get the opportunity to serve
the country with all the three
branches of the state, the legis-
lature, the executive and the
judiciary. I am happy that on my
suggestion, the Supreme Court,
working in this direction, pro-
vided the translation of its deci-
sions in nine Indian languages.
Everyone associated with this
effort deserves to be lauded."He further said "I want all
the High Courts to provide
and publish certified translation
of decisions related to important
aspects of public life in the of-
ficial language of their state, like
the Supreme Court, so that the
plaintiff-respondents should
not be inconvenienced in un-
derstanding the decision due
to the limitations of language."He said that the Preamble of the
Constitution of India is consid-
ered the soul of our
Constitution. It expresses theresolve to achieve four ideals -
justice, freedom, equal oppor-
tunity and fraternity. Among
them also, 'justice' has been
mentioned first.Kovind said that more than
18,000 courts have been com-
puterized in the country. During
the period of lockdown till
January 2021, around 76 lakh
cases were heard in virtual
courts across the country. Also
efforts like National Judicial
Data Grid, Unique
Identification Code and QR

CAPSULE

**PAK PM IMRAN KHAN
WINS TRUST VOTE****Islamabad:** Pakistan Prime
Minister Imran Khan on
Saturday comfortably won a
trust vote in the National
Assembly amid Opposition
boycott, bolstering his
Government's position after an
embarrassing defeat in this
week's Senate elections.**NOTED KANNADA POET
NSL BHATTA NO MORE****Bengaluru:** Noted Kannada
poet, critic and translator NS
Lakshminarayana Bhatta died
here early on Saturday. He was
84 and was suffering from age
related ailments.**RAPE VICTIM SET ABLAZE
DIES OF BURNS IN JAIPUR****Jaipur:** A 30-year-old rape
victim who was allegedly
set on fire at her home in
Rajasthan's Hanumangar
succumbed to her burn injuries
at Jaipur's SMS Hospital.

Farmer block KMP to mark 100th protest day

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH**F**armers protesting the
Centre's three farm laws on
Saturday blocked the six-lane
Kundli-Manesar-Palwal (KMP)
Expressway at some places in
Haryana to mark the comple-
tion of 100 days of their agita-
tion at the Delhi borders.The road blockade began at
11 am and continued till 4 pm.
Farmers holding black flags
and wearing black armbands
and some women protesters
with black "dupattas" shouted
slogans against the BJP-led
Government for not acceding
to their demands.Protesters in Sonapat and
Hajjar districts and some other
places brought their tractor-
trolleys and other vehicles and
parked them in the middle of
the KMP Expressway in some
stretches. The Haryana PoliceFarmers during Kisan Ekta Morcha
protest at KMP Expressway near Kundli
in Haryana on Saturday

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had made arrangements for
traffic diversions and deployed
adequate personnel.The call for blocking the
expressway was given by the
Samyukta Kisan Morcha, an
umbrella body of protesting
farmer unions which is spear-
heading the agitation against
the legislations.**Turn on Page 4**

150 Rohingyas detained in J&K for illegal stay

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU**I**n a major crackdown on
illegal immigrants staying in
Jammu & Kashmir more than
150 Rohingyas have been
detained at a holding centre in
Sub Jail Hiranagar at the end of
the verification process of their
travel documents.According to official
sources during the special drive
conducted at the Maulana
Azad stadium in Jammu on
Saturday police authorities ver-
ified travel documents and
collected biometrics of large
numbers of illegal immigrants
including Rohingyas from
Myanmar.During the verification
process the stadium was kept
out of bounds for local media
persons and none were per-
mitted to enter the premises.

Spinners demolish England

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD**A**xar Patel and
Aravichandran Ashwin
once again made a mockery of
an eternally confused English
batting line-up as India can-
tered into the inaugural World
Test Championship final with
a resounding innings and 25
run victory on the third after-
noon of the fourth and final
Test here on Saturday.All India needed was a
draw to book a Lord's date in
June with Kane Williamson's
New Zealand but Patel
(24-6-48-5), in company of
Ashwin (22-5-4-47-5),
literally blew England away in
a session and half for a paltry
135 in 54.5 overs to complete
a 3-1 rout, ensuring that the
Anthony De Mello Trophy will
stay at the Cricket Centre in
Mumbai.**Related reports on P8**Indian cricket team captain Virat Kohli holds the trophy after defeating England during the third day's play of the 4th and last
test match of the series between India and England, at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Saturday

PTI

HOME THEATRE

Big disappointment



COMING TO AMERICA 2
Amazon
***ing: Eddie Murphy, Arsenio Hall, Jermaine Fowler, Wesley Snipes, James Earl Jones**
Rated: 3/10

It is not only strange but bizarre that a movie's sequel would be released 33 years after the prequel. However, what is even worse is that while *Coming To America* (the original) directed by John Landis and based on a story originally created by Eddie Murphy was a rom-com that managed to keep one engrossed in the film — at the end it was a love story, part two is anything but funny or even remotely romantic in

nature. Unless one considers a few scenes spent on two young people talking alone with one of them aspiring to open a salon of her own.
Here she befriends a prince no less and supposedly in love and her dream is to open a salon of her own!
One does manage to get over this rather strange dream but what one can't get over is the unfunny dialogues. Not only are the risqué, the hand gestures are even worse. And what the hell was Wesley Snipes thinking when he agreed to this boggles the mind. It does oblige his better work — *Blade* series comes to mind.
Directed by Craig Brewer and produced by Kevin Misher

and Eddie Murphy, this sequel may have started off on a good note but unfortunately all it manages to do in the 110 minutes is make you cringe.
May be Murphy thought that revisiting the original that had a cult following would be a great idea but all he manages to do is makes one wonder why he needed to do this in this horrible manner that take away from its prequel.
Coming To America, the must awaited film ends up disappointing and is a huge bore.
Watch only if you have nothing else to do and want to catch up on the stars of the original movie.
— Shalini Saksena

Riveting true story told well

MURDER AMONG THE MORMONS
Netflix
***ing: A true-Crime**
Rated: 5/10

Off late Netflix has been releasing true-crime sagas. Take for example *The Night Stalker* or *The Cecil Hotel* that recently found their way on the OTT platform. However bizarre or strange such docu-movies may be, one can't shy away from the truth that they are absolutely riveting and unfold rather brilliantly. It could stem from the fact that if there is a murder and then another coupled with a Church in the middle of it all, facts and how the investigation proceeds are bound to be filled with intrigue and throw up a few suspects.
Murder Among The Mormons relate to a true investigation into twin blasts that killed two people in Salt Lake City, Utah, US. These murders were unlike anything that came to light in the October of 1985. May be because it relates to religion, murder and deception — a lethal combination.
The three-part mini-series — each of approximately 46 minutes — is paced out well with part one giving the history of the town where the blasts occurred, the people who live here and the Mormon Church and the history of the Mormons — a religious group that embrace concepts of Christianity and revelations made by their founder, Joseph

Smith. They primarily belong to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.
Of course, the intrigue is already there and the next two part are all about the build up to the murders and who and why they were killed in the first place.
Though the entire mini-series manages to keep one's interest — anything related to the Church is more so if it involves debunking the faith of the people and making them question the very basis on which the Church stands. It is the second half of part three that makes one sit up straight and watch as the master criminal emerges — a criminal who has perfected his craft since he was a only a teenager.
How he not only managed to dupe the Church but his friends and wife without remorse or guilt for his own gain; a power hungry Mark Hofmann — regarded as one of the most accomplished forger in history. He is infamous for forging documents related to the history of the Latter Day Saint movement. What is more interesting to know is that one doesn't know how many of his forged yet authenticated documents are still in circulation.
Hofmann was given life sentence with no parole since it was found that he felt no guilt or remorse for what he had done. He is now in Central Utah Correctional Facility in Gunnison, Colorado, US.
— Shalini Saksena



Plan Your Day

Treat for all women

Venue: All MOD Outlets
When: March 8, 2021
Time: 1 pm onwards
Age is just a number! Well, the greater the number, the sweeter your treat at Mad Over Donuts. Mad Over Donuts has consistently managed to delight its customers with its new launches and festive offers. They are at it again and this time, the surprise is bigger and better!
Mad Over Donuts is celebrating women's day in order to thank the contribution of women to the society by running a “celebrate your age” campaign. Simply walk into any Mad Over Donuts store on Women's Day to get a treat of their fresh, handmade donuts and get a discount that is equal to your age. That's a sweet treat that's hard to beat, is it not?



Mark your calendar right away and set up a date with your girl gang. After a rollicking day out and about, end it on a delectable note with some of the scrumptious donuts offered by Mad Over Donuts.

Celebrate womanhood

Venue: Horizon Plaza- Artisanal Market, Sec-43, Golf Course road, DLF Phase-5
When: March 7, 2021
Time: 3:30 PM-8:30 pm
This Women's Day, let's celebrate the #Womanhood by appreciating the efforts of our all inspiring women, who empower the Artisanal Market. Join us on Sunday browsing especially curated Artisanal products and produce by our Women Founders, Chefs, Bakers at one of its kind Artisanal Market, handpicked by PC.
Well! your weekend mornings just got healthy with a dose of refreshing handpicked homegrown products at Artisanal Market Handpicked by PC.
Shop and mingle with passionate home bakers, food curators and urban farmers who grow, produce and hand-craft breads, jams, honeys, turmeric, cakes and other eclectic cuisines from different parts of the world with natural ingredients and a whole lot of love.
Get a freshly brewed coffee

or a smoothie, select your fruits and veggies to cook your favorite dish. Stock up natural honey, masala and pickles from different regions of India. Bring your friends and family and to enjoy artisanals flavours.
Flower lovers take home some fresh flowers from our special lady “Phuloon Ki Rani” by Rani Chadha, the 80 year-old entrepreneur. Home chefs get ready to shop your favorite food stuff from our different stalls.
Look no forward, spend this weekend with your family and friends at Artisanal Market and make your day.



TELLY TALE

MANISH DONS EUNUCH LOOK

Zee TV's second season of its immensely successful weekend thriller *Brahmarakshas* has been keeping the audience hooked with the gripping account of the *rakshas* who has returned with twice as much power and is on a mission for immortality. Having enthralled the viewers with unpredictable twists and turns in Kalindi's life, the show recently took a two-year leap, bringing in a package of surprises for its viewers. While a grieving Angad (Pearl V Puri) is seen mourning the loss of his beloved Kalindi (Nikki Sharma) who he believes has died as a result of his own actions, Kalindi's look alike — Chandni enters as the modern *chorni* and is set to bring much chaos in his life. Amidst all of this, actor Manish Khanna who earlier played a pivotal role in the show is all set to return, this time in the character of a eunuch.

Having previously portrayed the character of Jwala, the *tantric*, Khanna will now be seen playing the role of his transgender brother, Irawat who bears a connection with the Brahmarakshas and enters as the new villain in Angad's life and unknowingly in Chandni's life too. The actor couldn't be more thrilled to have returned with yet another interesting character and in fact will be seen donning a look similar to Bollywood actor Ashutosh Rana's character in Sangharsh.

Sharing his thoughts, Khanna said: “From the numerous roles that I have essayed on television, this character is one of the most unique and challenging ones I have had to play until now. I was required to bring a considerable change in my body language and even practise a bit of voice modulation to bring out the perfect essence of this role. Ashutosh Rana, who has been a dear friend became my immediate source of reference when it came to styling this character. He played the role of a eunuch in the film Sangharsh and I absolutely loved his performance including the way his character was showcased. We have tried to bring out a similar look in my character while bringing in a few unique and creative elements to the appearance as well. I just hope the viewers love this comeback of mine.”

YASH TURNS RUDE TO PRANALI

An actor has to look 100 per cent natural on screen, even if he has to act angry, drunk, insane or even a *yogi*. Yash Tonk has been a method actor and has been known to give his takes naturally for every scene in just two takes maximum! While he is known to play comic characters in the past, it was easy for him to deliver in comedy scenes, but what happened when he had to deliver his part in a serious role like Brij Kishore in Sony TV's *Kyun Utthe Dil Chhod Aaye*.
To look natural and to not scare off Pranali with his harsh tone and loud pitch, Yash Tonk rehearses his harsh fighting

scenes with Pranali prior to the final take. Those are the scenes where he has to act in a negative zone or even raise his voice on his on screen wife, Tonk could not do that in just the final take without rehearsing it because he considers Pranali as his dear friend. While rehearsing their quarrel scenes, Pranali eases out Tonk saying it's okay to raise his voice on her or even take a rude tone with her for a particular scene to look flawless.

Talking about these quarrel sequences, Tonk says: “I might be a method actor, but I'm a soft hearted person too when it comes to my friends and family. Pranali has become a dear friend ever since we started shooting for *Kyun Utthe Dil Chhod Aaye*. I don't feel like raising my voice at her even for a scene. So for the final take to be flawless, I rehearse my harsh fighting scenes prior to the final take. She eases me out and asks me to yell at her even if that's what the scene demands.”

SHAAN'S VIRTUAL ANTAKSHARI

In a clutter-breaking format innovation, Zee TV launched the world's first-ever music league championship Indian Pro Music League (IPML) on February 26, 2021. While the world of sports has seen several league competitions, this unique music league has six teams representing different regions of India, battling it out against each other in a musical championship. Each of these six teams supported by leading Bollywood and sports celebrities has top playback singers as their captains, one reality show star, and one fresh voice. Celebrated singers — Mika Singh, Kailash Kher, Sajid Khan, Shaan, Ankit Tiwari, Javed Ali, Asees Kaur, Bhoomi Trivedi, AkritiKakar, Payal Dev, Neha Bhasin, Shilpa Rao are captains of these six zonal teams.

After the epic opening ceremony, the six teams are ready to battle it out and the first set of league matches have kicked off. The upcoming episode has a Kishore Kumar theme and during the shoot, Bengal Tigers captains Shaan and Akriti Kakkar gave a spectacular performance to the song *Mere Saamne Wali Khidki Mein*. Right after the act, Shaan shared an emotional memory of his father while speaking to host Karan Wahi about Kishore Kumar. The Bengal Tigers captain mentioned how he lost his father — music composer Manas Mukherjee, in October 1986, but just before that, the legendary composer had written his last song *Ei Jiboner path soja noy jeno* that was sung by Kishore Kumar. The song came out later, but it was a big deal for the whole family, as Shaan revealed: “I felt that if Kishore Kumar is singing a song written by my father, I am sure my father was a well-known man. I have this one last image of them together, where I am walking behind my father and Kishore da. It was raining and they were discussing this song. It's a sweet memory I have of both of them.”

After this sweet revelation, Shaan also kicked off a virtual *antakshari* with ace musicians like Lisa Mishra, Amit Trivedi, Babul Supriyo and others joining in to sing a few Kishore Kumar classics. But wait till you see the mega battle between UP Dabbangs and Bengal Tigers. Shaan, Akriti's and their team will come out all guns blazing as they face off Ankit Tiwari, Payal Dev and their team.

MEHER & SIDDHI'S MAHASANGAM

Colors' latest show *Bawara Dil* has won the audience's heart with its captivating drama and powerful storytelling. The show is about two strong personalities Siddhi (played by Kinjal Dhamecha) and Shiva (played by Aditya Redij) who hate each other yet are brought together by destiny. While fate brings them together, the two vow to destroy each other.

In the current track of the show, Shiva and Siddhi are at loggerheads as Siddhi throws a stone inside Shiva's house and breaks his TV after being upset with his behaviour. She seeks help from Meher from *Choti Sarraaarni* (played by Nimrit Kaur Ahluwalia), who help her with some useful advice and motivates her. Meher gives her the much-needed courage to do the right thing.

Commenting on the Mahasangam episode, Dhamecha said, “As a viewer, I have enjoyed watching *Choti Sarraaarni* and I truly admire Nimrit. When I heard that we are going to shoot the *Mahasangam* episode together, I was excited as I knew it will be a great learning experience for me. We are very excited for the episode and I hope that our viewers are too.”

SPOTIFY PRESENTS SUPERHEROES

When it comes to Indian epics such as the Mahabharat or Ramayan, the familiar faces of Krishna, Ram or Hanuman hold dear to many of us. The fascinating characters of these books have come to excite, captivate and inspire generations of readers. However, these mythological tales record thousands of heroes and heroines, with many either overlooked or whose feats simply remain unheard. Spotify's newest podcast *Superheroes of Indian Mythology* spotlights the gamut of these larger-than-life characters — both big and small.

What popular culture refers to as “supporting roles”, often turn out to have the most interesting stories to tell. Let's look at unique names who played a pivotal role in history.

Bheeshma, revered as the eighth son of Goddess Ganga, was a learned scholar and one of the greatest examples of an honorable, loyal, duty-bound commander.

Karna, famously referred to as Suryaputra or Sun's son, is one of the more complex characters of the Mahabharat. There's much more in the list.



‘Crime stories don’t bother but astonish me’

MUSBA HASHMI speaks with MANOJ TIWARI about why he chose to come on board &TV's latest offering *Mauka-E-Vardaat*, a lesson that he learnt while hosting these shows and how such stories leave him astonished

■ What made you come on board &TV's Mauka-E-Vardaat?

I was on look out for a show that creates awareness among people and this show fits best in the criteria. Also, I was missing my screen appearances and with this show I got to do both. Hence, I decided to take it up.

■ How is this show different from all the other crime-based shows?

I don't know what other shows are doing, but with this show our aim is to show the audience real stories and bring out the truth. However, our bigger aim is to teach people to stay alert and create awareness. This is what I think is the USP of this show.

■ What kinds of stories will be shown?

We will be showcasing shocking stories wherein the culprit has taken to such impossible ways of committing crimes that it becomes hard to understand it. Once the audience will see the show, they will get to know how strangely crimes have been committed.

■ You haven't been a part of many crime-based shows. Is there a particular reason?

Yes, I don't want to take up a show for the sake of it. I want to resonate with it. It should have something interesting to offer. For this particular show, I have two other people with me — Ravi Kishan and Sapna Choudhary — I believe all three of us can make this show a huge success and do good to people by creating awareness.

■ Is there a lesson that you learnt while being a part of such shows?

Definitely. When I was doing my previous shows, I realised that I would have not been able to understand the different facets of life and gather so many different thoughts by reading a 100 books that I have learnt during these shows. There is one line that I always remember: *Abhi samaaj mein log apni twarit safaltaon ke liye vyakti aur vastu mein farq karna bhulte jaa rahe hain* (people have forgotten to differentiate between people and things for their own benefits). This holds true and I hope people start

One such story left me shocked. It is about a group which would take fingerprints of dead bodies at the crematorium and used them for getting fake IDs. When they were caught committing a crime, it was revealed that the identities they were using were of people who died years ago



realising what is more important and learn to differentiate between good and bad.

■ Did getting to know so many crimes so closely bother you in any way?

We are narrating the stories that have already happened with the aim of informing people about ways to safeguard themselves and their families. I don't get bothered by it. But yes, I do get astonished with such stories.

■ What makes crime-based shows so popular?

People love to see a story that can shock them up. This is not imaginary, hence the interest level goes even up. The interest factor also depends on how a show has been shot and who is narrating these stories. If the person telling these stories holds a value in the minds of the people, the audience automatically wants to see more such stories.

■ Was there a case that left you shattered?

There is one such story that left me shocked. It is about a group which would take fingerprints of dead bodies at the crematorium and used them for getting fake IDs. When they were caught committing a crime, it was revealed that the identities they were using were of people who died years ago I told my team that it is important to put across such stories. The team too agreed and told me it has to be done in a way where people take lessons from it and stay alert. This story will be shown in *Mauka-E-Vardaat*.

CM meets beneficiaries, gets schemes' feedback

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Saturday met several beneficiaries in Jabalpur and received feedback about the benefits being received by them under various schemes. Chouhan talked with the beneficiaries of Sambal Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Swa-Nidhi Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and the schemes to benefit self-help groups. He also interacted with members of women's self-help groups. Chief Minister Chouhan said that our aim is to help children belonging to poor sections under Sambal Yojana by providing relief in depositing school fees and thus help to overcome the difficulties faced by them.

Chouhan told the benefi-

ciaries that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched innovative scheme for the welfare of street vendors. Madhya Pradesh is at the forefront in the implementation of the Prime Minister's Swa-Nidhi Yojana. The Government of Madhya Pradesh has decided to benefit the small traders of rural areas under the Rural Street Vendor Welfare Scheme. Both the schemes are being implemented effectively. This year, the target is to benefit 5 lakh beneficiaries under the Rural Street Vendor Scheme. The Chief Minister also informed that on March 12 the amount of second and third installment of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana will be provided. During the discussion, Chouhan asked the beneficiaries if they were facing any dif-

ficulty in getting the benefits of the schemes. In response to this, the beneficiaries told that the Madhya Pradesh government has given special attention to the implementation of the schemes to make life easier for the people and they are getting the benefit of schemes. Chouhan also gave learning driving license to the girl students on the occasion. The Chief Minister also enquired the students about their studies. Chief Minister Shri Chouhan communicated with the beneficiaries at the Saraswati Shishu Mandir premises in Ranjhi under MLA Chaupal in the presence of Minister of State Ramkishore Kanwar, MP Rakesh Singh, MLA Ashok Rohani and obtained feedback about other government schemes also.

CM, Guv welcome Prez Kovind on his State visit

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

President Ram Nath Kovind was accorded a warm welcome on Saturday at Dumna Airport in Jabalpur. The President, who is on a two-day State visit, reached Dumna Airport by an Indian Air Force plane at 9:40 am on Saturday. Governor Anandiben Patel and Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan received the President at the airport and accorded him a warm welcome. Among those who were present at Dumna airport to welcome President Ram Nath Kovind were Union Minister of State for Culture and Tourism (Independent Charge) Prahlad Singh Patel, Chief Justice of Madhya Pradesh High Court, Mohammad Rafique, Minister of State for AYUSH and Water Resources, Ramkishore



Kanwar, Administrative Judge of Jabalpur Principal Bench Madhya Pradesh High Court Prakash Shrivastava, Administrative Judge of Madhya Pradesh High Court Gwalior Bench Sheel Nagu, Administrative Judge of Madhya Pradesh High Court Indore Bench Sujoy Pal, MP Rakesh Singh, MLAs Ashok Rohani, Lakhan Ghanghoria

and Vinay Saxena, Chief Secretary Iqbal Singh Bais, Director General of Police Vivek Johri, Commandant Lieutenant General of College of Material Management Jabalpur Rakesh Kapoor and Collector Karmvir Sharma and Superintendent of Police Siddharth Bahuguna. President Kovind was introduced with dignitaries present there. The President proceeded to Circuit House directly from the airport. President Ram Nath Kovind who is on a two-day visit to Jabalpur was given the Guard of Honour by M.P. Armed police personnel at the Circuit House. Governor Anandiben Patel, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and MP Rakesh Singh were also present on the occasion.

INBRIEF

WORLD GLUCOMA WEEK FROM MARCH 7-13
Bhopal: World Glaucoma week will be observed from March 7 to 13, 2021 in Sewa Sadan Eye Hospital. On the occasion Glaucoma patients will be provided concession of fees in their diagnosis of the disease. Services of three Glaucoma specialist Dr Samta Patel, Dr Sapna Shrivastava and Dr Deepa Raidas Singh will be available for the patients. On the occasion Dr Samta Patel said that the glaucoma is a silent vision killer disease. Patients suffering from diabetes should specially consult the doctors on regular 6 monthly interval to examine their disease. She further said that there is not a possibility of relieving fully from this disease. She said only spread of its further damage of vision can be curbed.

CM PARTICIPATES IN PROGRAMMES AT JABALPUR
Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan visited Jabalpur to participate in various programmes on Saturday. According to the scheduled programme, Chief Minister Chouhan left for the Vishram Bhawan after attending the programme organised at the Shaheed Smarak Complex, Gol Bazaar. On the way, he stopped his vehicle at the Narmada tea stall at Shankaracharya Chowk, small line gate and expressed wish to have tea. The owner of Narmada tea stall, Pappu Gupta, was pleasantly surprised on seeing Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan at his tea shop. Chief Minister Shri Chouhan told Pappu Yadav that he wanted to have tea so he stopped at his shop. As per the wish of the Chief Minister, Pappu Gupta made flavoured tea and offered it to him. Chief Minister Chouhan had tea and paid for it himself. During the conversation, Chief Minister Chouhan enquired the tea stall owner about the well-being of his family. The Chief Minister Chouhan stopping suddenly at a tea stall and having tea became a centre of attraction for the local people. The Chief Minister interacted amicably with the people gathered there. This spontaneity of Chief Minister Chouhan makes him popular among the people of the state. Chouhan asked Pappu Gupta, the owner of Narmada tea stall, if he had got the benefit of the Prime Minister's Swa-Nidhi Yojana. Encouraged by the caring attitude of the Chief Minister, Pappu said that not only has he got a loan of ₹10,000 under this scheme, but he has also repaid ₹5,000 out of the loan amount. So that he can get more loan amount next time.

CM VISITS PAINTING EXHIBITION BASED ON NETAJI
Bhopal: During his stay in Jabalpur, Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan visited a painting exhibition based on the life of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose at the Shaheed Smarak Parisar at Gol Bazar. Meanwhile, Union Minister of State for Tourism (Independent Charge) Prahlad Singh Patel, Minister of State for AYUSH and Water Resources Ramkishore Kanwar, MP Rakesh Singh and MLAs, public representatives and officials were present.



Chief Executive Officer, Jammu & Kashmir Tourism Development Authority, Tanveer Mohammad (C) with other guests talking to media persons in connection with the promotion and road show, in Bhopal on Saturday

AIIMS Bhopal organises events on Rare Disease Day

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The Department of Pediatrics, AIIMS Bhopal organised several events on the occasion of "Rare Disease Day" on Friday. The purpose of these events was to raise awareness for children suffering with rare diseases among healthcare professionals towards early diagnosis, recognition and management of these disorders to prevent complications. Globally, more than 7000 disorders are categorized as rare disorders, and approximately 350 million individuals are affected by these disorders. India has a high burden of these disorders, and about 1 in 20 individuals in our country suffer from them. Most of these disorders are incurable, or they require life-

long treatment, which is very expensive and beyond the reach of the common man. On this occasion, Professor Sarman Singh, the Director of AIIMS, Bhopal, appreciated the special efforts of the department in providing clinical care to children with these diseases, the counseling & support to the parents of children, and the awareness drive initiated by them. Professor Rajesh Malik, Dean Academics, addressed the gathering and stressed the importance of such campaigns and advocacy for rare genetic disorders. Professor Manisha Shrivastava, Medical Superintendent, appreciated the efforts and dedication of the parents of children suffering from these disorders. Professor Shikha Malik,

Head of Department of Pediatrics, stressed the need for sensitization of all levels of healthcare personnel, and the importance of timely diagnosis in such cases. Dr Bhavna Dhingra, Additional Professor, Department of Pediatrics was the main coordinator these events. She briefed everyone about the services available at AIIMS, Bhopal for diagnosis and management of individuals with rare disorders. She informed that AIIMS Bhopal is running a once a week Genetic clinic for such children and that three faculty members have recently completed their training to facilitate the establishment of Advanced Genetic Diagnostics Facility at the Institute.



Mahila Congress State President Mandavi Chouhan talking to media persons at PCC headquarters in Bhopal on Saturday

Man hangs self at Barkhedi

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A 42-year-old man committed suicide by hanging from the ceiling at his house in Barkhedi locality under Jehangirabad police station area late in the night on Friday. Police said that the deceased Mahesh Kori committed suicide at his house. The deceased used to work with private firm. In the initial investigation the family members told police that deceased used to remain depressed.

Youth booked for sexually exploiting divorcee woman

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The Chhhola Mandir police have booked a youth for sexually exploiting a 26-year-old divorcee woman for the past two year; accused was booked on Friday. Police said that the accused identified as Mukesh Parajapati was booked after the victim lodged complaint against the accused of sexual exploitation for the past two year on the pretext of marriage. The police registered a case under sections 376 and 506 of the IPC and nabbed the accused. The details of the accused and crime records

the accused and developed relationship later. The accused started to live with the victim and continued to sexually exploit her and later when she asked for marriage the accused escaped with excuses and recently abused her when he asked for marriage after which the victim lodged a complaint with the police. Based on the complaint police registered a case and the accused escaped and is still absconding. The police registered a case under sections 376 and 506 of the IPC and nabbed the accused. The details of the accused and crime records

have to be investigated in the further investigation. The victim married a man in Indore six years ago and later divorced her. The victim met accused while on her way to Vidisha and later stayed in live for two years with the accused.

Karunesh Theatre Fest concludes with Manto Ki Mozel play

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Marking the last day of Karunesh Theatre Festival, play "Manto Ki Mozel" was staged at Shaheed Bhavan on Saturday. The play is a famous story by Sadat Hasan Manto. The play was directed by The play is directed by Gopal Dubey and was performed by the artists of Bhoomika theatre troupe. Set in the dark backdrop of communal unrest during the Partition, Mozel is a story of a jewish woman living in Mumbai, who is known for her beauty and boldness. In a time when everybody around her is charged with communal sentiments, Mozel shows the courage to defy the norms of the time. When a

Sikh man falls in love with her, she rejects him citing that he is too conservative. Later, she wastes no time in saving the same man and his fiancé from an angry religious mob while shunning her physical as well as mental inhibitions. Considered one of Manto's bold plays, Mozel symbolises feminism in true sense. Today, a woman is considered as an object and her beauty is considered to serve only physical purpose and whose bold ideology often gets label. This play reflect upon even in today's time. Mozel represents the free-spirited woman, who shuns societal norms and has the courage to live life on her own terms. The play was wonderfully presented and mesmerised the audience.

कार्यालय उप संचालक
जल मौसम विज्ञान संभाग क्रमांक-1
जल संसाधन विभाग, मैदा मिल के पास, होशंगाबाद रोड भोपाल (म.प्र.)
E-mail- ddhydrobhopal@gmail.com, Telephone No. 0755-2552152
पत्र क्रमांक 344/व.ले.लि./हाईड्रो/2021 भोपाल, दिनांक 26.02.2021

विज्ञप्ति
मुख्य अभियंता (बोधी), जल संसाधन विभाग, भोपाल के कार्यालय में IFMS-1 एवं IFMS-2 हेतु मासिक किराये पर 3 वर्ष के लिए निर्धारित अर्हताधारी 2 कम्प्यूटर ऑपरेटरो को संवारें, डेस्कटॉप, बहुउद्देशीय प्रिंटर एवं अन्य अनिवार्य उपकरणों के साथ लिया जाना है। इच्छुक आवेदक अपना मोहरबंद प्रस्ताव दिनांक 15.03.2021 को दोपहर 3.00 बजे तक कार्यालय उप संचालक, जल मौसम विज्ञान संभाग क्रमांक-1, मैदा मिल के पास, होशंगाबाद रोड, भोपाल में जमा कर सकता है।
विस्तृत विवरण जल संसाधन विभाग की वेबसाईट www.mpwrdd.gov.in पर देखा एवं डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है।

(अशोक कुमार सक्सेना)
उप संचालक,
जल मौसम विज्ञान संभाग क्रमांक-1
भोपाल (म.प्र.)

G-20675/20

Office of Nagar Palika Parishad Gohad District Bhind (MP)
Email:- cmogohad@mpurban.gov.in Add-Fort Road, Ward No.14 Gohad District Bhind (MP)
S.No./NP/Lo/2021/825 Gohad, date 06.03.2021

// Online tender invitation notice //
Tenders are invited through e-tendering for the mentioned works from all the contractors registered in the competent category under the centralized registration system. Interested contractors can submit their bids online on the basis of Schedule of Rates- urban administration and development department with effect from 10 May 2012 till date ISSR (online, building, road, drinking water) amended on the basis of the percentage rates on the tender form Appendix 2.10. Online bids are invited for the work as per the table given below-

S.No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Security Money	Tender I.D.	Last Date
1.	Under Chief Minister Infrastructure (Phase III), Center lighting work on divider and RCC U-shape Nala, CC Road	1,68,06,000/-	84,000/-	2021_UAD_133309_1	12-04-2021

Detailed information in relation to work can be seen on the website www.mptenders.gov.in Any modification made in the tender will be done on the said website, no separate publication will be done. Therefore, related information shall be seen on the said website. Other information related to the tender can be seen in the concerned branch during office hours.

Chief Municipality Office
Nagar Palika Parishad Gohad
District Bhind (M.P.)

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION BHOPAL
NIT No. 9/Ws/Water Work/2021 Date 03.03.2021
Tender for online submission are invited on website <https://mptenders.gov.in> under "Live Tender" and Department Name "Bhopal Municipal Corporation" for following works. Document can be purchased on website from 03.03.2021 and online submission till 03.04.2021 at 17.30 hrs.
Corrigendum for above NIT shall not be issued separately in newspapers. Corrigendum regarding correction can be seen on the website. Detailed NIT and other information can be seen on the website. <https://mptenders.gov.in>

S.No	Details of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. In Lakh)
1.	2021_UAD_132589_1 Providing and laying of new water supply line and installation of tap connection at Amrawadkhurd EWS awas Ward-06, Zone-14 (MP UADD SOR 10 MAY 2012)	172.04 Lakh

City Engineer
(Water Works)
Municipal Corporation, Bhopal
T.N.1791/020/021

राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन मध्यप्रदेश
लिंक रोड नंबर 3, माधवराव सप्रे मार्ग, भोपाल-462003
क्रमांक/एन.एच.एम./एच.आर./सेल-1/2021/4093 भोपाल दिनांक: 04.03.2021

संशोधित सूचना-पत्र
राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन, म.प्र. के अन्तर्गत पत्र क्रमांक रा.स्वा.मि./मा संसा./2020/16450 दिनांक 17.12.2020 द्वारा एवं विज्ञप्ति क्रमांक जी-16758/2020 द्वारा संविदा स्टीफ नर्स के रिक्त पदों की पूर्ति हेतु सेम्स लिमिटेड से ऑनलाईन आवेदन पत्र प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम तिथि 15.01.2021 निर्धारित की गई थी।
उपरोक्त सूचना पत्र के माध्यम से संविदा स्टीफ नर्स के सेम्स लिमिटेड से ऑनलाईन आवेदन पत्र प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम तिथि पुनरीक्षित करने हुए दिनांक 20.03.2021 निर्धारित की जाती है।
उम्मीदवारों द्वारा ऑनलाईन आवेदन पत्र प्रस्तुत करने के उपरान्त आवेदन पत्र के साथ ड्रिक्स अभिलेख संलग्न (अपलोड) नहीं किये गए हैं तो ऐसे उम्मीदवार पुनः सेम्स लिमिटेड की वेबसाईट www.sams.co.in पर अपलोड करवें। जिसकी तिथि विज्ञापन जारी होने की दिनांक से 7 दिवस के भीतर आवेदन पूर्ण करना अनिवार्य होगा।
ऐसे आवेदक जो कि पूर्व में आवेदन पत्र ऑनलाईन प्रस्तुत नहीं कर सके हैं वे भी अपना आवेदन दिनांक 20.03.2021 तक ऑनलाईन प्रस्तुत करेंगे। शेष शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।
मिशन संचालक
राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन
मध्यप्रदेश

G-20629/20 दो गज की दूरी, मास्क है जरूरी।

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
Tender No. - WCRTP2021464
Dated 26.02.2021
For tenders issued by Engineering Department, West Central Railway, Please visit website tenders.irops.gov.in.
Tender No. - WCRTP2021464
Dated 26.02.2021
Description of Items - Manufacture and supply of fittings of thick web switches 1:12 60 kg to RDSO Drg. No. T-6155 (A) C.1.items (B) M.S. Items. Tender Value (Rs.). - 58,29,995/- Earnest Money (Rs.). - 1,16,600/-, Date of Opening of tender. - 30.03.2021 11.30 AM.
By, Chief Engineer / TP, West Central Railway, Jabalpur
रेल यात्रा के दौरान शिकायत हेतु 138 पर एवं सुरक्षा हेतु 182 पर सम्पर्क करें

कार्यालय कार्यपालन यंत्री, लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकीय खण्ड बैतूल (म.प्र.)
दूरभाष (07141) कार्यालय 238320, Email- eeephedbet@mp.nic.in
// निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना //
क्रमांक 728/लेखा/का.यं./लोस्वायावि. खंड/बैतूल/ दिनांक 03.03.2021
निम्नलिखित कार्य की निविदाएं ई-टेंडरिंग पद्धति से पोर्टल <https://mptenders.gov.in> बैतूल जिले के विकासखंड भैंसदेही एवं आठनेर ग्रामों में जल जीवन मिशन योजना के अंतर्गत पाईप लाइन, चरलू नल कनेक्शन एवं विद्युत संयोजन तथा आर.सी.सी. उच्चस्तरीय एवं जी.एस.आर. जल संग्रहण टंकी तथा आर.सी.सी. सम्पवेल निर्माण कार्य हेतु निविदा निम्नानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती हैं :-

निविदा क्रमांक /दिनांक	सिस्टम क्रमांक	विकासखंड	ग्राम की संख्या	निविदा की कुल लागत रु लाख में	घरोहर राशि	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य	कार्यपत्र की समयवधि	ठेकेदार की श्रेणी
225/20-21/ Dt. 03.03.2021	132686	भैंसदेही	5	275.22	275220	15000	06 माह	नवीन केन्द्रीकृत
226/20-21/ Dt. 03.03.2021	132691	आठनेर	5	184.62	184620	12500	06 माह	पंजीयन प्रणाली
227/20-21/ Dt. 03.03.2021	132698	भैंसदेही	4	295.34	295340	15000	06 माह	

ऑनलाईन निविदा फार्म क्रय करने की प्रारंभ तिथि 04.03.2021 11.00 बजे
ऑनलाईन निविदा फार्म क्रय करने की अंतिम तिथि 24.03.2021 17.30 बजे
ऑनलाईन निविदा दर डालने की अंतिम तिथि 24.03.2021 17.30 बजे
ऑनलाईन निविदा दर - खोलने की तिथि 26.03.2021 15.00 बजे

निविदा फार्म ऊपर दर्शित वेबसाईट पर (Online System) क्रेडिट कार्ड या ऑनलाईन भुगतान कर ही क्रय किये जा सकते हैं। निविदा एवं उससे संबंधित जानकारी ऊपर दर्शाई गई वेबसाईट पर देखें।

कार्यपालन यंत्री
लोक स्वास्थ्य यांत्रिकीय खण्ड
बैतूल (म.प्र.)
G-20635/20 दो गज की दूरी, मास्क है जरूरी।

AXIS BANK LTD.
Branch Office :- Axis Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Dhan Trident, PU-4, Block-B, Near Metro tower Indore - 452001.
Corporate Office :- "Axis House", C-2, Wadia International Centre, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli, Mumbai 400025.
Registered Office :- "Trishul", 3rd Floor Opp. Samaratheshwar Temple Law Garden, Ellisbridge Ahmedabad 380006.

NOTICE FOR SALE BY PRIVATE TREATY TO THE BORROWER
Whereas the Authorized Officer of Axis Bank Ltd under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (herein after referred as SARFAESI Act) read with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 has taken over possession of the below property after performing necessary formalities under the Act and also has given several reminders to the borrower and guarantors to clear their dues, which they have failed to do. The bank has received offer to purchase the secured asset by way of private treaty from Proposed Purchaser and in line with provision of rule 8 sub rule 8 of aforementioned Prescribed Rules, the bank through it's authorized officer has entered into an agreement stipulating the terms and conditions of such sale by way of private treaty on such reserve price/sale price as mentioned below.
In compliance with rule 8 sub rule 6, a notice is hereby given to the Borrower and Guarantor/mortgagor that in case they fail to make payment of the total outstanding within 15 days of this notice, the secured asset will be sold by way of private treaty and balance after adjusting the sale proceeds if any will be recovered with interest and cost from the Borrower and Guarantor/mortgagor.

Account Number	Name of the a) Borrower b) Guarantor	Address of the a) Borrower b) Guarantor	Location/Details of the Secured Assets possessed and put for sale	Reserve Price (Rs.)	**Outstanding Dues to be recovered as of 1st Nov 2016 (Rs.)
PHR00440 1257115	Mr. Amit Khatri & Mrs. Rekha Khatri	H.no. 14 A sector, Rajharsh colony, Lalita Nagar, Kolar Road, Bhopal (M.P.) - 462042 Also at- Flat no 106, First Floor, Swastik Apartment, Plot no 9 & 10, Custom Colony, Akbarpur Bhopal (M.P.)	All such pieces or parcels of a diverted land/property in the name of Shri. Amit Khatri S/o Shri Motilal Khatri Flat no.106, First Floor of the building known as "Swastik Apartment" having super built-up area of the said flat is 850 sq.ft which is constructed on plot no. 9 & 10 being part of land revenue survey no. 89 Which is situated at village Akbarpur, Kendriya Utupad & Seema Shulk Housing Co-Op. society mydt. Kolar Road, Tehsil Huzur Dist. Bhopal.	₹ 7,85,000/-	Rs. 16,33,671/- Plus future interest and charges w.e.f. 01st Nov 2016 as per 13(2) notice dated 15th Nov 2016

**** With further interest as applicable, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred up to the date of payment and/or realization.**
Date : 07.03.2021, Place : Indore (M.P.)
Authorised Officer-Axis Bank Ltd.



Varsha Duggal, Director of 'Vaarabella', a bridal couture store, talking to media persons ahead of its opening in Bhopal on Saturday
Pioneer photo

CM announces Delhi Board of Education for holistic learning

All-year round assessment to end rote learning

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday announced the setting up of the Delhi Board of School Education (DBSE). It was approved in a meeting held by the Delhi Cabinet on Saturday.

Kejriwal said the DBSE will conduct assessments throughout the year to develop holistic learning outcomes instead of the once-a-year assessment that focuses on rote learning.

"The DBSE will empower students to stand on their own feet and prepare students to take responsibility for their country beyond all religion, caste, and class differences. Around 20-25 schools will become a part of the Delhi Education Board in the 2021-22 academic session, after which the other schools will be looped in eventually in the next 4-5 years. The Delhi Education Board will not only conduct continuous assessments but will become a torchbearer for change in education, he added.

The Chief Minister further said, "Our students will progress towards global education. The Delhi Education Board will function in close alignment with national and international boards. The Board will develop world-class education practices that will enable the shift in teaching-learning practices across Delhi. Through the DEB, an age-old practice of rote learning will be replaced with application-based learning and assessment. The Board will ensure that each student's talent is harnessed, and they apply what they learn."

"In the present education system, we assess a student at the end of a year for 3 hours but in the new education board, we will assess students throughout the year to develop holistic learning outcomes. Today, the entire system of education focuses on rote learning — this has to change and an emphasis has to be placed on 'understanding' and 'personality development'. The students would not be assessed once, at the end of the year. On the contrary, the assessment process would go on throughout the year," he added.

Kejriwal said, "This international level board is being created for which aid would be sought from various international organisations as well. International practices and teaching methods have been analysed, based on which we would adopt similar practices



Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal announces for the establishment of Delhi Board of School Education on Saturday
PTI

and methodology in the Delhi schools under DBSE. High-end techniques would be used to impart education, and for the assessment process as well. The interest, need and specialisation of each student would be taken into account by the education system to provide insights on what courses they should opt for concerning their career.

Education has been the priority for this Government with 25 per cent of the budget being spent on education, he said.

Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said that Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's announcement to set up Delhi State Education Board is a major setback for Delhi's education standard.

"Standard of education in Delhi with 100 per cent schools affiliated to CBSE is much higher than any other State of the country. This is the reason why parents from several States send their wards to study in Delhi. The CBSE is an internationally acclaimed education board with schools from across the country and several countries abroad affiliated to it," he said.

Kapoor further said that despite all its claims and publicity the Delhi Government has failed to improve the standard of education in its schools because of which the overall result of Delhi Government schools taking CBSE exams remains poor. To cover up its bad standards education, the Kejriwal Government has come with this idea to set up its own education board and affiliating its own schools to it, he said.

SISTec gets NAAC accreditation

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Sagar Group's Sagar Institute of Science and Technology (SISTec) operating in streams of Engineering, Pharmacy and Management will be giving rise to future-ready students.

SISTec has been awarded with the prestigious National Assessment & Accreditation Council (NAAC) for five years in its very first cycle. The NAAC peer team had visited the institute last month and rigorously assessed the college on multiple parameters. During the visit, the peer team appreciated the honesty, infrastructure, management, faculty, student contributions, teaching-learning process, institutional values and best

practices adopted in the college.

Dr Jyoti Deshmukh, Group Director SISTec; Keshvendra Chaudhury, Principal SISTec; Kuldeep Ganju Principal SIPTec; Manish Billore, Principal SISTec Ratibad have congratulated entire team of SISTec for bagging the accreditation.

Siddharth Sudhir Agrawal, Managing Director Sagar Group also congratulated Team SISTec and said, "The National Assessment & Accreditation Council (NAAC) accreditation is the result of our outstanding efforts and hard-work. The accreditation brings us one more step closer with our mission to 'Build Nation'. We will continue with its efforts to impart quality education."

Remove Modi's photo from job certificates in poll-bound States: EC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the run-up to Assembly Elections in four States and a Union Territory, the Election Commission (EC) has asked the Centre to remove Prime Minister Narendra Modi's picture from coronavirus vaccination certificates being offered to beneficiaries in these States.

The EC directive came after West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress registered a complaint saying that it violates the Model Code of Conduct.

In its letter to the Health Ministry, the EC referred to certain provisions of the Model Code related to the use of advertisement at the cost of the public exchequer. The direction to the Ministry does not mention Prime Minister Narendra Modi's name but says the Ministry has to follow the Model Code of Conduct in letter and spirit. The Government may have used filters to hide the PM's picture from the certificate, which could take some time for the Ministry to fully implement these directions on the certificates given to those who take the Covid-19 vaccine in poll-bound West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Kerala and Puducherry.

The poll body had first asked the Chief Electoral Officer of West Bengal for a report on why Modi's photo was being used on vaccination certificates generated through the Co-WIN platform. The CEO responded by informing the poll panel that the vaccination drive was a Central scheme. The panel then

The Mamata Banerjee-led party had approached the poll panel this week, citing violation of the model code as PM Modi's image reflected on vaccination certificates generated through the Co-Win platform

took up the matter with the Health Ministry and sought its response on the "factual position" on the use of the photographs. In its reply, the Ministry said the vaccination drive was an ongoing Government initiative that had started much before the Model Code of Conduct came into force.

The Mamata Banerjee-led party had approached the poll panel this week, citing violation of the model code as PM Modi's image reflected on vaccination certificates generated through the Co-Win platform.

The clause 7 of the ECI Model Code of Conduct says that the "issue of advertisement at the cost of public exchequer... regarding achievements with a view to furthering the prospects of the party in power shall be scrupulously avoided".

On March 5, the EC had directed all petrol pump dealers and other agencies to remove hoardings advertising the Centre's schemes that have Prime Minister Narendra Modi's photographs on the premises of the facilities within 72 hours.

Mental health problems in 20% Covid survivors: Study

From Page 1

Psychologists at Oxford Brookes University and a psychiatrist from Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust, had evaluated published research papers in order to understand more about the possible effects of the SARS-COV-2 infection on the brain, and the extent people can expect to experience short and long-term mental health issues.

The study found that in the short-term, a wide range of neuropsychiatric problems were reported. In one examined study, 95 per cent of clinically stable Covid-19 patients had post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other studies found between 17-42 per cent of patients experienced affective disorders, such as depression.

The main short-term cognitive problems were found to be impaired attention (reported by 45 per cent patients) and impaired memory (between 13-28 per cent of patients) while in the long-term, neuropsychiatric problems were mostly affective disorders and fatigue, as well as impaired attention (reported by 44 per cent of patients) and memory (reported between 28-50 per cent of patients).

Dr Sanjay Kumar, senior lecturer in Psychology at Oxford Brookes University said: "Understanding the neuropsychiatric and cognitive consequences of Covid-19 is important as millions of people have been affected by the virus, and many cases go undetected.

"These conditions affect people's capacity to work effectively, drive, manage finances, make informed decisions and participate in daily family activities." If even just a fraction of patients experience neuropsychiatric complications, the impact on public health services could be significant."

Academics say that there is likely to be an increase in patients with psychiatric and cognitive problems who were otherwise healthy prior to COVID-19 infection.

"Detailed cognitive evaluation and robust monitoring of patients should be considered in order to detect new neurological cases," Dr Kumar continued adding that "This will also enable health care providers to plan adequate health care and resources, and improve the quality of life for many Covid-19 survivors."

Co-author Dr Tina Malhotra, Consultant Psychiatrist working in Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust said: "We are already seeing an impact of Covid-19 on mental health. Patients are presenting with Long Covid syndrome which includes fatigue, cognitive problems and a range of psychiatric problems."

"It is estimated that these problems are experienced by 1 in 5 people who have had COVID. Management of such

patients in long-Covid clinics should involve a multidisciplinary team including psychiatrists.

"The world has experienced mass trauma because World War II affected many lives," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said recently. The WHO chief added that the pandemic-induced mass trauma is "beyond proportion and even bigger than what the world experienced" after the Second World War.

According to a 2017 profile of India by the World Health Organization, per 100,000 people, India has approximately 0.29 psychiatrists, 0.07 clinical psychologists, 0.06 social workers and 0.80 nurses, a poor doctor-patient ratio. The future is not encouraging in the sector.

"Even if we keep the population growth rates and attrition rates of psychiatrists at 0 per cent, we require 2700 new psychiatrists annually to fill in the gap in the next 10 years. However, every year only 700 psychiatrists are trained in PG seats, said Dr Kabir Garg, Dr Prabha S Chandra and Dr C Naveen Kumar Department of Psychiatry, National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, Bengaluru, Karnataka in their study 'Number of psychiatrists in India: Baby steps forward, but a long way to go' published in Indian Journal of Psychiatry in 2019.

Centre rushes teams to resurgent Maha, Punjab

From Page 1

These States and UTs were urged to return to fundamentals of "Test, Track and Treat," said the Ministry in a statement here.

They have also been asked to increase the share of RT-PCR tests in districts dependent on high levels of antigen testing, refocus on surveillance and stringent containment of those areas in selected districts that are seeing a cluster of cases. They will be required to carry out an average close contact tracing of a minimum of 20 persons per positive case.

The senior health officials reviewed the ongoing public health measures of surveillance, containment and management of Covid cases. The Ministry said that nine districts in Delhi, 15 in Haryana, 10 in

Andhra Pradesh, 10 in Odisha, nine in Himachal Pradesh, seven in Uttarakhand, two in Goa, one in Chandigarh continue to be of concern as these districts are seeing a decrease in total tests being conducted, low share of RT-PCR tests, increase in weekly positivity and low number of contact tracing of the Covid positive cases.

"These together can pose high risk of transmission to the neighbouring States and UTs. A granular analysis of the coronavirus response in the districts was shared with the States and UTs for further action," said the Ministry.

"Accelerate vaccination for priority population groups in districts reporting higher cases. Make optimal use of the available vaccine doses and

focus on critical districts," the Ministry said.

They have been asked to collaborate with the private hospitals to open up vaccination time-tables for a minimum of 15 days and a maximum of 28 days at a time and promote COVID-appropriate behaviour through communication and enforcement, the statement said. Meanwhile, Maharashtra, Kerala, Punjab, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu continue to report a high number of COVID daily new cases. They cumulatively account for 82% of the new cases reported in the past 24 hours.

India's total active caseload has reached 1,80,304 as on Saturday while the present active caseload stands at 1.61 per cent of India's total positive cases.

T20 cricket tournament from Mar 8-17

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The second All India T20 Cricket tournament will be organised from March 8 to 17 at Srimanta Madhavrao Scindia District Sports Complex, Shivpuri.

The tournament is organized by the Department of Sports and Youth Welfare, the winning team will be awarded one lakh rupees and the runner-up team will be awarded with an honor fund of 75 thousand rupees. In addition, "Man of the Match" and "Man of the Series" awards will also be awarded.

The All India T20 Cricket Tournament will begin on International Women's Day. There will be a T20 Cricket Friendship match between the women players of Indore and Gwalior divisions at the inauguration. State Sports and Youth Welfare Minister Man. Prizes will be distributed to the winners, runners-up of the Friendship match held in the



main hospitality of Yashodhara Raje Scindia.

Divisional Sports and Youth Welfare Officer M.K. Dhaulpuri told that in the All India T20 cricket tournament teams from Delhi, Gandhinagar (Gujarat), Madhya Pradesh, Cricket Academy, Uttarakhand, Jaipur (Rajasthan), Nagpur (Maharashtra) Jammu and Kashmir, and GDCA Teams are participating. He said that the tournament is expected to be played by well-known players who have played in Ranji Trophy and IPL.

Meanwhile, in the first

National Para Shooting Championship held from March 1 to 5 in Faridabad (Haryana), Madhya Pradesh State Shooting Academy player Rubina Francis won the gold medal in the women's 10m Air Pistol event by best performance. Rubina earned the medal with 557 points. Uttar Pradesh player Sonia Sharma scored 550 and Delhi's Pooja Aggarwal secured 549 points to finish second and third respectively.

Minister of Sports and Youth Welfare Yashodhara Raje

SRIMANTA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA DISTRICT SPORTS COMPLEX

Pradesh with their outstanding talent.

Rubina Francis, who has been training in shooting sports since the year 2015 at Madhya Pradesh State Shooting Academy, represented the Indian team in eight international para shooting competitions. She earned a gold medal for the country by setting a junior world record in the 10-meter air pistol women's team event of the World Shooting Para Sports Championship held in Bangkok in 2017. In the year 2019, Rubina Francis gave the country a bronze medal in the World Shooting Para Sports World Cup held in Croatia.

She has given nine gold and two silver medals to Madhya Pradesh in national para shooting competitions. Rubina Francis is learning the nuances of the shooting game from Shooting Academy chief instructor Jaspal Rana, instructors Oshin Tawani and Jayawardhan Singh.

Farmer block KMP to mark 100th...

From Page 1

Protesting farmers squatted on the expressway and criticised the Narendra Modi government for not withdrawing the farm legislations, which they called as "black laws".

"Our agitation against the three farm laws will continue unless the Centre withdraws these laws. We will not step back," said a protester in Sonipat.

Farmers held protest at the KMP Expressway near Mandothi village in Hajarjar district. Some people from nearby villages joined them.

"We are holding our protest in a peaceful manner," said a farmer, adding that they were also observing "black day" on Saturday.

Protesting farmers said the government should withdraw these laws. Farmer leader Balbir

Singh Rajewal, while addressing a gathering on the KMP Expressway, asked the Modi Government to withdraw these laws.

This agitation will certainly put pressure on the Central Government, he said. Farmers claimed that their five-hour protest remained peaceful.

Sonipat Superintendent of Police Jashandeep Singh Randhawa said arrangements were made for traffic diversions. Heavy vehicles were diverted from Panipat and others from Ganaur to Delhi, said officials. Traffic was also diverted from Murthal via Sonipat city to Narela and Bawana and from Bahadurgarh to Baghpat, they said.

Officials said traffic resumed at KMP expressway after famers lifted their blockade at 4 pm.

In Palwal district also, farmers staged a 'dharna'. At some places in Haryana, farmers even put up black flags atop roof of their houses as a mark of their protest against the government for not withdrawing the farm laws.

Adopt world-class systems, PM exhorts...

From Page 1

Highlighting rapidly changing technological landscape, the Prime Minister underlined the need to develop the Indian military into a 'future force', the statement said.

Pointing out that the country would be celebrating 75 years of its independence next year, Modi called upon the armed forces to use the occasion to undertake activities and initiatives that would inspire the youth of the country, the statement added.

The top level meeting came days after the first phase of disengagement of troops of Indian and China from the flashpoint in the Pangong Tso (lake) in Eastern Ladakh.

The meeting took place as armies of India and Pakistan reaffirmed their commitment, last week, for the 2003 ceasefire amid escalating firing across

the Line of Control (LoC) and other areas.

The Prime Minister stressed the importance of enhancing indigenisation in the national security system, not just in sourcing equipment and weapons but also in the doctrines, procedures and customs practiced in the armed forces.

The Combined Commanders' conference this year was held near the statue of Sardar Vallabhai Patel in Kevadia and the entire brass stayed in tents for the three-day event.

Since 2014, the top-level conclave was held many times outside the national capital. While the last edition was held at Air Force Station, Jodhpur, two other such high profile events were held at aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya and the Indian Military Academy (IMA), Dehradun.

Movie on Air force soldiers 'Our Air Strike' screened

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A movie depicting the valour of air force soldiers 'Our Air Strike' was screened at Shaurya Smarak on Saturday.

The film is produced by Films Division of India and is directed Krishna Kapil.

The movie was screened at the open air auditorium of Shaurya Samrak under the regular series of film screenings. The film portrays the val-

our displayed by our Air Force in lendingsupport to our Jawans during the wars.

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is the air arm of the Indian armed forces. Its complement of personnel and aircraft assets ranks fourth amongst the air forces of the world.

Its primary mission is to secure Indian airspace and to conduct aerial warfare during armed conflict. It was officially established on 8 October

1932 as an auxiliary air force of the British Empire which honored India's aviation service during World War II with the prefix Royal.

It is to be noted that every day movies based on the bravery of the Indian army, air force, navy and police is being screened at Shaurya Smarak. The regular film screening is being organised as a tribute to their contributions and their sacrifices.

AIIMS Bhopal organises events on Rare Disease Day

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The Department of Pediatrics, AIIMS Bhopal organised several events on the occasion of "Rare Disease Day" on Friday.

The purpose of these events was to raise awareness for children suffering with rare diseases among healthcare professionals towards early diagnosis, recognition and management of these disorders to prevent complications. Globally, more than 7000 disorders are categorized as rare disorders, and approximately 350 million individuals are affected by these disorders. India has a high burden of these dis-

orders, and about 1 in 20 individuals in our country suffer from them.

Most of these disorders are incurable, or they require life-long treatment, which is very expensive and beyond the reach of the common man.

On this occasion, Professor Sarman Singh, the Director of AIIMS, Bhopal, appreciated the special efforts of the department in providing clinical care to children with these diseases, the counseling & support to the parents of children, and the awareness drive initiated by them. Professor Rajesh Malik, Dean Academics, addressed the

gathering and stressed the importance of such campaigns and advocacy for rare genetic disorders. Professor Manisha Shrivastava, Medical Superintendent, appreciated the efforts and dedication of the parents of children suffering from these disorders.

Professor Shikha Malik, Head of Department of Pediatrics, stressed the need for sensitization of all levels of healthcare personnel, and the importance of timely diagnosis in such cases.

Dr Bhavna Dhingra, Additional Professor, Department of Pediatrics was

the main coordinator these events. She briefed everyone about the services available at AIIMS, Bhopal for diagnosis and management of individuals with rare disorders. She informed that AIIMS Bhopal is running a once a week Genetic clinic for such children and that three faculty members have recently completed their training to facilitate the establishment of Advanced Genetic Diagnostics Facility at the Institute.

This facility will enable AIIMS, Bhopal to function as a centre of excellence for diagnosis and management of such conditions, specially since cur-

rently there is no such facility in Central India.

The facilities for Newborn Screening for metabolic disorders and Hemoglobinopathies would also be soon made operational. The event was supported by Lysosomal Storage Disease Support Society, which was represented by Shri Manjit Singh, who lost two sons due to a rare disorder known as Mucopolysaccharidosis. He briefed the gathering about the importance of counselling, providing support to affected families and the role of support groups in caring for these individuals.

Lookout notice against TMC leader’s brother

CATTLE SMUGGLING CASE



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has issued a lookout notice against Bijay Mishra, brother of Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader Binay Mishra who is a close confidant of party MP Abhishek Banerjee, in a cattle-smuggling case.

The agency is mulling over approaching Interpol to get a Red Corner Notice (RCN) issued against Binay Mishra, who has not joined the probe till now, officials said.

“A lookout notice has been issued against Bijay Mishra, the brother of TMC leader Binay Mishra,” the official said, without divulging any other details.

The agency has also summoned two senior officers of the West Bengal police -- an Inspector General and a Superintendent of Police -- on Monday for questioning in connection with the case, they said.

The agency had named Binay Mishra as a co-accused in its supplementary

chargesheet filed in the cattle-smuggling case last month.

Binay Mishra is suspected to be close to West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee’s nephew Abhishek Banerjee, they further said.

In its chargesheet filed before a designated CBI court in Asansol (West Bengal), the agency has already mentioned Binay Mishra as absconding.

The CBI had filed a chargesheet on February 18 in the case against Border Security Force (BSF) Commandant Satish Kumar and six others for their alleged involvement in a cattle-smuggling racket operating at the India-Bangladesh border.

Recently, the CBI had also questioned Abhishek Banerjee’s wife Rujira and sister-in-law Menaka Gambhir in a separate case pertaining to illegal coal mining and pilferage from the mines of the Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL).

ED arrests 2 directors of TN-based firm over ₹325 cr laundering

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Saturday said it has arrested two directors of a Tamil Nadu-based firm in a money laundering case worth ₹325 crore, linked to a bank fraud case.

Hittesh Patel and Suresh N Patel, directors of Shinago Plantations Pvt Ltd, were sent to 10 days’ ED custody by a special court on Saturday after they were placed under arrest under sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), the agency said in a statement.

The two allegedly laundered funds to the tune of ₹325 crore by using a network of nearly 20 group entities located across Tamil Nadu.

The PMLA investigation revealed that “the accused in collusion with the valuers



availed loans from erstwhile Corporation Bank (now Union Bank of India) on the basis of inflated value of the properties offered as collateral and indulged in wilful diversion of funds through various group accounts.”

It said investigation further revealed that “the funds so availed by various individuals/group concerns in the form of Letter of Credit (LC) and Cash Credit (CC) limits/Agriculture term loans, were transferred within the group entities through circular rotation of money to avail more funds from the Bank without any actual business.”

Donations for Ram Mandir cross more than ₹2,500 cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Donations for the construction of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya are estimated to have crossed ₹2,500 crore and construction is likely to be completed in three years.

Addressing the media, Ramjanmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust chairman Champat Rai on Saturday said that the construction will commence from April and as per banks’ estimations till February 4, the donations have crossed ₹2,500 crore and house-to-house visits for donations have been stopped.

Now only online donations will be received, Rai said adding that 10 crore households in 4 lakh villages had been approached by 9 lakh volunteers in the past 45 days during the fund collection drive.

“Four lakh cubic stones will be used to complete construction within 3 years. While construction has not



begun, the improvement of land for the foundation will start in April.

Around ₹2,500 cr have been received till 4th of March, but can’t confirm the figures. We have reached 10 crore households with 9 lakh workers. The campaign is over doesn’t mean that dedication towards God is over. Visit our website which has all the details of bank accounts and one can contribute accordingly.”

He also said that a lot of

responses were received from North East States and Southern States.

To a query, Rai said that donations from Rajasthan are expected to be bigger than Uttar Pradesh.

From Arunachal Pradesh donations are estimated to have crossed ₹4.5 crore, followed by ₹2 crore from Manipur. As per the press release issued by VHP, Rs.85 crore has been received from Tamil Nadu and ₹13 crore from Kerala.

Hybrid physical hearings in SC from March 15

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court, which is hearing cases through video-conferencing since March last year due to the Covid-19 pandemic, will commence hybrid physical hearings from March 15.

The apex court has issued the standard operating procedure (SOP) for the hybrid physical hearings.

The top court has been hearing cases through video-conferencing since March last year due to the pandemic and several bar bodies and lawyers have been demanding that physical hearings should resume immediately.

“On an experimental basis, and as a pilot scheme, the final hearings/regular matters listed on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays may be heard in the hybrid mode, as may be



decided by the bench, considering the number of parties in a matter as well as the limited capacity of the courtrooms; all other matters, including those listed on Mondays and Fridays, shall continue to be heard through video/tele-conferencing mode,” said the SOP issued by the apex court.

“The hybrid physical

hearings are to commence with effect from March 15, 2021,” it added.

It said unless otherwise directed by a bench, the final hearings or regular matters where the number of lawyers for the parties is higher than the average working capacity of the courtrooms according to COVID-19 norms, that is

20 per courtroom at any given time, shall invariably be listed for hearing through the video or tele-conferencing mode.

“...However, in case the bench directs hearing of such matters to be held through the hybrid mode, the appearance of the parties, whether by physical presence or through video/tele-conferencing, will be facilitated as per the directions of the bench,” the SOP said.

It said if the number of parties is higher than the specified number in a matter listed for hybrid hearing, then one advocate-on-record (AOR) and one arguing counsel per party would be allowed entry.

It said one registered clerk per party, as may be chosen by the AOR, shall be allowed entry to carry paper-books or journals of lawyers up to the courtrooms.

Cong: Kisan stir period black chapter in India’s democracy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the farmers’ protest against the Centre’s new farm laws completed 100 days, the Congress on Saturday said the period was a “black chapter” in India’s democracy for the treatment meted out to the protesters and also marked 100 days of the ruling BJP’s “arrogance”.

Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi hit out at the Centre over the farmers’ protest and said nails were laid at Delhi’s borders for those, whose sons risk their lives at the country’s borders.

His attack came after the farmers’ agitation completed 100 days with the protesting union leaders asserting that



their movement is far from over and they are “going strong”. “Whose sons risk their lives at the country’s borders, for them nails have been laid at the borders of Delhi. ‘Annadaatas’ demand their rights, government commits atrocities,”

Rahul said in his tweet, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also hit out at the Centre saying, “100 days of farmers’ struggle, of fight for rights, of respect for ‘annadaatas’, of the path shown by Gandhiji, Sardar

(Vallabhbhai) Patel, Nehruji, (Lal Bahadur) Shastriji, Shaheed Bhagat Singh.” With the hashtag ‘100Days OFBJParrogance’, she said, “100 days of BJP Government’s arrogance, of assault on farmers, of lies and scorn for farmers.”

Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera said the protesting farmers have been braving all odds — of nature and the might of the State — for the last 100 days.

“Each one of us, whichever category we may belong to, have our own struggles and that is the awareness on which the Government depends,” Khera said.

There is one section of the society that has found time to come out and protest — farmers — against these “black laws” and they are “our voice”, he added.

The Congress demands that the three new farm laws should immediately be repealed, Khera said.

Kerala gold smuggling case

CPM accuses Centre of misusing Central agencies against CM, Mins

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/KOCHI

The CPI(M) Polit Bureau on Saturday accused the BJP-led Government at the Centre of playing dirty tricks by misusing Central agencies like Customs Department to target Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Ministers during the poll season with tutored affidavits of accused persons in the gold smuggling case.

For his part, Vijayan said: “After declaration of Assembly polls, central investigation agencies’ attacks have intensified. The Customs Commissioner, who isn’t party to gold smuggling case, included portions of confidential statement by accused (Swapna Suresh) in his statement in High Court. He has also leveled allegations against Kerala Speaker and Ministers to defame the LDF government.”

The Customs Department in Kochi earlier alleged that a political party was trying to intimidate the investigation agency but made it clear that it will not work. “A political party trying intimidation, will not work,” Customs (Preventive) Commissioner Sumit Kumar wrote on his Facebook page.

“She has stated with clarity about smuggling of foreign currency at the instance of the



Hon’ble chief minister and the Hon’ble Speaker with the help of the Consulate,” the Customs has said in a statement filed in the Kerala high court.

The CPI (M) Polit Bureau alleged that the tutored statements of the jailed accused was recorded months ago and leaked to malign the party during the election time.

“The Polit Bureau of the CPI(M) strongly condemns the Customs Authority’s attempt to falsely implicate Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, three other ministers and the Speaker of the Assembly of Kerala in an alleged dollar smuggling case. The customs have cited an affidavit by one of the accused, who is in judicial custody in the gold smuggling case, for this purpose. The fact that this tutored statement was recorded some months ago and pre-

sented after the elections were announced shows the political game behind this move.

“The BJP Central government is systematically misusing the Central agencies for maligning the Chief Minister and the LDF government. The people of Kerala will see through this political chicanery and give a fitting rebuff to the dirty tactics adopted by the BJP and the UDF,” said CPI(M).

In Kerala, the CPI(M) has staged protest marches at Customs offices. Recently, the Customs Department has filed an affidavit before the Court stating that the main accused Swapna Suresh has given statement before the investigators on the knowledge of the Chief Minister and three Ministers and Speaker of the Kerala Assembly about the illegal dollar trade and gold smuggling involving UAE consulate.

Frontier Gandhi’s autobiography released in English

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

First published in Pashto in 1983, the autobiography of freedom fighter Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, fondly known as Bacha Khan or Badshah Khan, is now out in English, announced publishing house Roli Books.

The book, titled “The Frontier Gandhi: My Life and Struggle”, is translated by former Pakistani civil servant and author Imitiaz Ahmad Sahibzada. This is the “first time” that Khan’s autobiography is available in English. An earlier account of his life, published in English in 1969, and with the same title, was based on the interviews conducted with him and was not “his written autobiography”.

“... Bacha Khan felt that the 1969 account of his life and struggle was not complete and began to write his own autobiography thereafter, with the help of numerous associates. Bacha Khan’s autobiography was thus first published in Pukhto in 1983, in Kabul.. This book is a translation of Bacha Khan’s only written, Pukhto autobiography,” writes Sahibzada in the book.

Khan (1890–1988), popularly called the ‘Frontier Gandhi’, was born in Uthmanzai in the North-West Frontier Province of British India. His life was dedicated to

the social reform of the Pukhtuns and he continues to be revered across the world by them. In India, he is known for his close association with Mahatma Gandhi and his leadership of the Khudai Khidmatgar (Servants of God) movement from 1930 – 47 – one of the most successful and sustained Gandhian non-violent campaigns anywhere in the world.

The book, whose foreword is written by historian and Mahatma Gandhi’s grandson Rajmohan Gandhi, brings to life events and personalities of the independence movement as Khan records the untiring energy and sacrifices that went into winning freedom.

“If our world wants to picture non-violent defiance, or inter-faith partnership, .. Or a commitment to the rights of the vulnerable, it cannot do much better than study these two men together: Ghaffar Khan and, older by 21 years, Mohandas Gandhi, brothers in spirit, each armed with the swords of conscience and courage,” writes Rajmohan, who is also the author of Khan’s biography, “Ghaffar Khan: Nonviolent Badshah of the Pakhtuns”.

“The Frontier Gandhi: My Life and Struggle”, priced at ₹695, is available for sale in offline and online stores.

Scientists develop platform to detect effect of alcohol exposure on red blood cells

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Scientists have developed a platform to detect the effect of prolonged exposure to alcohol on red blood cells (RBC) through high-resolution measurements of their size, according to a statement on Saturday.

The high-resolution platform that shows the reduction in size of RBCs due to alcohol exposure can be tuned for a point-of-care screening of multiple conditions that alter the size and count of red cells in blood.

Although it is known that alcohol affects RBCs, the exact physiological changes are very subtle and difficult to measure.

In order to overcome this challenge, scientists led by Professor Gautam Soni from Raman Research Institute (RRI), an institution funded by the Department of Science & Technology (DST), have developed a custom-made electro-fluidic platform that can detect the change by measuring the cell size in enhanced resolution.

The device made in RRI relies on the resistive pulse sensing principle.

The team first developed techniques for making tiny micron (1/1000th of a millimetre) sized holes or micro-pores at the tip of a glass capillary with careful fabrication, flame polishing, and image verification.

Pon Radhakrishnan BJP candidate for bypoll to Kanyakumari LS seat

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Saturday nominated senior party leader and former Union Minister Pon Radhakrishnan as its candidate for the April 6 bypoll to the Kanyakumari Lok Sabha constituency in Tamil Nadu.

As the campaign for the Assembly polls heats up, union Home Minister and former BJP president Amit Shah will be on a one-day visit to Tamil Nadu and Kerala on Sunday to attend various important programmes.

According to a party statement here, Shah will first visit Suchindram Temple in Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu, and offer prayers. He will then launch “Vetri Kodi Eandhi” (Vijay Sankalp Mahasamprk Abhiyaan - a door to door campaign) in Suchindram Town, Kanyakumari.

The BJP said Shah will hold a massive roadshow “Vetri Kodi Eandhi” from Hindu college to Veppamoodu Kamaraj statue in Kanyakumari. After the roadshow, the Union Home Minister will address a Karyakarta Sabha of the party at Uduppai Hotel in Kanyakumari .

Shah will then proceed to Kerala where he will visit Shri Belur Math at Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala and offer prayers. After that, he will address the Valedictory function of BJP’s Kerala Vijay Yatra at Shanghumukham in Thiruvananthapuram.

parliamentary and inducted in then Modi-led NDA dispensation as Minister of State.

He lost the subsequent 2019 Lok Sabha elections to Kumar from the same constituency. He was then MoS Finance and Shipping.

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Medha Patkar defamation: Delhi court asks HC clerk to bring original case file

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Court has ordered to summon the court clerk of the record room of Delhi High Court to bring original case file of the petition filed by Medha Patkar for quashing of the defamation case filed by VK Saxena, presently the chairman of Khadi and Village Industries Commission. The original case file will help settle the dispute about the existence of the so called “defamatory” press

release issued by Patkar, something she has persistently denied in the court.

Saxena has filed two defamation cases against Patkar which are pending in the court of Metropolitan Magistrate, Saket, New Delhi. The one defamation case was related to a press note issued by Patkar on 24.11.2000, in which she claimed that Saxena visited Malegaon, praised Narmada Bachao Andolan (NBA), and donated a cheque of ₹40,000 to

Lok Samiti, a support group of NBA. The news was published by a news portal rediff.com.

Saxena denied that he ever visited Malegaon or made any such donation to the NBA and said that the press note was full of false allegations and was defamatory. He subsequently issued a legal notice to Patkar. After receiving no response from the NBA leader, Saxena filed a defamation case in January 2001.

During the last 20 years on

various occasions, Patkar denied that she ever issued any such press note and even claimed that it was fabricated by Saxena himself.

Interestingly, Patkar filed a criminal miscellaneous application No 6026 on 26.11.2018, U/S 482 of CrPC in the High Court of Delhi for quashing the proceedings in another defamation case filed by Saxena against her. An advance copy of the petition was also sent to Saxena by her advocate. In the said

criminal petition, Patkar in the list of “dates and events”, mentioned that on 24.11.2000, a press note was released by her which was subsequently published in the news portal rediff.com.

Incidentally, this was precisely the case made out by Saxena. Patkar later withdrew the petition.

Saxena on February 17, 2020 filed an application in the MM Court along with certified copies of the criminal miscel-

laneous application no. 6026 of 2018 filed by Patkar in the Delhi High Court with the request for calling upon additional witness in the case, i.e. the concerned court clerk of the Delhi High Court with original case file of the above case where she has admitted to have issued the press note in question. Counsel for Saxena pleaded that judicial admission cannot be withdrawn.

Metropolitan Magistrate Animesh Kumar after hearing

both the sides said, “it is a case of the complainant (VK Saxena) that on 26.11.2018, accused (Medha Patkar) filed a petition bearing number CrI MC 6026 of 2018 before the Hon’ble Delhi High Court U/S 482 CrPC for quashing the proceedings of CC No. 2866/1/03 pending before this court. Ld Counsel for the complainant submits that the accused has made certain judicial admissions under oath in the said petition filed before the DHC

where she has categorically admitted that she made averments against the complainant.”

The Magistrate further said that relevant record related to CrI MC No. 6026 of 2018 titled “Medha Patkar Vs State of Delhi & Others” should be summoned in the present case.

“Hence, let summon be issued to the concerned clerk of the record room of Hon’ble Delhi High Court to bring the original case file on 19.03.2021,” he ordered.

SHARE OF TAX DEVOLUTION TO STATES

15th Fin Comm opted for continuity: Singh

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The 15th Finance Commission opted for continuity and predictability and hence retained the share of tax devolution to States at 41 per cent of the total pool, its chairman NK Singh said on Saturday.

Speaking at a webinar organised by the Centre for Policy Research (CPR), Singh said each Finance Commission in the past has somewhat increased the total amount of devolution to states, but the 15th Finance Commission weighed all the options considering that the fiscal space of both states and the Centre has shrunk on account of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rajya Sabha member Sushil Kumar Modi highlighted that the share of divisible pool is slowly shrinking as the “cess and surcharge” component in Gross Tax revenue is

increasing.

The 15th Finance Commission has recommended that states be given 41 per cent of the divisible tax pool of the Centre during the period 2021-22 to 2025-26, which is at the same level as was recommended by the 14th Finance Commission.

Finance Commission is a constitutional body that gives suggestions on Centre-state financial relations.

As per the Commission, the gross tax revenue (GTR) for the 5-year period is expected to be Rs 135.2 lakh crore. Out of that, divisible pool (after deducting cesses and surcharges and cost of collection) is estimated to be Rs 103 lakh crore. States’ share at 41 per cent of divisible pool comes to Rs 42.2 lakh crore for 2021-26 period.

The report of the 15th Finance Commission was tabled in Parliament on

February 2.

Singh said each Finance Commission has somewhat increased the total amount of devolution as percentage of divisible pool.

“We had an option of continuing this trajectory, we had an option of enhancing this devolution to somewhat higher figure. We had the option of somewhat recalibrating downwards looking at the constraints on the fiscal space of the Central Government. Finance Commission is not an encounter with shock and awe, Finance Commission has a legacy which believes in stability, continuity and predictability. We opted for continuity and predictability,” he said.

Modi, in his speech, said cess and surcharge which was 10.4 per cent of GTR in 2011-12, has increased to 20.2 per cent. Even after deducting GST compensation cess, it is 15 per cent.

Govt open to evaluate, explore cryptocurrencies, says Thakur

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Union minister Anurag Thakur on Saturday said the government is open to evaluate and explore new technologies, including cryptocurrencies, for improving governance.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself is a strong advocate of embracing technology in various aspects of governance, the Minister of State for Finance said while addressing an event organised by Entrepreneurs’ Organisation - EO Punjab.

“Let me say that we welcome innovation and new technology...Blockchain is a new emerging technology. Cryptocurrency is a form of virtual currency. I firmly believe that we must always evaluate, explore and encourage new ideas with an open mind,” he said.

A High-Level Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) was constituted under the Chairmanship of Economic Affairs Secretary on digital currencies and it has submitted its report.

The government would



The Govt would take a decision on the recommendations of the IMC and the legislative proposal, if any, would be introduced in Parliament following the due process

take a decision on the recommendations of the IMC and the legislative proposal, if any, would be introduced in Parliament following the due process, he said while inviting suggestions and views on this issue.

Cryptocurrencies are digital or virtual currencies in which encryption techniques are used to regulate the generation of their units and verify the transfer of funds, operating independently of a central bank.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday said the government is still formulating its opinion on cryptocurrencies and will take a calibrated position.

Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das had last week said the apex bank has certain “major concerns”

over the impact cryptocurrencies may have on the financial stability in the economy and has conveyed the same to the government.

The RBI had virtually banned cryptocurrency trading in 2018

and had directed all entities regulated by the central bank to cease dealing in virtual currencies. The Supreme Court had also asked the Centre in 2019 to frame policies for crypto, and in 2020, struck down the curbs imposed by the RBI.

The Reserve Bank had through various public notices on December 24, 2013, February 1, 2017 and December 5, 2017, cautioned users, holders and traders of virtual currencies, including bitcoins, regarding various risks associated in dealing with such virtual currencies.

Goyal stresses on manufacturing high quality containers in India

New Delhi:Union Railway Minister Piyush Goyal on Friday emphasised on the manufacturing on the indigenous high quality containers in India saying that India has excellent steel making capabilities.

Addressing a webinar here at the Container Corporation of India Ltd (CONCOR) on ‘Indigenous Manufacturing of Containers’, Goyal said, “We should be aspiring for a much bigger play in container manufacturing. We have absolutely excellent steel making capabilities, we have an MSME sector with good skills and the frame making capabilities are also good.”

The minister stressed that India’s exports are going to increase significantly, as against the imports. “Government has made a conscious decision to support our shipping sector so more and more of the Indian companies start owning Indian flag vessels,” he said.

Goyal said, there is a lot of buzz and excitement in our manufacturing sector, to meet domestic and international requirements. “We are part of the resilient global supply

chain, which are looking at alternate supplies,” he said.

“If India starts manufacturing at scale, we will become cost-competitive to sell to all parts of the world. Scale presents huge cost-benefit opportunities,” he said.Goyal emphasised that if you produce a high-quality product, our neighbours will never be able to match it. And that can be sold in Europe and US.

“If India manufacturers a million containers in a year, we will become cost-competitive,” he said.Goyal said container manufacturing business needed a LIFT, which CONCOR has been able to provide. Elaborating the meaning of LIFT, he said L - efficient logistics, I - depending on indigenous sources, F - futuristic and T - becoming a trendsetter. “We should all collectively take a concrete decision to buy only Indian and support Indian industry, to meet not only India’s needs but the world’s needs. Container shortage and imported container should be dumped into the flames of history,” the minister said.

IAN5

Tech bids open for Mum-Ahm Bullet train bridge project

IAN5 ■ NEW DELHI

The National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) on Saturday said that it has opened two technical bids for construction or building of bridges for the 508 km Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) corridor in the state of Gujarat and Dadra and Nagar Haveli in which nine companies have participated.

NHSRCL spokesperson Sushma Gaur said that the technical bids for contract packages of P-1(B) and P-1(C) for construction or building of

bridges for the MAHSR corridor in the state of Gujarat as well union territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

She said that of now, 5 bidders for P-1 (C) whereas four bidders for P-1 (B) have submitted their bids for the package.She said that the P-1 (C) package includes construction of bridges for double line High Speed railway for four PSC Bridges and seven steel truss bridges between Zaroli Village at Maharashtra - Gujarat Border and Vadodara, in Gujarat and the union territory of Dadar and Nagar Haveli for the project.

Tesla, Ford only carmakers not gone bankrupt: Elon Musk

IAN5 ■ NEW DELHI

As several carmakers bleed in the US and beyond, Tesla is profitable and according to Elon Musk, his electric car company and Ford are the only two carmakers in the US which have not gone bankrupt.

Tesla reported another profitable quarter as revenue hit \$10.74 billion in the fourth quarter of 2020. In last year, Tesla achieved free cash flow of nearly \$2.8 billion after spending more than \$3 billion on building new factories and other expenditures.

US automaker Ford last month announced to more than double its investment in electric and autonomous vehicles to \$29 billion. The

automaker had previously committed to spend \$11.5 billion on electrifying its vehicle lineup through 2022.

“Tesla & Ford are the only American carmakers not to have gone bankrupt out of 1000’s of car startups. Prototypes are easy, production is hard & being cash flow positive is excruciating,” Musk said in a tweet on Friday.

Ford CEO Jim Farley responded to his tweet, saying: “Respect”.

In 2020, Tesla produced and delivered half a million vehicles. In addition, Model Y production in Shanghai has begun.

Tesla this year also registered its Indian subsidiary with the Registrar of Companies

(RoC) in Bengaluru, on January 8.

“2020 was a defining year for us on many levels. Despite a challenging environment, we’ve reached an important milestone of producing and delivering 0.5 million cars,” Musk had said.

On the other hand, Ford’s increased investment is aimed at catching up with the EV market leader Tesla and keep pace with other automakers like GM and Volkswagen.

“We are accelerating our plans right now, breaking constraints, increasing battery capacity, improving our costs and getting more battery electrics into our cycle plan,” Ford CEO Farley said last month.

‘Privatisation will lead to increase in service charges’

IAN5 ■ NEW DELHI

All India Nationalised Banks Officers Federation (AIN-BOF) has opposed privatisation of public sector banks as it will lead to increase in service charges and will take banking beyond the reach of common man.

In a statement, the AIN-BOF said privatization will primarily impact the general public only as the social objectives will be lost in the name of profitability.

“Service Charges will be increased and customers who are able to bear those charges only will be serviced. This will take banking beyond the reach of the common man which was the primary objective of

nationalization,” it said.

It said though the Government’s agenda of privatization started way back in 1991 immediately after the liberalization the trade unions were successful in thwarting the ill-conceived moves of the successive governments over the past three decades and maintaining the public sector status.

“Of the many private sector banks that came into existence, today only a handful which were promoted by the financial houses like ICICI, UTI, IDBI, HDFC are surviving and many of the private sector entities that commenced their banking operations after 1990 were either closed or merged”, it added.

Petrol, diesel prices steady even as crude boils

IAN5 ■ NEW DELHI

Oil marketing companies have spared consumers of yet another petrol and diesel price hike even though the global oil market is on the boil with crude reaching within touching distance of year-high level of \$70 a barrel.

Petrol continues to be priced at ₹91.17 a litre and diesel ₹81.47 a litre in the capital on Saturday. Across the country too, the petrol and diesel price remained unchanged.

This is seventh consecutive day when pump prices of auto fuels have remained unchanged.

After a spike in global oil prices seen over last two weeks with crude price jumping close to \$67 a barrel, prices had fallen to around \$63 a barrel but it rose again to cross \$69 a barrel mark now after the OPEC+ decision to continue with crude production cut in April.

Petrol and diesel prices have been rising continuously since February 9.

Public Notice

This is to inform general public that Mrs. Sunita Gujral is the owner of Entire First Floor, Entire Second Floor, Entire Third Floor, with roof rights ‘said floors’, built on Property bearing No. J-13/63, on Plot No. 63, area measuring 200 sq. yds., in Block J-13, Situated at Rajouri Garden, New Delhi vide Sale Deed dated 11.12.2020 and the same was duly registered with the Sub-Registrar-IIB Delhi, as Document No. 19218, Book No. I, Volume No. 5819, Page No. 110-128, on 17.12.2020. Now, Mrs. Sunita Gujral is mortgaging the above property with Shri Ram Housing Finance Ltd. & in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 15 days of this publication to Mr. Muneesh Dhawan/ Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Veritas, Unit no 405, 4th Floor, GD-ITL Northex Tower, (A-09), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9066707172/ 9818228636 (M).

LOST AND FOUND

ORIGINAL SALE DEED OF RESIDENTIAL FLAT NO. 54-2 & 54-3 ON BUILDING ON PLOT NO. G-37, GREEN PARK, NEW DELHI VIDE REGISTRATION NO. 8970 AND 8971, EXECUTED ON 20.11.1992 ARE MISSING IF ANY PERSON, BANK, FINANCIAL INSTITUTION HAVING ANY CLAIM, RIGHT, TITLE OR INTEREST OF ANY NATURE WHATSOEVER IN OR UPON THE ABOVE PROPERTY, IS HEREBY CALLED UPON TO MAKE THE SAME KNOWN, IN WRITING WITH DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE BY REGISTERED AD POST TO THE UNDERSIGNED AT THE ADDRESS MENTIONED HEREIN BELOW WITHIN 7 (SEVEN) DAYS OF PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE TO THE UNDERSIGNED ON TELEPHONE NO.-8860074071 ADDRESS: PNB HOUSING FINANCE LTD., 5-8 GREEN PARK EXTENSION, NEW DELHI - 110016

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE FOR ENGINEERING WORK

Srl. No. (1) E-Tender No. DRM-ENGG-BSP-T-176-20.21, Date: 03.03.2021.

Work: Renewal of existing Channel Sleepers with H-Beam Sleepers under the jurisdiction of DEN/ Central-II/ BSP.

Tender Value : ₹ 2,88,36,781.56/-.

Completion Period : 09 Months.

Start Date of Submission of Tender: From 11:00 hrs. on 11.03.2021. Last Date of Submission of Tender : Upto 11:00 hrs. on 25.03.2021.

The Complete information of above e-Tender Notices is available over website <https://www.ireps.gov.in>. Bids other than e-bids shall not be accepted against above Tenders.

Divl. Railway Manager (Engg.)
CPR/10/468 S.E.C. Railway, Bilsapur

South East Central Railway @seccrail

AXIS BANK

SME Centre, Delhi: 4th Floor, Ashoka Estate, 24 Barakhamba Road New Delhi-110001, **Also at** III Floor, Red Fort Capital Parswanath Tower, Bhai Veer Singh Marg, Near Gole Market, New Delhi -110001

Also at: Axis Bank Ltd., Axis House, Tower T-2, 2nd Floor, I-14, Sector-128, Noida Expressway, Jaypee Greens Wishtown, Noida (U.P.)-201301, **Corporate Office:** ‘Axis House’, Block-B, Bombay Dyeing Mills Compound, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli, Mumbai-400025

Registered Office: ‘Trishul’, 3rd floor, opposite Samaratheswar Temple, Law garden, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad-380006

POSSESSION NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

Whereas
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Axis Bank Ltd. under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notice upon the Borrower(s) Co-Borrower(s) Guarantor(s) Mortgagor(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The Borrower(s) Co-Borrower(s) Guarantor(s) Mortgagor(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s) Co-Borrower(s) Guarantor(s) Mortgagor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules in the below-mentioned dates.
The Borrower(s) Co-Borrower(s) Guarantor(s) Mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Axis Bank Ltd.
The Borrower(s) Co-Borrower(s) Guarantor(s) Mortgagor(s) attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Name of Borrower / Co-borrower	Description of Property	1. Date of Demand Notice 2. Date of Possession 3. Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)
1.MNG International, Registered Office At 185-186 , 2nd Floor, D-14, Sector 7 Rohini, Delhi - 110085	1. Equitable Mortgage over ground floor of freehold residential property bearing No. 128, in PKT 14, Sector 24, Rohini, Delhi – 110042, situated in the layout plan Rohini, Residential Scheme, Rohini, Delhi, admeasuring 68sq. mts., along with the proportionate free hold rights of the and under the said property owned by Mr. Anshuman Mohanty & Mrs. Pranati Mohanty built on a phot admeasuring 60 sqm.	1. 26-11-2020 2. 04-03-2021 3. Rs. 1,00,04,592/- (Rupees One Crore Four Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Two Only)
2.Mr. Anshuman Mohanty, Proprietor of M/S MNG International 185-186 , 2nd Floor, D-14 Sector 7 , Rohini, Delhi -110085 Also At : House No. 63 , Second Floor, With Roof Rights Pocket 21 , Sector-24, Rohini, Delhi-110085 Also At - : Property No. 128 in Pkt-14, Sector -24, Rohini, Delhi -110042	2. Equitable Mortgage charge over freehold residential Property situated at House No. 63, Second Floor, with roof rights, admeasuring 60 sq. mtrs in PKT 21, Sector 24, Rohini, Delhi – 110042	

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

Sd/-
Authorized Officer,
Axis Bank Ltd.,

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

Re-Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement System)

1 Name of work with its location	Strengthening of rail and cross girder, providing screen over web of cross girder on Br. No.-176A UP DLI-UMB section under AXEN/Br/SP/TK/-
2 Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 26,14,403.75
3 Completion period of Work	(02) Two Months
4 Date & time for submission of tender and opening of tender	Upto 14.00 hrs. on 30.03.2021 Opening of tender after 14.00 hrs. on same day
5 Website particulars where complete details of Tender can be seen & downloaded	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

Tender Notice No. 32-W-BR-176A-DLI-2021 Date: 06.03.2021 517/2021

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

SOUTHERN STAR CO-OPERATIVE (URBAN) THRIFT & CREDIT SOCIETY LTD.

Corp. Off.: E-2&3, DDA Market, MOR Land, New Rajendra Nagar, New Delhi-60
Phone : 011-26741801-02, 26741821-22, E-mail : ssstarsociety@yahoo.com, website : southernstar.org

NOTICE

Notice is being published for general information of the members of the **SOUTHERN STAR CO-OP. (U) THRIFT & CREDIT SOCIETY LTD.** (hereafter referred to as the Society') that the 31st Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) of the Society will be held on **Friday, 19th March, 2021 at 02.00 P.M. at the MCD Community Center, New Rajendra Nagar, New Delhi-60**, to consider the Agenda already circulated and also available at the website of the Society.

S/d

NEW DELHI -60
Date : 01.03.2021

(VENKIDESWARAN POTTY P.N.)
HONY. SECRETARY

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset / Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Kanchan Kumari, Raghunath Sharma, 276, Sector B2 Pocket C, Narela, Delhi A/c No:- LBDEL00002866980	LIG Flat No-276, Third Floor Block-B2 Pocket-C, Narela, Delhi	03-Feb-2021, Rs. 12,93,262/-	17-02-2020
2.	Pankaj Bakshi, Meena Bakshi, 641 New Ashiana Apartment Plot No-10, Sec 6, Dwarka South West Delhi, Delhi A/c No:- LBDEL00002967064	Flat No-641 4th Floor, Plot No 10, Block Ph-1, New Ashiana CGHS Ltd Cat-B, Sector-6, Delhi	03-Feb-2021, Rs. 24,47,256/-	29-02-2020
3.	Sanjeeta Thakur, Sanjeev Kumar Thakur, Flat No.990 Jay Ambey Apartment, New LIG Dda Flats, Kondli Gharoli, Mayur Vihar-3, Delhi A/c No:-LBGHZ00004865169	DDA LIG Flat No-137F, 2nd Floor Pocket-A-2, Kondli Gharoli, Mayur Vihar, Phase 3, Delhi	03-Feb-2021, Rs. 37,60,624/-	29-02-2020
4.	Rana Singh, Aarti Bhagwan Singh Thakur, 402 Al Ikrema Building, Near Grand Cafe, Al Jurf Ajman, UAE A/c No:-LBNOD00002008679	Flat No-g-3/19, Diamond-4, 19th Floor, Ganga Apartment, Sidhharth Vihar, Sector-7, ghaziabad,	03-Feb-2021, Rs. 1,04,25,664/-	31-05-2018
5.	Anil Singh, Sudha Anil Singh, Flat No. 1003, Al Smaif BLDG., Jamal Ab, Sharjah, UAE A/c No:-LBDEL00001462326	Apartment No.ICD011, First Floor, Along With Parking Spaces PBD 103 And PBD 104, Revenue Estate, Wazirabad, Gurgaon	03-Feb-2021, Rs. 46,05,237/-	30-11-2018
6.	Baljeet Garg, Mamta Garg, H No-73, Ft, Sec-12A Dwarka, Delhi A/c No:-LBDEL00001866197	Plot No-73, first Floor Sector-12 A, Dwarka Delhi	03-Feb-2021, Rs. 20,23,764/-	31-07-2018
7.	Utkarsh Jhingran, Niti Jhingran, Block 24 Unit Number 02-13 Simet Street Melville Park, Singapore, Singapore A/c No:-LBDEL00001879850	Flat No- Ptt- 09-0001, Palm Terraces, Sector- 66, Gurgaon, Haryana, Gurgaon	03-Feb-2021, Rs. 2,47,782/-	31/08/2018
8.	Sukhvinder Singh, Gurpreet Singh Arora, A- 4/424, Paschim Vihar, Delhi A/c No:-LBDEL00001977268	Unit No 0047, Ground Floor, Block E, Anthea Floors, Wild Flower Country, Gurgaon	03-Feb-2021, Rs. 38,13,100/-	30/11/2018

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date : March 06, 2021
Place: Delhi/NCR

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

Pakistan PM Imran wins trust vote



Supporters of the ruling Pakistan Tehree-e-Insaf political party gather near the National Assembly to celebrate Prime Minister Imran Khan winning a vote of confidence in Islamabad, Pakistan on Saturday

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Saturday comfortably won a trust vote in the National Assembly amid opposition boycott, bolstering his Government's position after an embarrassing defeat in this week's hotly-contested Senate elections.

Prime Minister Khan secured 178 votes in the 342-member lower house of Parliament during a special session convened on the directives of President Arif Alvi. He required 172 votes for a simple majority. The floor test took place without the Opposition as the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) — an

alliance of 11 parties — boycotted the voting, making it easier for Khan to secure the required numbers. Khan decided to take a vote of confidence in the National Assembly after his finance minister Abdul Hafeez Shaikh was defeated in the Senate election by former prime minister Yusuf Raza

Gilani on Wednesday. The Opposition demanded the Prime Minister's resignation after the debacle.

Addressing the House after securing the trust vote, the 68-year-old cricketer-turned politician thanked all lawmakers from his party and allies for supporting him in Parliament.

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi earlier tabled a single-point resolution in the House.

"That this House reposes confidence in the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Mr Imran Khan, as required under clause (7) of Article 91 of the Constitution Islamic Republic of Pakistan," the resolution said. Speaker Asad Qaiser announced the result, saying Prime Minister Khan had been elected to the post with 176 votes following the 2018 general elections. "Today, he has secured 178 votes," he said.

The ruling coalition had 181 members but after the resignation of one of its lawmakers, Faisal Vowda, its strength was reduced to 180. The Opposition coalition has 160 members in the House. One seat was vacant. According to the breakdown, 155 PTI lawmakers out of 156 voted in favour of the prime minister, Dawn newspaper reported.

Seven lawmakers from the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), five each from the Pakistan Muslim League-Q and the Balochistan Awami

Party, three from the Grand Democratic Alliance, and one each from the Awami Muslim League and the Jamhoori Watan Party voted in favour of the resolution. Independent candidate Aslam Bhotani also voted in favour of Khan.

Earlier, unruly scenes were witnessed outside Parliament building when supporters of the ruling alliance tried to dis-

rupt a press conference of Opposition leaders belonging to the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N).

PML-N leaders alleged that they had been manhandled by the ruling party members who were holding up banners and chanting slogans in favour of Khan. Security forces managed to separate the political workers of the two sides.

Pakistan Opp slams PM, terms vote of confidence 'meaningless'

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's leading Opposition leaders on Saturday demanded Prime Minister Imran Khan's resignation and fresh elections, soon after he won a vote of confidence in the National Assembly.

Khan secured 178 votes in the 342-member lower house of Parliament during a special session convened on the directives of President Arif Alvi.

The floor test took place without the Opposition as the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) — an alliance of 11 parties — boycotted the voting.

The first to respond was chief of the PDM Maulana

Fazlur Rehman, who told the media in Sukkur, Sindh that the vote of confidence has no meaning.

"This was not a confidence vote. We know which agencies watched the members of the assembly the entire night. [We know] who knocked on the doors of each member to ensure they were present," he said.

His reference was towards reports stating that the government kept its members inside lodges in Islamabad under strict watch so that all of them are present in Parliament during the floor test.

Rehman alleged that the lawmakers were forced to vote for Prime Minister Khan.

Imran bats for electoral reforms for fair elections, to introduce EVMs

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan said on Saturday that his government will introduce electoral reforms and electronic voting machines to ensure fair and transparent elections in the country.

Delivering a speech after winning a trust vote in the National Assembly, the cricketer-turned-politician said his government plans to introduce electronic voting, enabling millions of Pakistanis abroad to vote in elections.

"We are bringing modern technology in elections for a transparent election process. We have decided to use Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) in the future. It is important to use them to counter the voter fraud claims made by the candidates who lose the polls. We are also working on putting up a system

so that the overseas Pakistanis can cast their votes," Khan said.

"Just like in the US where former president Donald Trump's repeated allegations of electoral malpractice were debunked by a transparent system, Pakistan will also put in place the same system to ensure fair and transparent elections in the country.

"As captain in Cricket, I brought the concept of neutral umpiring, similarly my government will set in motion a fair electoral system," he said.

Khan's remarks came after Pakistan's election commission on Friday expressed shock and disappointment over the prime minister's allegations against it, asserting that the Senate elections were held as per the Constitution and it has "never come under any sort of pressure and God willing, will not in future as well."

Protests, tear gas in Myanmar after UN envoy urges action

AP ■ YANGON

Security forces in Myanmar again used force Saturday to disperse anti-coup protesters, a day after a UN special envoy urged the Security Council to take action to quell junta violence that this past week left more than 50 peaceful demonstrators dead and scores injured.

Protests were reported Saturday morning in the country's biggest city, Yangon, where stun grenades and tear gas were used against demonstrators. On Wednesday, 18 people were reported killed there.

Protests also took place in several other cities, including Mandalay, the second-biggest city, Myitkyina, the capital of the northern state of Kachin, Myeik in the far south, where police fired tear gas at students, and Dawei in the southeast, where tear gas was also used. Officials are believed to



Anti-coup protesters prepare water and wet cloths to help extinguish tear gas canisters during a demonstration in Yangon, Myanmar on Saturday

have exhumed the body of a young woman who was killed during Wednesday's suppression of protests in Mandalay. The woman, Kyal Sin, had been photographed taking part in the protests before her death, and images of her on the front lines have made her a high-pro-

file martyr.

Security forces on Friday night sealed off the cemetery where she was buried, and when residents visited in the morning, her grave was freshly plastered over and shovels and other evidence of digging were found at the site.

Pope to visit Iraq church damaged by ISIS terrorists

Baghdad: The scenes are seared in the memory of the Rev. Ammar Altony Yako: A church that for decades has been the pride of the town of Qaraqosh, a center for Christian life in Iraq, stood badly scarred.

Yako saw it in 2016 when Qaraqosh was liberated from more than two years of Islamic State group rule. Scrawled on a wall was the proclamation, the "Islamic State will remain." Strewn amid the rubble in a courtyard were bullet-riddled mannequins and other telltale signs of a militants' makeshift firing range for target practice.

On Sunday, a new scene will play out for the world to watch at the Church of the Immaculate Conception and new memories will be created. Where the extremists once damaged, Pope Francis will now pray.

"I never could have imagined that his holiness, the pope, would visit this church, not even in my dreams," said Yako, who has been

overseeing reconstruction at the church. "It's a very, very unexpected event and a very happy one."

It is also one rich in symbolism. Coming amid a pandemic and security challenges, the pope's historic trip is taking him to Christian communities, like Yako's, ravaged by the ISIS onslaught in 2014. Christians in the area were forced to escape ancestral towns and villages as the militants swept through northern Iraq. Many have since scattered abroad, their exodus fueling existential anxieties about Iraq's already dwindling Christian population.

Many hope the pope's trip can focus attention on their struggles and send a message of encouragement, but they also point to security, economic and social challenges deterring many Christians from returning. AP

AP ■ PLAINS OF UR (IRAQ)



Pope Francis stands with religious leaders during an interreligious meeting near the archaeological area of the Sumerian city-state of Ur, 20 kilometers south-west of Nasiriyah, Iraq on Saturday

Pope Francis, Iraq's top Shia cleric hold historic meeting

AP ■ PLAINS OF UR (IRAQ)

Pope Francis and Iraq's top Shia cleric delivered a powerful message of peaceful coexistence on Saturday, urging Muslims in the war-weary Arab nation to embrace Iraq's long-beleaguered Christian minority during an historic meeting in the holy city of Najaf.

Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani said religious authorities have a role in protecting Iraq's Christians, and that they should live in peace and enjoy the same rights as other Iraqis.

The Vatican said Francis thanked al-Sistani for having "raised his voice in defense of the weakest and most persecuted" during some of the most violent times in Iraq's recent history.

Al-Sistani, 90, is one of the most senior clerics in Shiite Islam and his rare but powerful political interventions have helped shape present-day Iraq. He is a deeply revered figure in Shia-majority Iraq and his opinions on religious and other matters are sought by Shiites worldwide.

The historic meeting in al-Sistani's humble home was months in the making, with every detail painstakingly discussed and negotiated between the ayatollah's office and the Vatican. Early Saturday, the 84-year-old pontiff's convoy, led by a bullet-proof Mercedes-Benz, pulled up along Najaf's narrow and column-lined Rasool Street, which culminates at the golden-domed Imam Ali Shrine, one of the most revered sites in Shiite Islam. He then walked the few meters (yards) to al-Sistani's modest home, which the cleric has rented for decades.

A group of Iraqis wearing traditional clothes welcomed him outside. As a masked Francis entered the doorway, a few white doves were released in a sign of peace.

He emerged just under an hour later, still limping from an apparent flare-up of sciatica nerve pain that makes walking difficult. The "very positive" meeting lasted a total of 40 minutes, said a religious official in Najaf, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorised to brief media.

Senate works through night, virus aid on path to passage

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Beary-eyed lawmakers worked through a mountain of amendments Saturday as the Senate plodded toward passage of a \$1.9 trillion Covid-19 relief bill that President Joe Biden and Democrats say is crucial for hoisting the country out of the pandemic.

The Senate commenced a dreaded "vote-a-thon" — a continuous series of votes on amendments — shortly before midnight Friday, and by midmorn-

ing Saturday had dispensed with over two dozen.

Democrats were hoping for final passage by around midday so the Senate could send the modestly revamped bill back to the House, and then to Biden this coming week for his signature.

The Senate had been in session since 9 a.m. EST Friday. Its work on the bill was proving to be a test of both lawmakers' physical stamina and Democrats' ability to pass legislation backed by every senator in the party.

The chamber is divided 50-50, with Vice President Kamala Harris' tiebreaking vote their only edge, and Republicans are arrayed against the legislation. Overnight, the Senate was like an experiment in the best techniques for staying awake. Several lawmakers appeared to rest their eyes or doze at their desks, often burying their faces in their hands. At one point, Sen. Brian Schatz, D-Hawaii, at 48 one of the younger senators, trotted into the chamber and did a prolonged stretch.

Biden White House: message discipline, no news conference

Washington: No news conference. No Oval Office address. No primetime speech to a joint session of Congress.

President Joe Biden is the first executive in four decades to reach this point in his term without holding a formal question and answer session.

It reflects a White House media strategy meant both to reserve major media set-pieces for the celebration of a legislative victory and to limit unforced errors from a historically gaffe-prone politician. Biden has opted to take questions about as often

as most of his recent predecessors, but he tends to field just one or two informal inquiries at a time, usually in a hurried setting at the end of an event.

In a sharp contrast with the previous administration, the White House is exerting extreme message discipline, empowering staff to speak but doing so with caution.

Recalling both Biden's largely leak-free campaign and the buttoned-up Obama administration, the new White House team has carefully managed the president's appear-

ances, trying to lower the temperature from Donald Trump's Washington and to save a media moment to mark what could soon be a signature accomplishment: passage of the Covid-19 bill.

The message control may serve the president's purposes but it denies the media opportunities to directly press Biden on major policy issues and to engage in the kind of back-and-forth that can draw out information and thoughts that go beyond the administration's curated talking points. AP

NASA's Perseverance rover performs first test drive on Mars

PTI ■ LOS ANGELES

NASA's latest Mars rover, Perseverance, performed its first test drive on the Red Planet, covering a distance of about 6.5 metres across the Martian landscape, a "major milestone" before it begins its science operations.

The drive lasted about 33 minutes, propelling the rover forward by four metres, where it then turned to the left by 150 degrees and backed up 2.5 metres into its new temporary parking space, the American space agency noted in a statement.

According to NASA, the drive served as a mobility test to check out and calibrate every system, subsystem, and instrument on the Perseverance rover, which it said is a major milestone before the science operations get underway.



This photo made available by NASA was taken during the first drive of the Perseverance rover on Mars. Perseverance landed on February 18, 2021

ROVING ON RED PLANET

► The drive lasted about 33 minutes, propelling the rover forward by four metres, where it then turned to the left by 150 degrees and backed up 2.5 metres into its new temporary parking space

► The drive served as a mobility test to check out and calibrate every system, subsystem, and instrument on the Perseverance rover

► All the while, the space agency said the rover continues to send down images from Mars using the most advanced suite of cameras ever to travel to the Red Planet

fident our drive system is good to go, capable of taking us wherever the science leads us over the next two years," Zarifian said.

Regular commutes of over 200 metres are expected once the rover begins pursuing its science goals, including the search for signs of ancient microbial life, NASA said.

As part of its mission, the rover would characterise the Red Planet's geology and past climate, and pave the way for human exploration of Mars.

It is also expected to be the first to collect and cache Martian rock and soil.

Since its landing on Mars on February 18, the rover has undergone several routine checks, including a software update, replacing the computer program that helped land Perseverance with one NASA will rely on to analyse the

planet.

On March 2, NASA said its engineers unstowed the rover's 2-metre-long robotic arm for the first time, flexing each of its five joints over the course of two hours.

All the while, the space agency said the rover continues to send down images from Mars using the most advanced suite of cameras ever to travel to the Red Planet.

"Every picture from Perseverance is relayed by either the European Space Agency's Trace Gas Orbiter, or NASA's MAVEN, Mars Odyssey, or Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter. They are important partners in our explorations and our discoveries," said Justin Maki, chief engineer for imaging and the imaging scientist for the Mars 2020 Perseverance rover mission at JPL.

Rajasthan Skill & Livelihoods Development Corporation EMI Campus, J.S.A., Jhalana Institutional Area, Jaipur-302004 (Rajasthan) Ph: +91-0141-2705917, 9103248, Fax: +91-0141-5103246, www.rajasthanlivelihoods.org F () No: RSLDC/SDT/2021-22/30976 Dated: 05-03-2021		
Office Order		
Subject: - Extension of Bid submission last date and opening date for procurement of Services for providing Self-Defence Training to girls/women through training partner for RSLDC.		
Reference: - RFP No. RSLDC/SDT/20/30473 dated 3rd Feb, 2021		
Due to some unavoidable circumstances the last date and Bid opening date of above referred Bid is hereby extended as per the following –		
Activity	Old Date & Time	New Date & Time
Last Date/Time for Submitting / uploading of offer/Bid	8th March, 2021 up to 3:00 PM	18th March, 2021 up to 03:00 PM
Last Date / time for submitting original hard copy of Bid Security Demand Draft	8th March, 2021 up to 3:00 PM	18th March, 2021 up to 03:00 PM
Date & Time for opening of Technical Bid	8th March, 2021 up to 05:00 PM	18th March, 2021 at 05:00 PM
The interested bidders may submit the proposal as per the above amendments and all other terms & conditions will remain unchanged.		
UBN No. SLD2021RFP0003		Managing Director, RSLDC
Raj./Samwad/IC/20/10627		

AXIS BANK EMI Campus, J.S.A., Jhalana Institutional Area, Jaipur-302004 (Rajasthan) Ph: +91-0141-2705917, 9103248, Fax: +91-0141-5103246, www.rajasthanlivelihoods.org F () No: RSLDC/SDT/2021-22/30976 Dated: 05-03-2021			
SMC Centre, Delhi: 4th Floor, Ashoka Estate, 24 Barakhamba Road New Delhi-110001. Also at III Floor, Red Fort Capital Park/Navnath Tower, 5th Viceroy Marg, Near Sole Market, New Delhi-110001			
Also at: Axis Bank Ltd., Axis House, Tower T-2, 2nd Floor, I-14, Sector-128, Noida Expressway, Jaypee Greens Wishtown, Noida (U.P.)-201301. Corporate Office: Axis House, Block-B, Bombay Dyeing Mills Compound, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli, Mumbai-400025			
Registered Office: "Trishul", 3rd floor, opposite Samartheswar Temple, Law garden, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad-380006			
POSSESSION NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002			
Whereas EMI Campus, J.S.A., Jhalana Institutional Area, Jaipur-302004 (Rajasthan)			
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Axis Bank Ltd. under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notice upon the Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) / Mortgagee(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.			
The Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) / Mortgagee(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) / Mortgagee(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates.			
The Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) / Mortgagee(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Axis Bank Ltd.			
The Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) / Mortgagee(s) attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.			
Name of Borrower / Co-borrower	Description of Property	1. Date of Demand Notice	2. Date of Possession
1. M/S Lakhmi Chand Om Prakash (Through Its Proprietor) Mr. Ashish Gupta Registered Office At: 2745/9, Sushila Mohan Marg, Naya Bazar, Delhi-110006 Also At: - 3963/108, 1st Floor Naya Bazar, Delhi-110006	Equitable Mortgage on Property No.-5, in Block C – 5 Out of Khassara No.- 262/258/217/4/3 with all roof/terrace rights, Built on land area measuring 105.5 Sq. yards, Situated in the area of village Dharoli, colony known as Adarsh Naga on Cottage Road Cottage Road Delhi – 110033	2. 26-11-2020	2. 04-03-2021
2. Mr. Ashish Gupta At: 2745/9, Sushila Mohan Marg Naya Bazar, Delhi-110006 Also At: - 3963/108, 1st Floor Naya Bazar, Delhi-110006		3. Rs. 3,16,99,855/- (Rupees Three Crore Sixteen lakh ninety nine thousand Eight hundred and fifty five only)	
Also At: - : R/O C-5, Cottage Road, Near Azadpur Sabzi Mandi, Adarsh Nagar, Delhi-110033.			
3. Mrs. Shahsi Gupta, R/O C-5, Cottage Road, Near Azadpur Sabzi Mandi, Adarsh Nagar, Delhi-110033.			
4. Mr. Om Prakash Gupta, R/O C-5, Cottage Road, Near Azadpur Sabzi Mandi, Adarsh Nagar, Delhi-110033.			
The above-mentioned Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) / Mortgagee(s) are hereby given a 30 days Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.			
Date: 07-03-2021 Place: Delhi		Sd/-, Authorized Officer, Axis Bank Ltd.,	

INDIA FIX LORD'S DATE

Virat & Co will face Black Caps in WTC final after Axar, Ashwin take five each to thrash England by innings & 25 runs to seal series

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Axar Patel and Ravichandran Ashwin once again made a mockery of Kane Williamson's New Zealand but Axar (24-6-48-5), in company of Ashwin (22.5-4-47-5), literally blew England away in a session and half for a paltry 135 in 54.5 overs to complete a 3-1 rout, ensuring that the *Anthony De Mello Trophy* will stay at the Cricket Centre in Mumbai.

It was another two and half days finish but even the most partisan England experts like their former skipper Michael Vaughan have admitted that the 22-yard strip had almost nothing to do with their side's abject surrender.

A case in point could be India's first innings score of 365 and a lead of 160 on the same track where England could cumulatively manage only 340 runs across two innings.

This was one Test match where Indians, even before a ball being bowled, created an illusion of a turning track. It was a play of playing with the minds of a team that was already in a negative zone.

There wasn't much turn but enough to ensure that the visitors wilted under pressure as Patel's series tally stood at high-est for a newcomer (27) while man of the series Ashwin was peerless as ever with 32 scalps in his kitty.

A lot of credit for this vic-



India captain Virat Kohli along with teammates Washington Sundar, Axar Patel, Mohammed Siraj and Rishabh Pant pose with winners trophy

PTI

tory should go to the indomitable Rishabh Pant, who played the enforcer on the second day with a magnificent hundred, and Washington Sundar, who notched up a chiselled 96.

These two knocks literally made it impossible for England to make a comeback as a total of 365 seemed like 650.

The coming of age of Pant as a real replacement for the iconic Mahendra Singh Dhoni and emergence of Washington as a potent batting all-rounder only augurs well for the team.

So formidable is India's bench strength right now that Hanuma Vihari, who saved an epic Test in Sydney only a couple of months back, may not get

to play a Test in near future.

World's best wicketkeeper Wriddhiman Saha will also find it difficult to add to his 38 Tests unless the *Roorkee Rockstar* gets injured.

Patel, in his debut Test series, was a powerhouse performer but he also knows that once Ravindra Jadeja is fit and available, he will have to wait for his next Test.

The story of the third day was similar to the one that has played out for most of the series.

With shoulders already drooping after the humiliation inflicted by Pant and Washington, England's openers Zak Crawley (5, 16 balls), Dom Sibley (3, 21 balls) and Jonny

“Every team in International cricket is a quality side and we need to work hard to beat them, even at home. Keeping that intensity going is most important and is the hallmark of our team.”

—VIRAT KOHLI

“We haven't matched India in the last three, and we need to keep learning and keep getting better for this experience and this series, and we need to keep evolving and move forward.”

—JOE ROOT

Bairstow (0, 1 ball) seemed like “walking wickets” at the start of the post-lunch session.

One had expected two of England's best players in Joe Root (30) and Ben Stokes (2 off 9 balls) to put up a fight but the all-rounder failed to gauge the extra bounce as he went for a sweep shot off Patel.

Kohli accepted the dolly at leg slip as England's resistance was blown away at 30 for 4. Ollie Pope (15) hit Ashwin for a six, which was more desperation than finesse, and it was only a matter of time before he yorked himself as Pant fumbled while gathering but managed to effect a stumping to make it 65 for 5.

The England skipper could

India top WTC table

Dubai: India on Saturday finished on top of the league phase of the ICC World Test Championship standings after crushing England by an innings and 25 runs in the fourth Test.

“That victory against England means India finish the league phase of the inaugural ICC World Test Championship with a fine view from the top of the table,” the ICC tweeted.

India finished the league phase with 520 points, which includes 12 wins, four losses and one draw.

New Zealand finished in the second spot with 420 points, including seven wins and four losses.

Australia finished third with 332 points ahead of England and Pakistan.

only helplessly look how his colleagues made a mess of Test match batting and Ashwin finally had his number trapping him leg before on the back-foot with another straight ball.

The remaining wickets in the post tea session were a mere formality which the spinners completed in due course of time.

The morning session belonged to Washington, whose 96 off 174 balls was as important as Pant's second day hundred in the final context of the match.

Washington and Axar Patel (43 off 97 balls) added an invaluable 106 runs for the eighth wicket, which ended even a miniscule chance for England to stage a recovery.

Ashwin wants to leave his own legacy

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

To become the best version of himself while learning something new everyday is Ravichandran Ashwin's endeavour as he aims to leave his lasting legacy in the pantheon of Indian cricket greats.

Ashwin has now won eight Man-of-the-Series awards in his 10-year career and is only eight wickets short of equalling Harbhajan Singh's 417 Test wickets.

It could well happen in England this summer but he doesn't want to entertain any such thoughts.

“Honestly, that's not even crossed my mind and if you want me to put my thoughts on it. He is a fantastic bowler. There's a lot that I have learnt from him. I wasn't even an off-spinner when *Bhaji paa* started playing for the Indian team,” Ashwin's respect for another practitioner of the same craft was there for all to see.

“He (Harbhajan) was also an inspi-



ration because of the 2001 famous series (32 wickets in 3 Tests). I never imagined in 2001 that I will be an off-spinner, and I mean who would have imagined those things.

“I was fortunate to play alongside *Bhaji paa* when I came into the team and also play under Anil *bhai* but I would now like to leave my own legacy,” Ashwin said.

Being a student of the game Ashwin wants to evolve as a cricketer and a person everyday.

“My growth as a cricketer is a direct synonym to the person I am. I want to keep evolving, keep learning and that's my second nature, directly proportional to the kind of cricketer I am and whatever I do, the best that I can be.”

Ashwin's apathy for all those pitch critics is well documented and he would love to see how the global media reacts when a green top is given to India when they go for a game outside the sub-continent.

“The series win is a testament to the

fact that this is a really good Indian cricket team. That's all I would like to say. Other day, I was listening to what Sunny *bhai* (Sunil Gavaskar) was saying, makes sense,” Ashwin said referring to Gavaskar's statement about not giving too much credence to the British pundits, whose favourite day job had been criticising the Indian tracks.

“Only because we are giving attention to people who are making a mockery of it, we are encouraging them to do it non-stop,” he said.

He then sarcastically said that he would keenly watch how foreign media cover the criticism from Indian commentators about the pitches provided when India is on tour abroad.

“I would like to a pitch covered with grass somewhere else in the world and some of our Indian commentators, taking picture and putting an Instagram post and I will like to see how the global media takes notice and then we will know who's at faulty end.”

‘Motera track produced fantastic entertainment’



PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

There is no reason to cry over the nature of the Motera track. India head coach Ravi Shastri asserted on Saturday, saying the curator prepared pitches that produced “fantastic entertainment” in the last two matches here.

The pitch for the third Test came in for sharp criticism from a few former England players after the visitors were bowled out for 112 and 81 in the Day/Night match.

“Why should I hold back? I attribute it to the groundsman,” Shastri said after India dismissed England for 135 to register an innings and 25 run win.

“Who will complain against a track like this? It is fantastic entertainment, for both teams and the game and the result 3-1 doesn't really suggest how close the series was.”

Shastri lauded the team for making it to the WTC final despite the ICC changing the qualification criteria last year.

“For us to be on the top of the table in World Test championship is two-and-a-half years of work and for those years to be successful, it's been six years prior to that,” he said.

“The boys took one series at a time, they were not really bothered about the World Test Championship because the goal post gets shifted every time.

“We were heading the table and some rule change came of percentage system when we were not even playing but never mind all that, we have got 520 points, we deserve to be on top of the table and playing that final.”

The 58-year-old said it is very satisfying to see the youngsters perform.



Our bench strength is extremely strong: Kohli

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

India's supremely talented bench strength has made skipper Virat Kohli quite confident that the team will have a relatively smooth ride when the transition period dawns upon it in the next few years.

With the rise of several young players like Washington Sundar, Mohammed Siraj and the maverick Rishabh Pant, India have been on a roll both at home and abroad.

“Our bench strength is extremely strong and that's a good sign for Indian cricket. When the transition happens, the standards won't fall and Rishabh and *Washy*'s partnership showed exactly that in a crucial juncture of the match,” Kohli said at the post-match presentation.

After notching up victories in the second and third Tests respectively, India won the fourth match inside three days.

“We had to pick up our body language after the first game in Chennai. Every team in International cricket is a quality side and we need to work hard to beat them, even at home. Keeping that intensity going is most important and is the hallmark of our team,” Kohli said.

Star opener Rohit Sharma scored 161 in the first innings of the second Test and the skipper feels the knock changed the complexion of the series alongside seasoned spinner Ravichandran Ashwin's performance of 32 wickets.

“Rohit's knock was the defining moment in Chennai, and Ashwin has been our most bankable player over the years so they have been our best players this series.”

“Now we can accept that the World Test Championship final, which was a distraction in New Zealand in 2020, but now it's a reality,” Kohli said.

Ashwin, who ended the series with 32 wickets and a century, was named *Man of the series* and the spinner was delighted to qualify for the WTC final, adding that the win was a collective effort.

“The fact that we qualified for the WTC final is very important. The intensity was low after Chennai, despite the high in Australia. Every time there was a challenging time in the series, someone put their hand up, so this series win was right up there,” Ashwin said. England skipper Joe Root conceded that his team was outplayed by the hosts in the series.

“The first game was a positive. We haven't matched India in the last three, and we need to keep learning and keep getting better for this experience and this series,” Root said.

We failed to grab opportunities: Root

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

England captain Joe Root on Saturday mourned the opportunities his team squandered in the lost fourth Test, saying they let slip the advantageous position from where they could have been on top of the game.

India at one stage were 121 for five but ended up taking a 160-run lead in the first innings which proved to be match-winning.

Rishabh Pant, Washington Sundar and Axar Patel took the game away from England with their fearless approach.

“There have been times we had a chance to wrestle the game in our favour, to get on top, just didn't manage to do it,” Root said at the post-match conference.

“India played those important, key moments better than us in these last three games and credit for being able to do that better than we do.

“So, it has been disappointing, it has been frustrating to finish the series on a note that we have but we are going to keep looking forward as a team,” said Root.

The England skipper acknowledged Indian batsman Rishabh Pant's remarkable ability to take the attack by the scruff of its neck. “The way he bats, he



England players react during Day 2 of fourth Test against India

AP

makes it difficult for bowlers to build pressure on him. Sometimes he pulls a reverse sweep to a guy, who has 600 Test wickets.

“So it is quite a skill and a brave move to do and it came off for him and got themselves (India) to a very good position on that wicket,” said Root, referring to the reverse sweep which Pant played off James Anderson.

For India, Ravichandran Ashwin grabbed 32 wickets in the series, while Axar snared 27 wickets to leave England floored. Root lavished praise on the

Gujarat left-arm spinner saying he was relentless in his lengths.

“In this series, Axar in particular, has been very accurate and has asked very good questions. He has been relentless with his length and some balls have skidded, some have spun quite big and we are going to just find a way to manage it well.”

But not all was doom and gloom for Root, who found solace in the fact that his wicket-keeper Ben Foakes and left-arm spinner Jack Leach performed their roles to the best of their abilities.



Former India captain Sunil Gavaskar was on Saturday felicitated by the BCCI on the 50th anniversary of his Test debut. The 71-year-old former skipper received a commemorative Test cap from BCCI Secretary Jay Shah during the lunch break on Day three of the fourth and final Test between India and England at the Narendra Modi Stadium here in Ahmedabad

PTI

Pant's 101 best counter-attacking knock on Indian soil: Shastri

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

India coach Ravi Shastri on Saturday said Rishabh Pant's game-changing hundred against England in the fourth Test here was the best counter-attacking knock that he has seen by a number six Indian batsman on home soil.

Pant, in an innings that was just the right mix of caution and aggression, notched up 101 off just 118 balls, playing a crucial role in India winning the match by an innings and 25 runs.

Speaking highly of Pant, Shastri said the stumper's hard work is now showing results. “He has worked like hell in the last three or four months and the results are showing. Yesterday's innings is the best counter attacking innings, I have seen in India

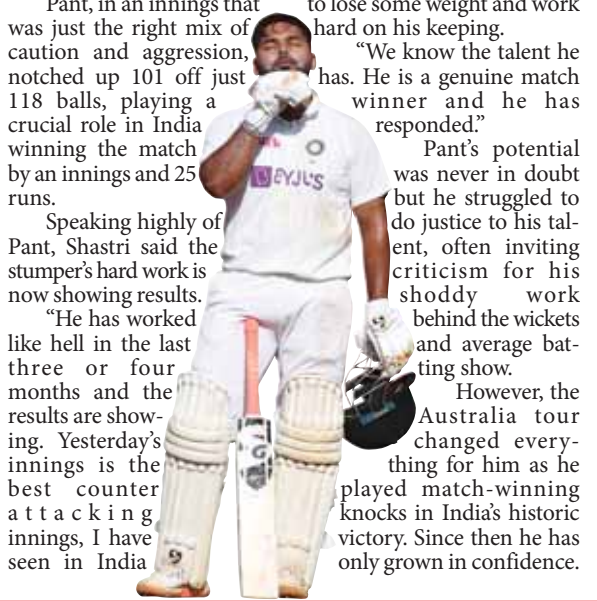
by an Indian, especially at number six when the ball was turning,” Shastri said after India's emphatic win in the fourth Test.


“We were hard on him. Nothing comes easy and he was told in no uncertain terms that he has got to respect the game a little more. He has got to lose some weight and work hard on his keeping.”

“We know the talent he has. He is a genuine match winner and he has responded.”

Pant's potential was never in doubt but he struggled to do justice to his talent, often inviting criticism for his shoddy work behind the wickets and average batting show.

However, Australia tour changed everything for him as he played match-winning knocks in India's historic victory. Since then he has only grown in confidence.






the pioneer

agenda

I think that an actor is more likely to be forgiven in the public's eye than an actress
— Mila Kunis

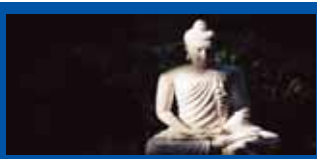


FROM THE INSIDE

The power of attention

The connection to God is not hard to make. It is just a matter of making the choice that this is what we want to do

2



4

Calm mind for *dhyana*

Train your mind to remain disengaged as a silent witness. Only when you pay attention, you get affected

MAPPING THE SACRED DWELLINGS OF SHAKTI

Renowned writer and historian DR ALKA PANDE narrates that while the Shakti Peethas represent a single philosophical fold, they are a testament to the diverse legends of Shakti. An edited excerpt:

Originating from Sanskrit, the word ‘Peetha’ means ‘seat, altar, shrine or dwelling’. In the case of the Shakti Peethas, it is very specific. It is the sacred space where the Supreme Goddess rakes a strong, well-founded sear on Earth. Each of the Peethas have been turned into shrines for the Goddess by the very people who believe in the absolute power of the feminine. Each site where the 51 body parts of Sati fell, came to be known as a Shakti Peetha.

A teertha is a crossing. As with most Sanskrit words, there are multiple meanings of this too. Teertha is also the passing of the *atman* to the *parmatman* the crossing from the physical world to the metaphysical world. These 51 sacred sites are also linked by theologists and scholars to the 51 alphabets of the Sanskrit language. In each of the Peethas also resides *Kaalbhairava*, which is another name of Shiva. Most of the Shakti Peetha shrines contain a naturally appearing stone which becomes the object of worship around which the temple shrine is built.

Vindhyavasini is an additional Shakti Peetha, which I have deliberately not included in the 51 Peethas. While a powerful dwelling of Shakti, Vindhyavasini is not the abode of Shakti as Sati’s body parts. It is, however, the preferred choice and home of Yogamaya, the sister of Krishna, who escaped from Kamsa’s prison at Mathura.

Kalika Purana indicates that there are four Adi Shakti Peethas, which is further affirmed in the commentary and text of *Brihat Samhita*. It lists the names of the location at various places in India such as Vimla temple, Odisha, where her feet fell, Tara Tarini temple in Behrampur, Odisha, where her breasts fell, Kamakhya temple in Guwahati, Assam, where her *yoni* or vagina fell and lastly, the Kalighat temple in West Bengal, where her right toe fell.

THE ICONOGRAPHY OF THE DEVI

Since antiquity, Goddess worship has been part of the Indic tradition of India. In fact, the Goddess is even more popular than Shiva and Vishnu. All the manifestations, avatars or appearances of the many forms of Devi belong to the pantheon of the Shakti cult. The Supreme Goddess can be a gentle life-giver as in the case of Lakshmi, Saraswati or Parvati, or as the mistress of death in the form of Durga, Kali and Chamunda. She is a fascinating juxtaposition, both life-perpetuating and potentially destructive. In her life-giving form, Shakti can be represented as beautiful, benevolent, maternal, knowledgeable, compassionate and even desirable to the best. She invigorates, cheers and brightens the entire universe. She is represented and described as an idealized woman who is imbued with beauty, virtue and righteousness, and adorned with jewels. In fact, her iconography is drawn from the pre-modern depictions of the *salabanjikas*, *apsaras* and *surasundaris*. In this form, Shakti embraces and enlivens all aspects of reality. As the goddess of destruction and disease, she takes on rather unattractive and repulsive forms. As Sitala Devi Manasa, or Kali, the Devi is shown as haggard, ugly, unkempt and emaciated. However, whatever the form, it is always powerful.

I have dipped into both Puranic and Shakta texts to read the many interpretations and mythologies associated with the iconography, rituals of worship, devotion and representation of the Shakti Peetha as sites of immense power and energy. Each devotee enters the site of the Peetha through their own path of worship, through their respective understanding of the Great Goddess. The *wama panthis* or Shakt worshippers, for whom Shakti/Devi is supreme, enter through the tantric path, which is a sectarian movement.

The 51 Peethas have their own singular iconography and their own specific modes of rituals, worship and even prasada, with some standard common offerings like flowers, sweets and vermilion.

RITUALS OF PRAYER AND DARSHAN

While the Shakti Peethas were specific to the body parts of Sati, the rituals of adoration, prayer and worship differed from region to

Kottari Devi (Hinglaj Mata) Temple, Pakistan

region, given the culture and history of the place. Over time, the Peethas became linked to their respective regions. The local people took ownership of them and started claiming rights over the teerthas and sites. Naturally, the local food and religious and cultural traditions started getting preference over the stated Puranic or standard Sanatan *dharmashastras*.

In the temples, the daily rituals of worship were similar to the presiding deity, who was normally male, i.e. Vishnu or Shiva, and the feminine was worshipped in the form of their consorts. However, in the Shakti Peethas, the presiding deity was a body part, which while having its own specific service or prayer, was enfolded in the larger narrative of the worship of Shakti in the form of Devi.

The purpose of puja (prayer) is to appease, soothe and mollify the powerful Goddess and embrace the divine energy expressed as life force. The life force itself has many variations, from auspiciousness, health, desire for children, wealth and success, gaining power over intellectual and artistic skill, even victory over enemies. The ritual of puja is heavily invested in darshan. While doing puja, the concept of making eye contact with the deity is the key. Darshan is a two-way concept where the devotee sees the divinity and in turn, the divinity sees the devotee. The concept of darshan crosses all spaces, from intimate puja corners at home in domestic spaces to large public temples including the 51 Shakti Peethas.

The very act of darshan/view is the crucial key that creates the iconic moment where the devotee and the divine are in complete sync. This is the reason why ‘Shakt’ worshippers make long and arduous journeys to the Shakti

SINCE ANTIQUITY, GODDESS WORSHIP HAS BEEN PART OF THE INDIC TRADITION OF INDIA. IN FACT, THE GODDESS IS EVEN MORE POPULAR THAN SHIVA AND VISHNU. ALL THE MANIFESTATIONS, AVATARS OR APPEARANCES OF THE MANY FORMS OF DEVI BELONG TO THE PANTHEON OF THE SHAKTI CULT

Peethas. The idea is to take the energy of the Supreme Goddess while receiving her blessings. The religious rites have three distinct classifications: *Nitya*, which is daily, normally done at home; *Naimittika*, which are important days of the deity, and particular festivals (some special to the *ishta deva* at home or to the presiding deity of the temple); and finally *Kamyas*, which are optional, but a highly desired teertha being one of them.

The ritual of prayer to Shakti is also vested in the *panchbhootas*, where the five *gnanaindriyas*, or senses, are included in the aspect of puja:

Panchbhoota	Jnanndriya	Sense	Puja
Akash	Space	Ear	Hear
Vayu	Air	Skin	Touch
Agni	Fire	Eye	Vision
Jal	Water	Tongue	Taste
Bhoomi	Earth	Nose	Smell

PRASADA

Prasada is both an offering and a blessing. It is offered by the devotee when he/she begins the ritual of puja. In domestic spaces, the devotee performs the puja at an individual, intimate level, often making prasada or an offering of fruits, and a rice and milk pudding with saffron strands and sprinkled with mewa/ nuts, particularly almonds and raisins. What I have observed in the offerings by the devotees, is that for Shakti, it is a bali, or animal sacrifice, normally a lamb and sometimes even a buffalo. The very basic prasada for Shakti is meat, alcohol for Bhairava, and a sweet, normally a rice pudding. Since the Shakti Peethas have been appropriated

by the devotees of the region, naturally the prasada of the Peetha also acquires a local flavour. In Eastern India, it is primarily kichdi and kheer with poori and potato curry; in South India, it is a variation of the local rice, i.e. pulihora; in Andhra Pradesh, a jaggery laddoo; and in Western India, at the Amba temple in Banaskantha, a delicious sweet made of chickpea flour, the mohanthal, is offered along with sindoor, and makhanas, or dried lotus seeds. In this way, almost every region brings in its regional flavour and speciality as part of the prasada offered at the Shakti Peethas.

Meat as prasada is served in the temple community kitchens only on special occasions when specific sacrifices are conducted. Holding water in the palm of their hands, or *achaman*, the devotee asks for forgiveness and blessings before beginning their prayer. In the large public temples, it is the priest who becomes the conduit of devotion and reverence. He is the intermediary who while performing the ritual acts, offers food and flowers to the presiding deity of the temple. Worship in a temple begins by circumambulating the temple and the *garbhagriha* where the deity lives.

The myth of Sati and the 51 Peethas is an important myth in the worship of the Supreme Goddess. It lays down the template for all those who believe in the Absolute Power of the Mother Goddess, crossing borders from Tantra to Mantra, from *Devi Bhagwat Purana* to *Yogini Hridaya Tantra*, right down to the popular Grama Devi in a village to the Kula Devi of a Rajput clan.

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Syrian quagmire: How long and for what?

The Syrian Civil War started as a non-violent uprising in the middle of March 2011. Today it is a full-fledged war which involves several nations and world's prominent jihadi outfits such as Islamic State (ISIS), al-Qaeda and splinter groups of these two mainstream groups. However, the Baathist Syrian Arab Republic headed by President Bashar al-Assad has survived a decade in power despite military challenges from all corners of the country.

Estimates emerging from various human rights agencies and independent media reports say that by end of December last year, the death toll in the war was between 3,87,000 and 5,93,000. The UN reports that more than 5.6 million have already fled the country and over 6 million have been internally displaced so far.

Although many complex events pushed the Syrians into this war, one that stands out is the historic Arab Spring, started in the early months of 2011. This 21st century movement mainly inspired by digital platforms across North Africa through the West Asia finally triggered the uprising in Syria. But then quickly, the Arab Spring had turned into mass gathering in the form of non-violent protests against the authoritarian and family-ruled regimes in all these countries.

In Syria, in the month of March, 15 schoolchildren were arrested and tortured for writing graffiti which was rightly inspired by the Arab Spring. One of the boys was killed as well. The arrest of these schoolchildren sparked outrage across Syria. Soon after, people came out on the road and demanded the release of all the children and raised slogans for basic freedoms for all in the country. The Assad regime responded by killing many protesters and this led to the demand for his resignation by the demonstrators. Subsequently, the clashes broke out between the masses and the supporters of the Government. This gradually spiralled into the full-blown war, what the whole world is witnessing today, involving terror groups of various nations of the world. But at its heart, the conflict highlights the tragic Shia-Sunni divide among the Muslims in the entire region.

The failure of the UN-led efforts to bring the warring parties to the negotiation table last month in Geneva has once



By 2020, the Syrian civilians faced another year confronting life-threatening challenges. It is all about their survival as all of them are fighting for basic amenities such as food and medicines.

However, the last year saw the discernible decrease in violent conflicts across the country. But this does not mean that warring groups are retreating. No single rebel group is considering withdrawing from the war zones. The reason behind is that all these groups are backed by strong allies and they want to pursue the war till the fall of the Assad Government.

The Human Rights Watch notes, "With the unprecedented depreciation of national currency, the imposition of further international sanctions and crises in neighboring countries, the Syrian economy went into freefall for much of 2020. For ordinary Syrians, this translated into an inability to procure food, essential drugs, and other basic necessities. As a result, more than 9.3 million Syrians have become food insecure and over 80 per cent of Syrians live below the poverty line."

This correctly reflects the situation on the ground and insurmountable challenges faced by the millions who are caught between warring zones.

Only way to solve the imbroglio in Syria is to establish a UN-backed transitional regime and pressurise Assad to step down. A presidential election is meant to be taking place in Syria this summer. It would be a total disregard to millions of those who are suffering and a sham on global governance platforms such as the UN. The world body is not talking anything about this. And it is abandoning the Geneva peace process.

In fact, the Syria Constitutional Committee that demands a political process would be useless if the UN does not stop the upcoming presidential poll for Assad. This election would offer full immunity and legitimacy to the torturous and autocratic regime in Damascus. It's time to act. Ensure that no more civilians die. There is no need to secure peace when hardly anyone will be there to share the joy of the same. Washington should not employ the old tactics to handle the dictators in WANA.

(The writer is an expert on international affairs)

The failure of the UN-led efforts to bring the warring parties to the negotiation table last month in Geneva has once again brought war clouds over Syria. Only with the collective efforts of the US, Russia, Iran and Turkey, peace can be brought to war-torn Syria. Also it demands a new approach with a purely humanitarian concern



MAKHAN SAIKIA

again brought war clouds over this West Asian nation. The United Nations should take the lead and restart the Geneva process. So far, the UN strategies have broadly failed for Syria. If it moves in the same direction, can it be so that the organisation is complicit in the crimes committed by the Assad regime?

Now, what America is doing to bring peace to Syria is that it is back again. The latest American strike in Syria has signalled President Joe Biden's new war game in West Asia.

The so-called messenger of peace and reunion of America badly divided by former President Donald Trump, Biden is now targeting Iran-backed militias in Syria. His administration is justifying the attack as the missile sallies are directed towards rebels that are propping up the Assad regime. The US Air Forces dropped 500-hundred-pound joint direct attack munitions at a crossing used by Iranian backed groups reportedly

killing 17. The particular groups hit by the limited US strike are Kataib Hezbollah and Kataib Syiaid al-Shuhada. Meanwhile, Dennis Ross, a former Senior US official and West Asian expert, says the attack was designed to show that there would be a military response if US forces were targeted, or the militias continued to strike. The Assad administration was quick to remind Biden that the American attacks were a cowardly act and urged Biden not to follow the law of the jungle.

The country's Foreign Ministry condemned the attack on areas in Deir al-Zor, near the Syrian-Iraqi border. The statement released by the Ministry highlighted that Biden Administration is supposed to stick to international legitimacy, not to the law of the jungle as did by the previous administration.

It's really ironic that Biden and Harris, the duo is repeating what once Trump simply did. When Trump ordered a

strike on Iran in 2019, Biden sharply reacted and tried to offer a sermon to him: "Trump's erratic, impulsive actions are the last things we need as Commander-in-Chief. No President should order a military strike without fully understanding the consequences. We do not need another war in the Middle East, but Trump's actions toward Iran only make that likely."

And what Biden is doing now? He knows very well how an American President responds to the crisis zones in the "Middle East". Precisely, nothing has changed in Washington, except the man giving orders. What Obama did, Trump followed and now Biden is taking it forward. America clearly has no strategy for the West Asia and North African (WANA) region. Its policy towards the region is outdated and dangerous. It's meddling carelessly with Iraq, Iran and Syria. Washington has no coherent policy to deal

with Tehran, Damascus and Baghdad. So obviously, finding out a solution for the Syrian war demands a new approach with a purely humanitarian concern.

Only with the collective efforts of the US, Russia, Iran and Turkey, peace can be brought to war-torn Syria. Biden's engagement with Putin, Erdogan, Rouhani and Kadhim (Iraq) would matter the most in bringing a permanent solution to the chaos in Syria. That is why the stability in West Asia demands more than a deal with Iran from Washington. The experts and policy practitioners opine that regional issues in this part of Asia could no way be comprehensively addressed.

They all agree that Iran would no way concede its sustained support for regional proxies and halt its ballistic missile programme in the near future. It is widely felt that isolating Iran was purely counterproductive. So to address, Tehran's troublesome behav-

iour in the region, it is better to handle each regional conflict through separate and parallel platforms at the same time.

Why is Moscow equally concerned about the chaos in Syria? It is not only to save the embattled Assad regime, an old ally of Russia, but also to stave off the growth of the Islamic terror in Russia. Hence, the Syrian conflict is not just a far-away battle for Putin regime. The life-time monarch is longing for stability at any cost. He knows fully well that the jihadists may get enough ground for their subversive models in his vast country. Of course, this might alter Putin's long-term strategies to keep the opposition and western pressure at bay. His regime is not best equipped to counter the ISIS, the way it is raging its ugly head in the WANA region. Russia's relationship with Syria dates back to 1950s and the Cold War. In those days, the USSR used to train the top brass of the Syrian military. What lies ahead in Syria?

PERSPECTIVE

India's collective responsibility to eradicate TB

While the prioritisation of TB at the national level has been commendable, States must sustain this momentum by effectively implementing the policies and ensuring optimum fund allocation and utilisation. It is only with the collective approach we will be able to rid the country of this deadly disease



DIGAMBAR BEHERA

The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the value of awareness on infectious diseases. Tuberculosis (TB) is an infectious disease that needs our attention as much as the SARS-CoV2 because it affects over 26.4 lakh Indians each year. An estimated 4.45 lakh Indians lose the battle to this ancient disease that is both preventable and curable.

It has therefore been extremely encouraging to see the heightened commitment towards TB elimination from the highest levels of Government leadership. Since the announcement by the Prime Minister to eliminate TB by 2025, five years ahead of the UN Sustainable Development Goal target, at the End TB Summit in New Delhi in 2018, comprehensive plans have been developed to achieve this goal.

The launch of the National Strategic Plan (NSP) for TB Elimination introduced pivotal interventions, including a four-fold increase in funding, launch of private sector engagement to improve access to care as well as initiation of social support schemes to support patients in completing their treatment. However, there is still more to be done.

While the prioritisation of TB at the national level has been commendable, States must sustain this momentum by effectively implementing



the policies and NSP interventions and ensuring optimum fund allocation and utilisation.

The funding of the NTEP is divided on a 60:40 ratio, where 60 per cent of the total funding is provided by the Central Government, and State Governments are expected to fund the remaining 40 per

cent. However, in addition to fund allocation, fund utilisation and efficient implementation of the programme at the State level remains a challenge.

The Central TB Division has developed a State TB Index that highlights the performance of States based on targets achieved, funds utilised, among others towards achieving the

goal of TB elimination. While some States have made significant progress towards these goals, with Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Kerala (among the large States) performing well on all indicators, including fund utilisation, many large States such as Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, and West Bengal still reflect poor fund

utilisation and thus have challenges in the implementation of the programme. Another critical challenge at the State level remains the paucity of human resources — with vacancies in critical positions required to be filled.

The other challenge that the programme faces is the lack of awareness about the disease

that negatively impacts health seeking behaviour. In the past year, the pandemic has brought about a positive change in people and their appetite for information on health, thereby giving us an opportunity on this positive behaviour to generate awareness about TB.

The launch of the TB Harega Desh Jeetega campaign in 2014, with the country's biggest movie star Amitabh Bachchan as the face of the campaign, was a game changer at the national level. However, there is a need to amplify the campaign at all levels, including States, districts, blocks and villages, to improve access to information and generate the demand for TB care.

Along with improving communications for awareness generation, it is also critical for the programme to directly engage with the community at all levels. Not only do community champions aid in generating awareness to destigmatise the disease, but their voices also serve as an important feedback mechanism for the programme.

Under the NSP, the National TB Elimination Programme established TB forums at the State and district levels to bring to the fore community voices, patient perspectives and understand ground-level challenges faced by patients in accessing care.

Continued and effective functioning of these forums will provide the programme with independent monitors who can help in highlighting localised gaps that need to be addressed. At the district levels, elected representatives can also serve as independent monitors of the programme providing oversight and aid in addressing localised challenges to ensure effective implementation.

The call for a Jan Andolan by Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan is timely and aims to engage 1.3 billion people of this country to take ownership of the programme and ensure we achieve the target of a TB free India. It is crucial for the programme to take cue from this call to action and reflect the targets and initiatives through direct and relatable messaging which will generate awareness among the people on where to seek treatments, what incentives they are entitled to, and thereby improve health seeking behaviours. It is only with the collective approach we will be able to rid the country of this deadly disease.

(The author is chairman, National Taskforce, National TB Elimination Programme, and Professor and former HoD, Department of Pulmonary Medicine, PGIMER, Chandigarh)

