

OPINION 6
RECIPE FOR
DISASTER

WORLD 8
HONG KONG POLICE ARREST
8 OVER UNIVERSITY PROTEST

SPORT 12
LIVERPOOL BEAT WOLVES
IN PREMIER LEAGUE

DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

*Late City Vol. 16 Issue 328
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EXCITED FOR
SHAKEELA'S
RELEASE: PANKAJ
11 VIVACITY



Ensure Bharat Bandh is peaceful: MHA to States

States told to maintain social distancing; CAIT, All India Transporters body say markets to remain open, transport service intact across nation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of Tuesday's Bharat Bandh call given by farmers unions and supported by 22 political parties, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has asked all States and Union Territories to tighten security while assuring that peace and tranquillity must be maintained. While the Centre is firm on its stance on the reform laws, farmers want them rolled back as they fear they will be at the mercy of corporates to sell their produce. In a countrywide advisory, the MHA also said the State Governments and UT administrations must ensure that the Covid-19 guidelines issued with regard to health and social distancing are strictly followed. The States and UTs were told that peace and tranquillity must be maintained during the Bharat Bandh and precautionary measures taken so that no untoward incident takes place anywhere in the country. The Centre's attempts to resolve the farmers' agitation through dialogue is making lit-

tle headway with a few of the farmer unions remaining adamant on their demand to repeal the new agriculture laws. The Bharat Bandh, called by the farmers' unions who have been protesting against the three farm laws, got support from trade unions, transporters, bank unions and political parties including the Congress, NCP, DMK, SP, TRS and Left. In a statement of support for the strike on Sunday, the Opposition parties said, "These new farm laws passed in Parliament in a brazen (and) anti-democratic manner (by) preventing a structured discussion and voting, threaten India's food security, destroy Indian agriculture and our farmers, lay the basis for the abolishment of MSP and mortgage Indian agriculture and our markets to the caprices of multi-national agri-business corporates." Meanwhile, traders' body CAIT and the All India Transporters Welfare Association on Monday said markets across the country



Farmers shout slogans during their Delhi Chalo protest march against the new farm laws at Singhu border in Delhi on Monday. Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

including in Delhi will remain open on Tuesday and transport services will also remain operative, notwithstanding the Bharat Bandh call given by protesting farmers. In Mumbai, BEST buses, taxis, auto will continue to ply on the road on Tuesday. Ahead of Bharat Bandh call on Tuesday, the Gujarat Government imposed Section 144 of CrPC in the State. The police would not allow any outfit or any group to forcefully impose bandh in the State. UP

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath accused that some political parties are trying to spoil the atmosphere in the country, "especially the present stand taken by them on model APMC Act shows their double standards". Attacking the Opposition parts at a hurriedly convened Press conference at his official residence in Lucknow he said that the parties which have backed the Bharat Bandh call on Tuesday "should apologise before the nation". After five rounds of talks between the Centre and the farmers' unions failed to end the impasse, the two sides are again set to meet on December 9, a day after the countrywide strike. Talks between the Government and protesting farmers remained inconclusive on Saturday even after five rounds of discussions as union leaders stuck to their demand for the repeal of the new farm laws and went on a "maun vrat" seeking a clear "yes or no" reply, forcing the Centre to call for another meeting on December 9 to resolve the deadlock.

BJP hits out at 'double-faced' Opp for fueling farmers' fears

Ravishankar reminds Rahul of saying 'farmers can sell directly in the Congress-ruled States'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the Modi Government embraced up to deal with the Bharat Bandh call on Tuesday, the BJP has slammed the Opposition parties for fanning the farmer's stir by stoking their fear. Senior BJP leader and Union Law Minister Ravishankar Prasad on Monday described the Opposition parties as "double-faced" and called its stand "utter political opportunism". Prasad said a majority of Opposition parties, including the Congress, the NCP and the Samajwadi Party (SP) — now backing the farmers — had in the past approved the marketing reforms in the agriculture sector.

Referring to what he said "sudden" support of non-BJP parties to the farmers stir as "shudh rajnaitic swarth ki rajniti", Prasad said these are "double-standards" adopted by the Opposition to save their declining political base. The BJP leader skirted questions on the ongoing talks between the farmers and the Government (with the next round scheduled on December 9) but stressed that new laws which "set free restrictions" were good of the farming community. The Minister said under new farm laws the farmland "will not be sold, leased or mortgaged." Giving the latest figures of "higher procurement and payment on MSP", he said, "we have no intention to end the mandi system" in the country. Prasad quoted 2019 Congress manifesto (page 17, part 2) saying that the party "will repeal APMC Act and make the trade, including export-import, free from restrictions". In the same vein, the Union Minister pointed out that the Hindi manifesto of the Congress spoke about "amendments!". He quoted Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's statement in CMs' conference in 2013 that "farmers can sell directly in the Congress-ruled States" and that the farmers will be "given free choice". Prasad said NCP leader Sharad Pawar, "now opposing farm reforms" had as Union Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Minister written to a letter on August 11, 2010, to all CMs that "agriculture needs huge investments and private sector investment is essential and so a change in the mandi system". The BJP leader further said that in an interview in 2005, Pawar had said that six-month time was maximum that was needed to abolish APMC Act.



Healthcare professionals at a Medical Services Centre at the Singhu border for free treatment of the protesting farmers suffering from any ailment. Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

Emergency services to be allowed, bandh won't be forced on anyone: Farmers

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Protesting against the three recently enacted agriculture-related laws by the Centre, farmers, who have been camping in Delhi for the last many days vehemently demanding scrapping of the Bills, said on Monday that emergency services will be allowed during Bharat Bandh on December 8. Also, they appealed to their affiliates to not force anyone to observe the shutdown. Farmers sitting across the borders in the national Capital have called Bharat bandh and Chakka Jam on December 8 and threatened to intensify their agitation and block more roads leading to the national Capital if the Government does not accept their demands.

Addressing a Press conference on Monday, the farmers' unions appealed to farmers to maintain peace and not to enter into any scuffle to enforce the bandh. "Bandh will be across the country and the Central Government will have to accept our demands to scrap the new farm laws," said Jagjit Singh Dallewala, the president of Bhartiya Kisan Ekta Sangathan. "Why the Government was agreeing to make changes in the legislations now after initially claiming they will benefit the peasantry. We want the Government to reinstate the old farm laws even if the Government thinks it is not good for farmers," said Darshan Pal, farmer union leader.

Transport, essential supplies likely to be affected in Delhi. State Govt offices closed today

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha Government on Monday announced closure of its offices on Tuesday in view of the Bharat Bandh call given by farmers. In a statement, the Government said transport and vehicular movements are expected to be affected by the bandh. Besides, the strike is likely to affect the measures being taken to prevent spread of Covid. Keeping this in mind, the Government decided to shut its offices, the statement said. However, the essential services provided by the Government would remain functional, it added.

CM refers Panigrahi case to Lokayukta

MLA's bail plea rejected by court again

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

In a major development in the corruption allegation against former Minister and expelled Gopalpur BJD MLA Pradeep Panigrahi, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Monday referred the case to the Odisha Lokayukta for investigation. It is pertinent to mention here that this is the first case of corruption allegation that has been referred to the Lokayukta by the State Government after its formation. "The Government led by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik is known for its strong action against corruption and com-



mitted to provide a transparent administration to the people of the state," said a statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office (CMO). Meanwhile, on Monday, the Additional District and Sessions Court-3 here rejected arrested Panigrahi's bail plea. Earlier, the MLAs bail applica-



tion had been rejected by the Bhubaneswar SDJM Court. Panigrahi has been remanded to judicial custody for 14 days at the Jharpada jail in Bhubaneswar. He was arrested on December 3 by the Crime Branch in connection with a case registered at the Cyber police station.

PARI MURDER BJD steps up demand for CBI probe, Min's ouster

Opp politicising issue, says BJD

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Intensifying its stir on the five-year-old girl Pari issue, the BJD staged a dharna before the Raj Bhavan here on Monday. Alleging slow investigation into the Nayagarh girl's murder and protesting against Minister Arun Sahoo in his post even after his alleged link with the suspected accused came to light, BJD members led by State president Samir Mohanty, general secretary Lekhashri SamantSinghar and many other party leaders joined the demonstration. They demanded a CBI probe into Pari's murder immediate resig-

nation of Sahoo. "Minister Arun Sahoo has threatened the local Sarpanch not to raise the issue. The parents of Pari have also named the accused as Babuli Nayak, who has close links with Sahoo. Therefore, we demand resignation of the Minister," said Mohanty. "We also demand a CBI probe into the incident. Our agitation has entered the fourth day in Nayagarh. We will continue it for an indefinite period if our demands are not fulfilled," added Mohanty. Later, a delegation led by BJD State Mahila Morcha president Smriti Patnaik met Governor Ganeshi Lal and



hand over a memorandum to him seeking his intervention in the Pari case. However, the BJD accused the BJP of politicising the Pari issue. "An SIT probe under the leadership of senior IPS officer Arun Bothra has been initiated. Everybody knows Bothra is a sincere officer. He has asked for 15 days for the investigation. I don't understand why the BJP is in so much of a hurry," said BJD vice-president Debi Prasad Mishra.

Bharat Biotech, Serum Institute seek emergency use nod

New Delhi: After US-based drug maker Pfizer applied for the approval of its coronavirus vaccine in India, the Serum Institute of India (SII) and Bharat Biotech too have sought from the Central Drugs Standards Control Organisation emergency use authorisation for their Covid-19 vaccines. Bharat Biotech's Covaxin is being indigenously developed by the Hyderabad-based company in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). While SII's Covid-19 vaccine is developed by AstraZeneca-Oxford University, Sources in the Government said that the top drug regulator, DCGI, has started reviewing their applications on granting of authorisation, which will be made on the basis of three parameters — safety, quality and efficacy. "As promised, before the end of 2020, @SerumInstIndia has applied for emergency use authorisation for the first made-in-India vaccine, COVISHIELD," tweeted SII CEO Adar Poonawala on Monday. PNS

Cong MLA threatens libel case against Sambit



CUTTACK: Barabati-Cuttack Congress MLA Md Moquim on Monday served a legal notice to BJP national spokesman Sambit Patra and threatened to prosecute him for criminal defamation if he doesn't tender a public apology immediately for tarnishing the legislator's image. Through Supreme Court advocate Shashwat Singh, the MLA served the notice, in which



Patra was advised to desist from further defaming the MLA's reputation. "I put you (Patra) on notice for the defamatory imputation made against my client, who is gravely and adversely affected by the same, both personally and in public," the notice said asking Patra to take back his accusations and tender an unconditional apology. Continued on P 2

No control over pvt school fee structures: Govt to HC

CUTTACK: The State Govt on Monday submitted an affidavit in the Orissa High Court almost reiterating its earlier stand that it has no control over the fee structure policies of private schools. The Government's response came after the High Court on November 23 had directed it to submit its opinion by filing an affidavit on the school fee amounts as have

been relaxed by its Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan counterparts. The court will hear the matter next on December 10. Earlier, a joint committee of the State School and Mass Education Department officials and parents had submitted a report in the court recommending reduction of school fee in seven different slabs. Continued on P 2

State records 368 new +ve; total 3,21,564

BHUBANESWAR: The State registered 368 new Covid-19 cases in 26 districts and State pool on Monday, pushing its total positives' tally to 3,21,564. Khordha district reported the day's highest 49 cases followed by Sundargarh 45, Angul 30, Cuttack 26, Mayurbhanj 24, Keonjhar 22, Bhadrak and Bargarh 19 each, Balangir and Puri 18 each, Baleswar 16, Sambalpur 11, Jagatsinghpur

eight, Kalahandi, Jajpur, Ganjam and Jharsuguda six each, Nayagarh. Nuapada and Kendrapada 5 each, Koraput and Dhenkanal 4 each, Kandhamal and Rayagada 2 each and Deogarh and Malkangiri one each. Besides, 10 cases were reported from the State pool. Gajapati, Boudh, Subarnapur and Nabarangpur recorded no new cases. Continued on P 2

28 new Covid cases in BBS

BHUBANESWAR: Capital city Bhubaneswar on Monday registered 28 more Covid-19 positive cases, pushing its total positives' tally to 30,954, including 349 active cases. Of the new cases, 16 were local contacts and 12 quarantine cases.

TOTAL REACHES 30,954

However, 45 persons recovered from the disease on the day, taking the city's total recoveries to 30,159.

'No need to change CRPF khaki uniform'



PNS ■ NEW DELHI
The Confederation of Ex Paramilitary Force Welfare Association has opposed the proposed change in Khaki uniform of the CRPF and demanded that Military Service Pay be accorded besides pension restoration for the paramilitary personnel.
General Secretary of the Confederation Ranbir Singh asserted that the combat dress of the jawans is already there for those deployed in the Naxal-hit States, Jammu and Kashmir, the Northeast and the men even use such uniform in the national Capital. Even the CRPF DG is often seen in com-

Don't panic if you have Covid like symptoms: Study

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

In case you are suffering from a single or all of Covid-19 symptoms as specified by the Government, don't panic. For, you might not be infected with virus despite showing Covid-19 symptoms—fever, general weakness, cough, sore throat, breathlessness, headache and loss of smell and taste—as a team of doctors from Safdarjung Hospital & VMMC in Delhi has found after conducting a study on such patients.



associated with RT PCR positive patients.

They, however, said that those who are old aged, having work profile like health care workers and having history of contact with positive patients were more likely to be infected with the virulent virus.
In their study, the health experts observed that there is no significant difference in symptoms of Covid-19 positive patients when compared with those who reported negative results after RT PCR test was conducted on them.
"Our study has revealed that Covid-19 symptoms do not indicate that the person is suffering with the disease. Its only after the RTPCR test, that one can conclude about the disease," said lead author of the study, Dr Jugal Kishore, Director Professor and Head, Department of Community Medicine, VMMC and Safdarjung Hospital.
He, however, said that only at an older age, work profile like health care workers and history of contact with positive patients were significantly more

Disease (COPD) and 2 controls had malignancies.
"On analysing various underlying medical conditions against controls and cases, it was found that there was a significant difference among cases and controls who had Diabetes and Hypertension. Around 43 per cent of the patients who visited the hospital for getting tested had a history of contact with a COVID-19 case or suspect. Among the cases, 35.9 per cent of the patients reported to have a contact, and among the controls, around 50.5 per cent reported to have a contact with Covid-19 positive cases."
The others who were involved in the study were Aakanksha Bharti (senior resident), Heena (Statistical assistant), Geeta Yadav, Professor, all from Department of Community Medicine, Nitesh Gupta, (Assistant Professor) Department of Pulmonary, Critical Care & Sleep Medicine, and Ramesh Meena, (Assistant Professor), Department of Medicine, all from VMMC & Safdarjung Hospital in Delhi.

Export Promotion Council to be set up for AYUSH products

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Cashing in on the growing global interest in AYUSH-based solutions for disease resistance and treatment during the difficult times of the Covid pandemic, the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Ministry of AYUSH have decided to set up an Export Promotion Council to boost AYUSH exports.
A decision in this regard was taken recently in a joint review of AYUSH trade and Industry held online by Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Shripad Naik, Minister of AYUSH.
"It was also decided in the review that the entire AYUSH sector will work together to achieve price and quality competitiveness to boost AYUSH exports," said an official from the Ayush Ministry.
Highlighting the growing global interest in AYUSH-based solutions for disease resistance and treatment during the difficult times of the Covid -19 pandemic, Naik said that trade and commerce in the alternate traditional medicine sector needed to upscale quickly in order to meet the growing demands from India and abroad, and to serve the larger number of people who are now looking up to these systems for main-

taining their health.
He shared with the participants that the AYUSH immunity protocols and the National Clinical Management Protocol for Covid 19 for Ayurveda and Yoga were timely interventions which provided relief to large sections of the population.
"The emerging evidence of a correlation between the low Covid -19 mortality rates and large-scale adoption of AYUSH prophylactic solutions by the population is significant for the public health practice in the country," he added.
Goyal, while praising the frontline role played by the AYUSH Sector in the fight against Covid -19 said that the protection offered by the AYUSH systems to the common people during the pandemic time neutralised the skepticism that many people had about the efficacy of the medicines and products offered by these systems.
"The spurt in exports of AYUSH products in the recent months is a direct reflection of their growing popularity in many countries. The standardisation of the HS codes related to export will be considered on priority as a step to promote exports," he said while batting for the need of setting up the AYUSH Export Promotion Council.

61% people know one or more people who have succumbed to Covid infection, finds survey

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With Covid 19 death tally in India crossing 1.41 lakh so far, a new survey found that 61 per cent people know of one or more people who have succumbed to the infection. Similarly, 44 per cent people know of one or more individuals who are likely to have died due to coronavirus but their deaths were not labelled as Covid deaths.
The survey was conducted via LocalCircles platform, a community social media platform. The survey also found that only 26 per cent of respondents said no one known to them or in their social network - family, extended family, friends, colleagues, neighbours, business associates, etc. - has died due to COVID-19 in the last eight months.
The first question in the survey asked citizens, "How many in your own social network (family, extended family, friends, colleagues, neighbours, business associates, etc.) have lost their life due to COVID-19 in the last 8 months?"
According to the survey, responses from 9,524 citizens were received. Notably, 61 per cent of the respondents have 1 or more individuals in their

social network who died of COVID-19. Further 26 per cent voted, "No one lost their life and thankfully all recovered".
More than 16,000 responses were received from citizens across 208 districts of India. Of them, 69 per cent respondents were men while 31 per cent respondents were women. According to LocalCircles, 51 per cent respondents were from tier 1, 24 per cent from tier 2 and 25 per cent were from tier 3, 4 and rural districts.
To gauge the extent of such cases, the survey asked people, "How many individuals in your own social network lost their life in the last 8 months, which was not declared COVID-19 deaths but it was likely related to COVID or accelerated by COVID?"
Responses from 6,392 citizens were received. Per the result, 44 per cent people now have one or more individuals in their social network who likely lost their life due to COVID-19 but were not declared as COVID-19 deaths. This assumes a lot of significance if the numbers are extrapolated. Now the seventh-most-affected country by active cases, third by fatalities, and second by total cases, India has added 2,45,512 cases in the past seven days.

Good news for air travellers: IndiGo pays out 90% refunds

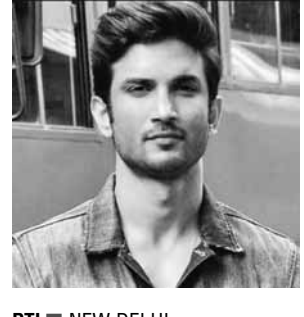


PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Monday said that it has already paid out 90 per cent refunds amounting to approximately ₹1,000 crore. According to IndiGo, the airline will disburse customer credit shells and refunds by January 31, 2021.
IndiGo chief executive officer Ronjoy Dutta said the

sudden outbreak of COVID-19 and the resulting lockdown brought the airline's operations to a complete halt by the end of March. "As our incoming cash flow dried up, we were unable to immediately process refunds for cancelled flights and had to create credit shells for the refunds that were due to our customers," he noted.
However, with the resumption of operations and a steady increase in demand for air travel, the airline's priority has been to refund the credit shell amounts in an expedited manner, Dutta said.
"We are pleased to commit that we will disburse the full 100 per cent credit shell payments latest by January 31, 2021," he said.
India resumed scheduled domestic passenger flights on May 25 after a gap of two months due to the coronavirus lockdown. Scheduled international passenger flights continue to remain suspended in the country since March 23 due to the pandemic.
However, airlines have been permitted to operate special international flights under the Vande Bharat Mission since May and under the bilateral air bubble pacts since July.

PIL in SC for CBI status report in SSR death case



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A PIL was filed in the Supreme Court on Monday seeking direction to the CBI to submit a status report in Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput death case.
The plea, filed by advocate Puneet Dhandha, said the apex court passed an order for the CBI enquiry on August 19 and despite lapse of almost four months the probe agency is yet to conclude its investigation.
"The CBI is not acting responsible in the present case and there is a delay in the conclusion of the investigation of the case," it said.



"Even in serious offences like murder, the law stipulates filing of charge sheet in 90 days but in the present case the premium investigating agency has failed miserably in their role and the unnecessary delay in the present case is bringing bad name to the administration of justice not only in our country but across the globe," the plea said.
It sought direction to the CBI to complete its probe within two months and submit a final report in the concerned court.
It said Rajput was found dead in mysterious circumstances and the probe was initially conducted by Mumbai Police.
"On dissatisfaction being shown by the family of the late actor this Court directed the Central Bureau of Investigation to conduct an enquiry in the mysterious death of late actor Sushant Singh Rajput," the plea said.
The PIL said that a fair, competent, impartial and speedy investigation is the need of the hour.

Centre rushes med experts to Eluru after children hospitalised with unknown illness

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has rushed a three-member team of medical experts to Eluru in Andhra Pradesh after Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu spoke on Monday to Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan after many children were hospitalised with an undiagnosed illness in the past few days, the VP's Secretariat said.
The three-member team of medical experts to Eluru includes Dr Jamshed Nayyar, Associate Professor (Emergency Medicine) from AIIMS, Dr Avinash Deosthwar, Virologist, NIV PUNE and Dr Sanket Kulkarni, Dy Director, PH Expert from NDCD, Delhi.
The unknown disease has claimed one life and affected around 350 people so far. A majority of the victims are in the 20-30 age group. Around 45 children below the age of 12 years have been admitted. According to the district commissioner's report, the sickness is not contagious. People from areas where Eluru municipal water distribution is not available also fell sick. Even those who drink only mineral water daily also fell sick, the DC said in its report.
The Andhra Pradesh health officials are trying hard to ascertain the cause of the mysterious illness, said a statement from the Government.

Defamatory remark against Khwaja Moinuddin Chisti: SC refuses to quash FIRs against Amish Devgan

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to quash FIRs against News 18 TV anchor Amish Devgan for his alleged defamatory remark against Sufi saint Khwaja Moinuddin Chisti during a show on June 15 but said he will get protection from any coercive action if he continues to cooperate with the probe.
A bench of Justices A M Khanwilkar and Sanjiv Khanna also transferred all FIRs filed against Amish Devgan in different states, including Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, and Telangana, to Ajmer in Rajasthan.
The top court had earlier granted Amish Devgan protection from any coercive action in connection with the FIRs.
Several FIRs were lodged against Amish Devgan for using a derogatory term for the Sufi saint in the news debate show called "Aar Paar" on his channel on June 15. Amish Devgan later tweeted an apology saying he was actually referring to Muslim ruler Alauddin Khilji and inadvertently ended up naming Chisti.
Amish Devgan through his lawyer Mrinal Bharti had moved the top court seeking quashing of the FIRs saying it was a slip of the tongue and he had already expressed regret for the "inadvertent" error.
He had told the top court that "none of the FIRs said that public order was being disturbed".
Senior advocate Manish Singhvi, appearing for Rajasthan, had opposed Amish Devgan's plea for quashing of the FIRs saying the investigation is the right of the police.
The top court, while granting interim relief to Amish Devgan, had also stayed the probe in the cases related to the telecast against the journalist. The journalist has said the plea concerned his life and liberty.

SC to hear next week plea of 94-yr-old woman seeking to declare 1975 Emergency as unconstitutional

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Monday said it would hear next week a plea filed by a 94-year-old woman seeking to declare as "wholly unconstitutional" the proclamation of emergency in 1975.
The plea, which has also sought compensation of Rs 25 crores from the authorities who had actively participated in the "unconstitutional acts", came up for hearing before a bench headed by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul.
The bench, also comprising Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and Hrishikesh Roy, posted the matter for hearing on December 14.
The petitioner, Veera Sarin, has claimed in her plea that she and her husband were "victims of the atrocities inflicted by the then government authorities and others" during the period of emergency which was proclaimed minutes before the midnight of June 25, 1975.
The proclamation was revoked in March 1977.
"The petitioner, in a genuine desire to bring about an end to the undemocratic nightmare, infamously known

as 'the emergency' seeks a peaceful closure, that can be brought only by an acknowledgment and declaration by the highest court of justice of the country in which citizens repose the highest level of confidence and faith, that the said incident was unconstitutional," the plea said.
Sarin said that she and her husband, who had a flourishing business of Gold Arts in Delhi at that time, were compelled to leave the country during emergency for fear of being thrown into jail for no justifiable reason, on the "whims and wishes of government authority in a state where civil rights and liberties stood curbed".
The plea said later the petitioner's husband died and she had to face the legal proceedings initiated against him during the emergency.
"The ordeals of the emergency and destruction caused during the said period are being suffered till date by the petitioner. The petitioner and her family were made to run from pillar to post for the past 35 years to vindicate their rights and restore their properties," the plea said.
The petition said that during that time, the peti-

The plea said later the petitioner's husband died and she had to face the legal proceedings initiated against him during the emergency

tioner was "shunned by her relatives and friends" because of the illegal proceedings initiated against her husband and now she is seeking "closure to the trauma of her lifetime, which still resonates in her mind".
It alleged that even now, the movable properties including jewellery, artefacts, paintings, sculptures and other valuables have not been restituted to her family and she is entitled to be compensated for the acts done by the concerned authorities.
The plea referred to a December 2014 order passed by the Delhi High Court which had held that proceedings initiated under one of the legislations against the petitioner's husband were bereft of any jurisdiction.

Notice Inviting e-Tender
No. SSA/Esst/EPB-VIII/360/2020/3220 Date :05.12.2020
Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam (Samagra Shiksha) invites tender through e-Tendering process from reputed exercise book manufacturers for the supply of Evaluation and Practice Books for class -VII (Single Line and Plain).
To participate in this tender process through e-procurement document, bidder should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and have to register in the portal <https://assamtenders.gov.in> by themselves.
The Bidder who have downloaded the tender schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website <https://assamtenders.gov.in>, with proof of payment of non refundable tender fee of Rs. 5000/- (Rupees five thousand) only in the form of demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam, from any nationalized/scheduled Bank and payable at Guwahati. The tender should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule.

Sd/-Executive Director,
SSA, Assam
Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

Janasanyog No. CF/3085/20

सार्वजनिक सूचना
"मै ० गौड़सप्त रियलटैक प्रा० लि० व्किगत कारणां से उ० प्र० रेरा में पंजीकृत परियोजना 4th Parkview - Gaur Yamuna City (संख्या UPRERAPRJ538911) को सरेखर / कैन्सिलेशन / निस्तीकरण करा रही है किसी व्यक्ति / संस्था आदि द्वारा इस परियोजना में यदि कोई बुकिंग कारावी गई हो तो कृपया अपना क्लेम / दावा प्रस्तुत करें। उक्त क्लेम / दावा को विवरण सहित 15 दिनों के अन्दर उ० प्र० रेरा की ईमेल आईडी contactuprera@up-rera.in पर भी भेजा जाए तथा क्लेम/ दावा विवरण को सचिव, उ० प्र० रेरा मुख्यालय, नवीन भवन, राज्य विद्योन्न संस्थान, कालाकांकर हाउस, पुराना हैदराबाद, लखनऊ- 226007 को प्रेषित किया जाए।"

अधिकृत हस्ताक्षरी
मै० गौड़सप्त रियलटैक प्रा० लि०

FARM LAWS

Modi should roll back black farm laws: Gehlot

IAANS ■ JAIPUR
Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Monday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to listen to the leaders of farmers unions and resolve the impasse by rolling back the "black" farm laws.

It is most worrying to see that our farmers are spending nights in cold weather on roads, while the government continues to ignore their genuine demands. PM Modi must intervene directly, listen to leaders of farmer unions and resolve the impasse," the senior Congress leader said.

Akhilesh courts arrest, says can't muzzle farmers' voice

Lucknow: Samajwadi Party President Akhilesh Yadav was put under undeclared house arrest on Monday morning and by afternoon he was arrested and taken away by Uttar Pradesh Police.

Narendra Modi," he told reporters. Minutes later, he was taken into custody by the police and taken to an undisclosed destination.

Kerala to approach SC against it

Thiruvananthapuram: Toeing the line of Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, who as soon as parliament passed the controversial Farm Bills announced mulling legal steps, Agriculture Minister V. S. Sunil Kumar on Monday said the Kerala government is all set to approach the apex court against the laws.

Facilitation) Bill, 2020 and the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020 -- were passed by both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. The state Advocate General is now busy preparing to file a petition before the apex court this week.

Mamata asks BJP Govt to repeal laws or resign

PNS ■ KOLKATA
Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday slammed the BJP, CPI(M) and the Congress for teaming up to bring down her Trinamool Congress Government.

will not let you give rise to riots here," she said. Stopping short of asking Prime Minister Narendra Modi to resign his post the Chief Minister said the BJP Government was tormenting the people from all sides and all walks of life adding the farm laws were the last in the line of its oppressive legislation.

Nadigram and her 26-day hunger strike Banerjee said, "I have not forgotten Singur, I have not forgotten Nandigram. I have full support to farmers," adding she had full support for the farmers "causes."

of her party who were in touch with the BJP she said BJP was a "big identity card" showing which it was "breaking other parties." There were people who were black-mailing her ahead of the elections but she would never succumb to such blackmailing, she said in an apparent reference to recent alienation of powerful party satrap Suvendu Adhikari.

NCP slams BJP for misquoting Pawar's letter on APMC reforms

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI
The NCP on Monday hit out at the BJP for "misquoting & spreading fake information" about Shri Sharad Pawar Saheb on letter by its party chief and then Union Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar to then Delhi chief minister Sheila Dikshit and Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan on the need to amend the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Act to encourage private sector to provide alternative marketing channels.

the enacted legislation. In a statement issued here, NCP's chief spokesperson Mahesh Tapase said: "The model APMC act 2003 was introduced by the Vajpayee Govt.

country are benefiting from the implementation of the said act which was fine tuned by Shri Sharad Pawar Saheb to protect the interest of the farmers of the country," the NCP spokesperson said.

50.08% voter turnout in Phase-IV of J&K DDC Polls

Jammu: The fourth phase of District Development Council elections has been conducted successfully in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir registering 50.08 per cent voter turnout, state election commissioner KK Sharma said on Monday.

BJP man killed as workers clash with cops in Siliguri

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA
A BJP supporter was killed and many others were injured on Monday when the saffron workers clashed with the police during a rally at Bengal's northern city of Siliguri.

TMC goons who hurled country bombs from hidden places... The CPI(M) did this in Nandigram and other places before being thrown away by the people.

Two minor girls who crossed LoC repatriated to POK

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU
Two minor girls hailing from Pakistan occupied Kashmir, who had inadvertently crossed LoC and sneaked inside the Indian territory on Sunday, were repatriated at Chakan-da-bagh in Poonch on Monday.

Forward Kahuta who had inadvertently crossed into Indian side in Poonch in the morning hours of 06 Dec 20 have been repatriated from Chakan Da Bagh crossing point on Monday." Before returning home Laiba Zubair in a video message said, "after Indian army jawans spotted them crossing the LoC they escorted them to safety and treated them well. They offered us food, warm clothes and comfortably accommodated us. We are thankful to them and appreciate their conduct."

Laiba Zubair claimed, "her mother and elder brother identified as Hamza were forcing her to marry another local boy, Babar, against her wishes. Babar was receiving training before getting recruited in the Pak army. Babar's family had given an assurance to Hamza that he too would be inducted in the army only after his sister would marry Babar. However, Laiba wanted to marry another local boy identified Tariq r/o Peshawar. According to Laiba Tariq is currently serving in te

Pak Army and presently deployed at a forward post in Kahuta. Laiba also claimed she along with a group of her close friends had decided to run away from their native village and resettle in Tattapani to escape exploitation. Official sources said, "On 05 Dec 20 at around 6.30 p.m, the two girls along with 06 other girls left their house (as all of them were tortured by their parents and forced to marry against their choice) and decided to go to Tattapani via Ranger Nala.

Gurumurthy's book goes deep into love jihad

KOCHI: The research article "Love Jihad: Loving for Religion" authored by S Gurumurthy in which he proved that love marriages are being used for Islamization of non-Islamic nations has given rise to a call by a senior RSS ideologue in Kerala for close cooperation between Hindus and Christians.

ject to Love Jihad as well as sending them away to fight as jihadis in Islamic State. "Situation is really grave and beyond all expectations," said K T Thomas, former Supreme Court judge. He said he was all praise for the legislation enacted by the Uttar Pradesh Government banning Love Jihad as well as Love Marriage for Islamization.

"There are certain formalities to be observed when a Muslim man marries a non-Muslim woman. The same is the case with all kinds of inter-religious marriages. Provisions of the Special Marriage Act should be observed and followed diligently and no compromise should be made on this issue," said Justice Thomas, known for his uncompromising stance on laws and Constitution.

Notice Inviting e-Tender
No. SSA/Esstt/EWB/370/2020/3222 Date: 05.12.2020
Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission (Samagra Shiksha), Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites tender through e-Tendering process from reputed Manufacturer of Exercise Book for supply of Evaluation Workbook LP and UP.

PUBLIC NOTICE
My clientess Shanti Devi W/o Sh. Anil Kumar Maurya R/o A236A, Block-A, New Ashok Nagar, Delhi-110096, has debarred her son Krishan Kumar Maurya and Daughter-in-law Mamta, from all their movable-immovable assets due to their ill-treatment to my clientess and my clientess shall not be responsible for any kind of acts, done by them in future.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)
Tender Notice No.-14/2020-21
UMB division of northern railway invites Open tender through E-tendering system from eligible agencies who fulfill qualification criteria as stipulated in tender document for "Dismantling, Shifting & Re-commissioning of 02 Nos. EOT Crane Make SAICO & Capacity 30/05 Ton from MEMU Car Shed, SRE to MEMU Car shed, KJGY Saharanpur".

IMPORTANT NOTICE
This is notified for the information of rail passengers that in addition to already announced some trains whose Arrival/Departure time has been revised, the timings of the following Special Trains will also be revised as under:-
REVISED TIMINGS OF SPECIAL TRAINS

NORTHERN RAILWAY
OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE
No. 128-W/260/Tender Notice/NIT 38-WV/20-21 Date: 07.12.2020
The Sr. Divisional Engineer-IV, Northern Railway, Delhi Division for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender on prescribed form for the following work:

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED
General public is hereby informed that one boy namely Rohit @ Abhishek, S/o Hare Ram Tiwari, R/o H.No. 82, Gali No. 3, Block-EE, Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi, Age: 11 years, Height: 3'6", Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Thin, Face: Round, wearing Blue colour warm T-Shirt, Blue Jeans and Slipper in feet, has been missing from since 18.11.2020 at about 03:00 PM. In this regard a FIR No. 658/2020 U/S 363 IPC, dated 19.11.2020 has been registered at P.S. Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be it known to all that my client S. Gurmeet Singh S/o S. Gulzar Singh R/o C-5A/196, Janakpuri, New Delhi-58 had disowned/debarred his daughter Ms. Amarjit Kaur from all his movable and immovable properties and had severed his relations with her and had terminated her rights into his moveable and immovable properties, vide public notice published in a newspaper. However, now my client is satisfied with her conduct and has buried all past bitter experiences with her. Accordingly, the above stated Public Notice of Debarment of Ms. Amarjit Kaur stands revoked/withdrawn with immediate effect.

FIRST COLUMN

Who will the star pair up with?

In all probability, Rajinikanth is bound to have a secret or open understanding with the BJP as both need each other



KALYANI SHANKAR

Will the BJP be able to rope in Tamil superstar Rajinikanth, who has announced plans to launch his much-awaited political party in January 2021? The actor is a phenomenon and will be a major factor in the forthcoming Tamil Nadu Assembly polls, scheduled for April-May 2021. He has chosen this time to make his political debut because there is a huge vacuum in the State after the demise of two former Chief Ministers and political heavyweights, M Karunanidhi of the DMK in 2018 and J Jayalitha of the AIADMK in 2016.

"It is the need of the hour. If it is not done now, it will never be done. For this, I urge the people to stand by me. Together we will bring change," the star-turned-politician tweeted this week. There has been speculation that he is inclined towards the BJP, though Rajinikanth has been rather coy about discussing his plans. The problem for the BJP is that if Rajinikanth's party decides to go it alone and contest all 234 seats, it will eat into the BJP's ally, the AIADMK's vote share more than that of the DMK (Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam). Rajinikanth's entry comes at a time when the incumbent AIADMK-BJP alliance, the DMK-Congress-Left Front, and another superstar Kamal Haasan have already firmed up their alliance. With the BJP's ambitious plans to expand in the South, is it possible for Rajinikanth to join the BJP-AIADMK combine? Have the elections become a game of arithmetic?

The megastar had been putting off entering politics since 1996, when the Congress first offered to make him its chief ministerial candidate to counter the then Chief Minister J Jayalitha. Since then, the Congress as well as the BJP have been wooing him. "The time to rewrite Tamil Nadu's destiny has come. There's a great need for change... it's now or never. Voted to power, we will change everything," Rajinikanth promised this week. Failing repeatedly to gain a foothold in Tamil Nadu, the BJP had been trying to goad the actor into entering politics, but he had resisted the party's overtures so far.

The BJP is handicapped, with no tall leaders at the State level, and would like to use him as its mascot. Being a megastar, he has the advantage of being a known face and has a huge fan following and clubs. He proposes to launch a spiritual party as opposed to the atheist Dravidian parties. It will be advantageous to the actor too, as the BJP is a disciplined party and has both manpower and money. The BJP would also help facilitate other things like registration of his new party and so on. So both think that they are natural allies.

Second, Rajinikanth does not have time to build a party before the polls. His fan clubs alone will not be enough. Though he had asked his followers to register their names on his website, you need teams for booth management and door-to-door campaigns and so on. The BJP has already loaned Arjun Murthy, head of the State BJP's intellectual cell, as "chief coordinator" of the new party, indicating what is to come. While the BJP has welcomed his entry, Deputy Chief Minister and AIADMK coordinator O Panneerselvam has also hinted at a possible alliance with Rajinikanth's party. Addressing a meeting in Theni this week, he said: "We welcome great film actor Rajinikanth's decision to enter politics. In politics, anything can happen. If there is an opportunity, an alliance will be formed."

Rajinikanth, too, has some challenges to face. First of all, the field in Tamil Nadu already has two strong Dravidian parties — the DMK and the AIADMK, who share a combined vote bank of 50 per cent. The other, smaller, but significant regional players such as the PMK (Paattali Makkal Katchi) and actor Vijayakanth's DMDK (Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam) are in the line-up too. Second, the star has some health problems as he had undergone a kidney operation and might not be able to withstand a rigorous election campaign. Third, so far there is no clarity on whether his party will fight next year's Assembly polls in Tamil Nadu independently or strike an electoral alliance. Fourth, in a caste-ridden State, forward castes, such as the Mudaliars, have divided their loyalty between the two Dravidian parties for long. As for the dominant castes, the Gounders have Chief Minister E Palanisamy of the AIADMK, the Thevans have O Panneerselvam, the Vanniars have Dr Ramadoss and the Scheduled Castes have the VCK (Viduthala Chiruthaigal Katchi). Vijayakanth's DMDK, the Vaikole MDMK (Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam), the two Left parties and actor-turned-politician Hassan's Makkal Needhi Maiam share the caste groups. The minorities go with the DMK or the AIADMK. Parties such as the CPI (M), the CPI, the VCK and the MDMK are aligned with the DMK coalition.

In all probability, Rajinikanth is bound to have a secret or open understanding with the BJP as both need each other. The problem for the actor will be who to attack during the campaign, the Centre or the State Government? Many indications are that the star will lean towards the BJP.

(The writer is a senior journalist)

POINT COUNTERPOINT

WE WILL WIN THE ASSEMBLY POLLS WITH PEOPLE'S SUPPORT AND WILL BRING A HONEST, CASTELESS AND SPIRITUAL POLITICS TO TAMIL NADU.

—TAMIL MEGASTAR RAJINIKANTH



ANYBODY CAN JOIN POLITICS, LET RAJINIKANTH LAUNCH HIS PARTY FIRST AND SAY WHAT IS HIS POLITICAL POLICY. THEN I WILL COMMENT.

—DMK PRESIDENT MK STALIN

Checks and balances

Crony capitalism has also happened in public sector banks. There is a dire need to strengthen regulatory oversight to guard against irregularities in running all banks



UTTAM GUPTA

The recommendation of an Internal Working Group (IWG) set up by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to allow industrial houses to own banks — if they meet the criterion — has invited strident criticism from experts, including the former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan. Asking how a borrower could also be a lender, they have debunked the idea, stating that this would lead to misdirected lending, mostly to entities belonging to the industrial house that owns the bank. This apprehension is valid but the misuse of public money can happen in any bank, irrespective of the ownership. For instance, in Public Sector Banks (PSBs) till now, businessmen patronised by the ruling establishment managed loans on considerations other than merit. In private banks, too, the situation is no different, as amply demonstrated by the failure of Yes Bank, which is not owned by an industrial house. There is a dire need to strengthen regulatory oversight to guard against irregularities in running banks. The IWG recommends allowing promoters to hold 26 per cent equity stake in a steady state or after 15 years (up from the existing norm of 15 per cent) from the start, when it should be a minimum of 40 per cent of the equity for the first five years. It suggests taking a sympathetic review of whether industrial houses should be allowed to own banks if they meet the criterion. And considers allowing Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) with assets of over ₹50,000 crore, and in operation for over 10 years, to convert to banks, whether or not they are owned by industrial houses.

These suggestions need to be read in a certain context. Already after a prolonged tussle, the banking regulator had allowed promoters of the Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL) to maintain their stake at 26 per cent despite the 15 per cent norm (originally named Kotak Mahindra Finance Limited, it was the first NBFC in India to convert into a bank in February 2003). This prompted promoters of other private sector banks, who had lowered their stake to 15 per cent, to demand that they, too, should be allowed to increase it to 26 per cent. For instance, the Hinduja Group of IndusInd Bank made the appeal. Therefore, by allowing promoters of all private banks to have 26 per cent stake, the IWG has taken the logical step forward.

The 15 per cent threshold was anomalous, as with a marginal stake, the promoter won't have the desired skin in the game. Hence, the much-needed seriousness and commitment would be less. As a result, the management and governance of the bank could suffer. A study by the Boston Consulting Group (BCG), India, shows that this may well be the case. An analysis of old private sector banks done by the BCG illustrates that "boards, where equity ownership is diversified, can take control of a bank and start to direct its operations in a less than optimal manner. The Catholic Syrian Bank and the Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB) are good examples of this. In fact, 12 old private banks are laggards in respect to technology and risk systems and have not grown their share from four per cent of the assets of the system."

Even so, for a promoter to initially start with 40 per cent shareholding as per the existing guidelines and then bring it down to 15 per cent (after the efforts during the initial difficult phase have borne fruit and the operations have stabilised), relegating him to a minor player, is unfair. No wonder, the KMBL promoter pleaded with the RBI to allow it to retain a higher shareholding, which the latter agreed to. The apex bank should implement

INDIA NEEDS MORE BANKS WITH ADEQUATE CAPITAL BUFFER TO MEET THE CREDIT REQUIREMENT OF A \$5 TRILLION ECONOMY BY 2024-25 (FUNDING ON SUCH A MAMMOTH SCALE CAN'T BE DONE WITH EQUITY CAPITAL ALONE). IN VIEW OF THIS, AND CONSIDERING THAT THE GOVERNMENT WANTS TO OPEN UP EVEN PSBs TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR, THERE IS A DIRE NEED TO EXPAND THE LANDSCAPE OF POTENTIAL INVESTORS. THE INVOLVEMENT OF LARGE INDUSTRIAL HOUSES COULD BE OF GREAT HELP IN THIS ENDEAVOUR BUT FAIR PRACTICE IS NEEDED



The IWG's recommendation to allow 26 per cent shareholding to the promoter in the long-run.

The second major recommendation to allow industrial houses to own banks, after addressing any outstanding issues or concerns in respect to "connected lending" and incorporating safeguards in the Banking Regulation Act (BR Act), needs to be read in conjunction with another suggestion made by the RBI to the Finance Ministry early this year. The RBI had proposed that the Centre reduce its shareholding in six top PSBs, i.e. the State Bank of India, the Punjab National Bank, the Bank of Baroda, Canara Bank, the Union Bank of India and the Bank of India to 26 per cent. In the follow-through, the Centre has already initiated the process to reduce its holding to 51 per cent in the next 12-18 months.

Realising that the market may not have the appetite for it, the RBI thought that letting corporates in could help raise the prospects. There are several corporates with deep pockets who can buy the shares of PSBs, thereby enabling successful divestment and at the same time, help the Government garner resources to rein in the fiscal deficit in the current difficult year (it is aiming to garner about ₹43,000 crore). For this to happen, the regulator has to take a policy decision to allow corporates to own a bank. This is precisely what the IWG has done. But this has invited criticism from experts who say that instead of being based on due diligence and assessing viability of the project, the bank will give loans keeping in mind what the owner wants. Put simply, this will be tantamount to the use of public money for unjust enrichment of the corporate. This undoubtedly needs a vigilant architecture. In PSBs, for instance, businessmen with political

clout managed loans and got them okayed. Neither did the banks insist on repayment, nor did the defaulters have any fear, as those who were expected to take action chose not to act. This led to an increase in non-performing assets (NPAs) to an unsustainable level, forcing the Centre to bail them out by using the taxpayers' money.

In private banks, too (albeit those not owned by a corporate house), the situation is quite similar. Merely because an industrial house gets to occupy the driver's seat in a bank does not automatically follow that public deposits will be misused. Abuse or otherwise is primarily a function of the quality of the management on the one hand and supervision by the banking regulator on the other. If, any of these prerequisites are lacking, then, irrespective of who owns the bank, exploitation is inevitable. To handle that, there is a dire need to strengthen regulatory oversight and the RBI should make proactive intervention on "real-time" basis to prevent mismanagement and irregularities — instead of continuing with the present practice of bolting the stable after the horses have fled.

India needs more banks with adequate capital buffer to meet the credit requirement of a \$5 trillion economy by 2024-25 (funding on such a mammoth scale can't be done with equity capital alone). In view of this, and considering that the Government wants to open up even PSBs to the private sector (look at the decision to reduce its shareholding in six top PSUs to 51 per cent), there is a dire need to expand the landscape of potential investors. The involvement of large industrial houses could be of great help in this endeavour.

Accordingly, the Government should only consider the IWG's recom-

mendations after incorporating safeguards to address issues of "connected lending" by amending the BR Act. All banks, which have other group entities, should be held by Non-Operating Financial Holding Companies (NOFHC).

The recommendation for a higher minimum initial capital of ₹1,000 crore (up from the existing ₹500 crore) makes eminent sense. However, there is a case for raising the bar even further to say, ₹5,000 crore, to ensure that only very serious entities enter the space.

The third major recommendation of the IWG to allow NBFCs with assets of over ₹50,000 crore, and in operation for over 10 years, to convert to banks is in sync with the RBI's stance all along. The only change mooted now is to permit NBFCs owned by industrial houses to convert to banks, too. The RBI probably went by the fact that there are a number of well-run NBFCs owned by industrial houses who can be good candidates for converting to and running a bank.

The group has also batted for "harmonisation" of various licencing guidelines to ensure that relaxations (or for that matter, tightening of rules) given at different points of time are applicable to all entities, irrespective of when the licence was given to each. Some important recommendations provide for a "clear" and "consistent" definition of holding by a promoter (use of paid-up voting equity share capital is prescribed as the right metric); maximum share holdings of 15 per cent by non-promoters uniformly for all banks not to carry out any activity permissible within the bank, through a separate subsidiary; pledging of bank shares and so on. The RBI should build in checks and balances.

(The writer is a New Delhi-based policy analyst)

Erratic temperatures spell economic doom

Before climate change delivers the fatal blow, India must respond with effective counter-measures to protect lives and livelihoods



KOTA SRIRAJ

As India experiences a colder than usual winter, public opinion is firmly set on the premise that the Coronavirus-driven lockdown reduced pollution levels, thereby resulting in a season that's more spirited than the previous ones. However, nothing could be further from the truth. The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has already sounded an alert to the effect that the winter of 2020-21 will be colder than usual due to the La Nina conditions prevailing in the equatorial Pacific Ocean. La Nina is the cooling phase of the El Nino southern oscillation cycle in the equatorial Pacific

Ocean as opposed to the warming El Nino phase. As if confirming the IMD's predictions, Delhi has already witnessed its coldest November in 71 years. But miseries brought on by the cold may be the least of our concerns compared to the economic impact that lies in wait for India in the wake of these erratic temperature changes.

The IMD predicts an uneven distribution of minimum and maximum temperature levels in various parts of India, which could lead to a higher variance between night and day temperatures. This, in turn, would impact farming in the Rabi season. Especially the wheat crop which is the main cereal that is grown in northern and central India.

Other crops that stand to be impacted are soy and corn. In south India, a major cash crop, coffee, which is extremely sensitive to temperature variations, is expected to suffer unduly thanks to these weather-related anomalies. These developments on the agricultural front can wreak havoc in the form of sudden spike in food prices and cause unexpected financial

turbulence for the farming community that is already facing multiple difficulties.

The economy would eventually suffer the ripple effects of the agrarian crisis, the adverse impact of climate change, coupled with setbacks on account of COVID-19.

The latest McKinsey Global Institute (MGI) report has presented unsettling facts that point towards dwindling economic prosperity due to the havoc unleashed by climate change. The report states that there is a risk of \$200 billion to India's GDP by 2030 due to a sharp reduction in outdoor working hours triggered by the increase in ambient temperatures. What are currently considered as unsafe outdoor temperatures to work in will increase by a whopping 15 per cent by 2030, directly impacting productivity and eventually the per capita income of the nation. This is because outdoor work has immense relevance for the economy. As of 2017, it contributed to nearly 50 per cent of the GDP. It drives 30 per cent of the GDP growth and



ensures employment for nearly 75 per cent of the labour force or nearly 380 million people in India. Hence, climate change-driven spike in temperatures can put up to 2.5 to 4.5 per cent of the GDP at risk.

In fact, it is estimated by the MGI report that nearly 160 to 200 million people bear a clear five per cent possibility of being exposed to lethal or fatal heatwaves as early as 2030. As temperatures rise, so do the costs of air conditioning. It is estimated that by 2030, a massive \$110 billion would be

required as capital costs for improving the air conditioning infrastructure. Urgent remedial measures are needed to avert much of the problems before 2030. Although some situations have surpassed the stage of remedy, all is not lost yet. The authorities must have concerted plans in place that are able to mitigate the forthcoming threats. Gradually shifting of outdoor working hours coupled with movement of capital and labour out of the designated high temperature hotspots will go a long way in reducing the adverse economic impact that is being predicted.

Moreover, all the current ongoing infrastructure and developmental projects must have a critical component of climate change adaptation consideration built into them. This sensitivity will reduce the carbon footprint of these projects and will in turn help avert extreme outcomes in the form of spiraling heat output signatures.

Yet another aspect that needs urgent attention while in the pursuit of ensuring a safe climate for the future is the state of our energy supplies. The

average hydel power plant dams that are currently operational in the country are decades old and the constant exposure to the elements, not to mention the ever-present interaction with water, is taking a toll on their structure. The future presents a scenario where rising temperature would mean more melting snows and glaciers, which in turn would increase the water load on these dams. An immediate assessment is required as to how these ageing concrete structures would hold up to this increased onslaught of water and still deliver. This is essential because the need for gradual decommissioning of the coal-fired power plants can no longer be a long-term strategy but is in fact a short-term urgent requirement if the erratic temperatures need to be reined in before 2030. Erratic temperatures are here to stay. But before they deliver the fatal blow, India has to respond decisively with effective counter-measures in order to protect lives and livelihoods.

(The writer is an environmental journalist)

FOREIGN EYE



NO SUSTAINABLE TOURISM STILL

Though development along the Lakeside was regulated till the 1990s, the chaotic transition to democracy was misused to construct right up to the banks of the lake in Nepal. The growth of water hyacinth indicated deterioration of water quality. The tourist destination has now slowly realised the urgency of seriously dealing with its self-destruction.

(The Himalayan editorial)

Trend
Slazer

Alia begins shoot for Rajamouli's RRR

Actor **ALIA BHATT** on Monday began shooting for her forthcoming multilingual, multistarrer **RRR**, directed by **SS Rajamouli**.

The **Baahubali** filmmaker on Monday retweeted a tweet originally posted by the film's official Twitter page to announce Alia joining the shoot. It reads, "A very warm welcome to our dearest #Sita, the supremely talented and beautiful @Alia08 on to the sets."
In the film, Alia will play a character called Sita. The film stars actor **Ajay Devgn**, Telugu actors **Ram Charan** and **Jr NTR** in central roles.



'I am thrilled that our little labour of love, Shakeela is all set to release this Christmas. I am so excited about the film in which I've worked with the talented, Richa Chadha. I have a beautiful role. I play an actor for the first time in my career. I have always wanted to play an actor on-screen and bring out the idiosyncrasies of artists on screen.'

—Pankaj Tripathi

Singer **ARMAAN MALIK** might collaborate soon with rapper **DIVINE**.

Armaan said, "I really love Divine. He is one of the most phenomenal artists in India. He is creating a hip-hop scene here, so I am really looking forward to doing a song with him. We have talked a bit in the recent past and have thought of collaborating. It's just about the right song now, so I am waiting for collaborating with him on an amazing song."
The young singer sees the win as "a step forward" in the journey that he's on.



Downey, Chadle honour Boseman

Actor **ROBERT DOWNEY JR** and **DON CHADLE** paid tribute to late Hollywood star and Marvel co-star **Chadwick Boseman** for his enduring legacy.

Black Panther star Boseman, who died in August after a four-year battle with colon cancer at 43, posthumously received the Hero of the Ages honour at the 2020 MTV Movie & TV Awards.

"The moment you first saw him on screen or had the opportunity to meet him in person, his energy and intensity was undeniable," Downey Jr said. "There was something special about Chadwick Boseman. He truly embodied what it meant to be a superhero," he added.



As the world awaits the vaccine for COVID-19, the unprecedented novel Coronavirus continues to rage on. While most lockdown restrictions have been lifted and the country has inched closer to normalcy, plethora of information on combatting the spread of the virus, preventing potential infection, and safeguarding oneself through the consumption of certain DIY immunity boosting concoctions is making rounds on social media. However, experts are noting a surge in side-effects amongst people who are consuming these homemade 'kadhās'; the issue being repeated and high dose consumption of these home remedies.

COVID-19 scare has prompted widespread consumption of *ekadha* (herbal concoction) that usually includes ginger, lemon, garlic, turmeric, pepper, aloe vera or berries.

Talking about the impact of excessive consumption of homemade 'kadhās', Dr Sanjay Shah, General Physician, Fortis Hospital, Mulund recalls a peculiar case. He says, "In a young patient, bleeding was spotted post-operatively; upon investigating the matter and detailed assessment of his medical history, we found that the patient was consuming a homemade *kadha* in large quantity. This had led to internal bleeding". Another patient was brought in to the ER with acute breath-

The right dose

Consuming too much *kadha* may have adverse effects. Experts say we must understand the strength of each ingredient and the frequency of its intake



lessness, he was pale and his hemoglobin levels were low. On investigating, it was noted that he was consuming four to five glasses of *kadha* on a daily basis, for the past five months." He added that, "The patient mentioned that his stools were black in colour for the last two

months and that he believed that toxins were being excreted, as a result of the *kadha*. Hence the patient prolonged his visit to the hospital, till such time he felt excessive fatigue."

While individuals continue to be inundated with social media messages

about homemade recipes or supplement marketers advocating vitamins and other immunity boosting alternatives, here's a reminder that there is no such magic pill or potion. Most often, these are offered to the family in a bid to safeguard them against COVID but what needs to be understood is that people react differently to it. As a rule of nature, anything consumed in the right manner and quantity will reap benefits. However, if consumed recklessly, it could be dangerous.

Profuse use, particularly by those who have comorbidities, patients who are on blood thinners or medications for chronic diseases, it could be dangerous, increasing the risk of bleeding tendency. Depending on the bleeding location, whether the brain or the intestine, the case criticality could range from normal to life threatening.

Consuming warm concoctions in excess could lead to side effects such as ulcers or superficial bleeding in the mouth. Condiments in homemade concoctions generate excessive heat in the body and could cause nose bleeding; it upsets the esophagus causing esophageal erosion, it also causes Gastro-Esophageal Reflux affecting digestion. When digestion is affected, this could potentially impact one's immunity.

Components in ingredients like turmeric and aloe vera, if used in

excess could harm the liver, which further increases the chance of being diagnosed with jaundice. This may also cause bleeding in the organ which could lead to life threatening liver failure or injury.

Arsenic Album is another commonly used immunity booster. If used in limited and supervised quantities it could be beneficial to one's health; however, if used in excess it could harm the kidneys, liver or brain, at times leaving a patient unconscious due to arsenic toxicity and in need of critical care.

Excess Vitamin D increases the calcium content in the body leaving a person irritable and sometimes unconscious. Spike in blood and urine calcium levels due to high Vit-D levels causes nausea, dehydration, giddiness among other fluctuations. It is important to note that when consumed in small quantities and under medical guidance of your physician, these ingredients are harmless.

Serious consequences are faced when there is an imbalanced intake; be safe, be aware. Speak to your physician before beginning your course of homemade *kadha's*, understand the role of each ingredient and the frequency at which it is to be had; don't be reckless with these.

—IANS

With the passing away of neo-tantric abstractionist and printmaker extraordinaire Dipak Banerjee, India loses a pedagogue and brilliant artist who wove into his work the principles of 'Purusha Prakriti' and the traditional nuances of Indian miniature painting.

Banerjee breathed his last in Kolkata on November 26. As a young artist, who graduated from Government College of Art, Kolkata, his first job for the Handicraft Board was to collect different cultural motifs. He used to copy motifs engraved on the walls of temples in Kolkata. From the little bylanes of Kolkata's temples and Kalighat elements, Banerjee got a prestigious scholarship from the French government and left for Paris in 1965. He studied printmaking under the famed William Hayter of Atelier 17 as well as Krishna Reddy.

MODERN MANDALAS

In 1990s Delhi, he used to have a show at Gallerie Ganesha annually. His intaglios were like modern *mandalas*, a medley of geometry and symbolism. The tantric elements and the motifs of Indian miniatures all meshed into meticulous variations that exuded a deep spirituality.

To gaze at a Dipak Banerjee print is to be drawn into a kingdom that seeped into your soul. His command of a free fluidity of lines and the warmth of colour zones all became a precise permutation of in-depth exactness and balance of choreography. His *Vishnupada*, *Chausath Yoginis* and *Kali* intaglios have about them an antique aura that is unseen in today's world.

He said during one of his shows in Delhi, "I am not a practicing tantric but I gradually moved to the tantric mode of self-realisation during my many explorations. In my collection of temple motifs, I was unconsciously gaining an album of tantric symbolic motifs like *Purusha Prakriti*, *Vishnu*, *Sahasra*, *Nathji* and *Kundalini*, which presented the spiritual dynamics of content in ancient Indian art. So you could say that the journey which began in Paris got its final direction through the lanes of Benaras."

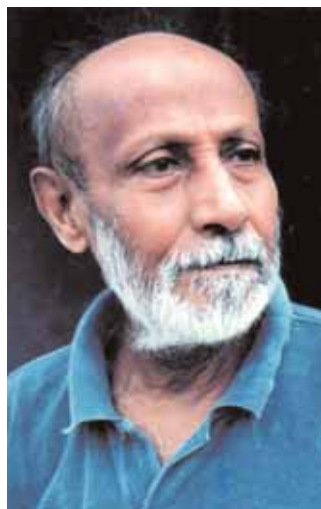
EARTH SONGS IN SPIRIT

After returning from Paris in 1967, Banerjee taught for years at Benaras Hindu University. As a pedagogue at the department of printmaking in BHU, he was among the finest. His attention to detail and the earth-toned colours talk about the spiritual and the sublime. Ornamentation in linguistic alphabets became the norm in his work. The gods and goddesses appeared as miniature divinities settled into the cosmic



AN ODE TO DESIGN

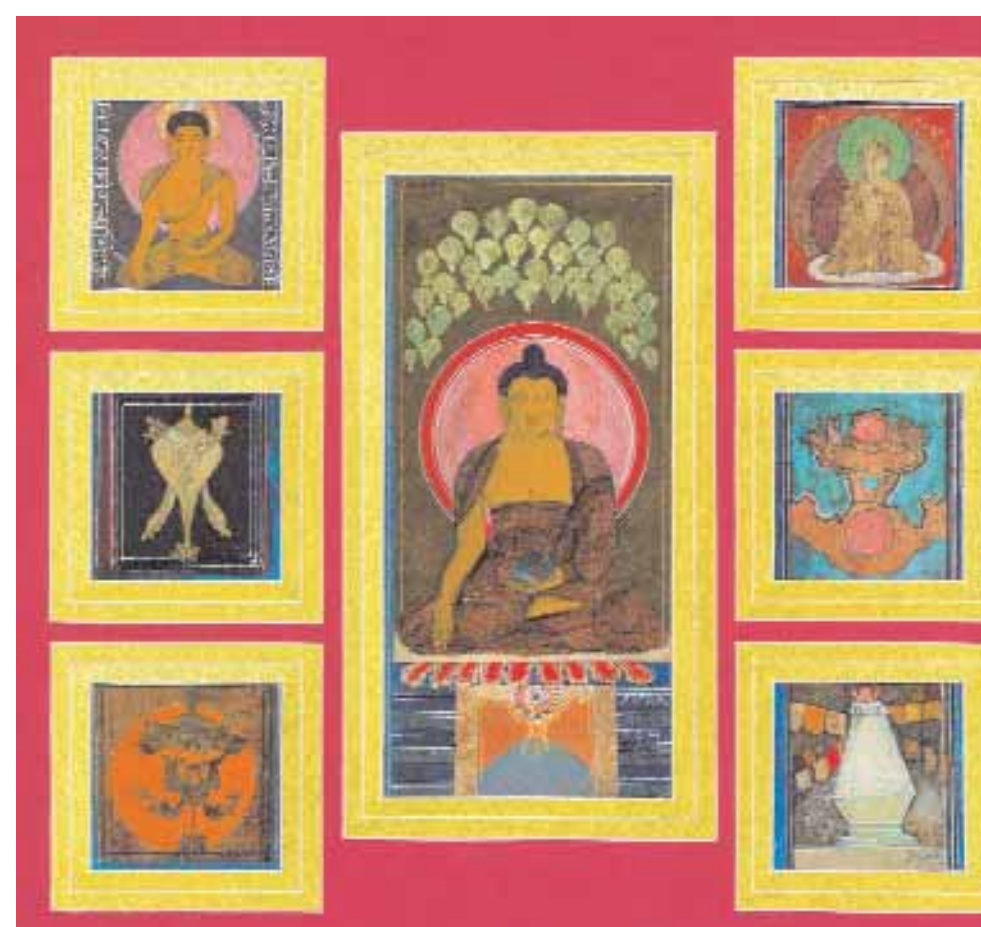
With Neo-tantric abstractionist, printmaker and artist **DIPAK BANERJEE's** passing away, **UMA NAIR** recalls how his works created a medley of geometry, symbolism and spirituality



realm of his design dynamics.

Sometimes his works included a series of *mandalas* which involved designs like a circle within a square and a square within a circle. These variations made his works iconic. Within the dictums of tantric symbolism, he found an intense expression of evocative elegance. His work was a quest that transcended beyond space and time, and was a communion with the Absolute.

Banerjee stood among the neo-tantric practitioners in India — stalwarts like Ghulam Rasool Santosh, Biren De, and Sohan Qadri. In his works, we can observe a lexicon that distilled the rootedness of Vedic sciences. His perfection of creating multi-hued colourative etchings showed



his richness of repertoire and a controlled construction of the narrative. His last exhibition was held at Sanchit Art in 2017 in Delhi.

For him, Tantra was more than just a motif. It was a perspective that conveyed the proverbial image of the omniscient. Juxtapositions and islands of luminosity were of an incandescent idiom. His understanding of the realms of the *chakra* went deep into exploring the mathematical nuances of absolute knowledge.

COLOUR AND COSMOS

His universe lay within the symmetric and geometric patterns of tantric symbols rooted in Hindu, Buddhist and Jain icono-

graphy. His modernist interpretation was born of a voice both local and universal. Within the symmetry of his lines, we glimpse a thematic exactitude floating in the flow of colours, an embracing of Indian folk traditions expressed within the organic extension of technique into the realms of spiritual abstraction.

Rooted in a larger allegory of luminosity — both in terms of the canvas treatment and in the

realm of our interpretation of cosmic unity/oneness — Dipak Banerjee leaves behind a suite of spiritual wonders. He brings alive the words of the great abstractionist Wassily Kandinsky who said, "Colour directly influences the soul. It is the keyboard, the eyes are the hammers, the soul is the piano with many strings. The artist is the hand that plays, touching one key or another purposively, to cause vibrations in the soul."

It's been a fruitful year: Chandan

Actor Chandan Roy Sanyal is one of the few performers to have shone to the fore with the digital boom in the entertainment industry. With a strong background in theatre, there is a method to the actor's madness and his body of work goes to show that he's a character chameleon.

In the course of his career, Sanyal has been appreciated for a string of performances. The latest one to have won him tremendous acclaim is for the role of Bhoop Swami in Prakash Jha's *Aashram Chapter 2*. The actor played the role of the right-hand man of Kashipur Waale Baba Nirala. In the much loved crime series, he's a mercenary who silences his detractors in a matter-of-fact way.



Jha's digital foray has marked a turning point in the actor's career trajectory. The streak of

acclaim began for him with the 2009 caper thriller film *Kaminey* and his Bengali debut, the 2010

film *Mahanagar@Kolkata*.

He then went on to receive recognition for his performances in the 2012 Bengali drama film *Aparajita Tumi* and as an insomniac artist in the 2013 romantic drama *Prague*.

Says Chandan, "Aashram gave me a special identity as an actor. I'm grateful that the year turned out so fruitful for me with such amazing and unique projects. Currently, I'm in the middle of finalising some super exciting projects and I can't wait to sink my teeth into different roles and collaborate with the greats of the industry."

His act as Swapan, a paralysed overlord in *Kaali Season 2* and as a husband looking to rekindle his married life in *Forbidden Love* are some of his other notable performances this year.

Notice Inviting e-Tender
No. SSA/Esstt/EPB-V/358/2020/3216 Date: 05.12.2020
Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam (Samagra Shiksha) invites tender through e-Tendering process from reputed exercise book manufacturers for the supply of Evaluation and Practice Books for class -V (Single Line and Plain).
To participate in this tender process through e-procurement document, bidder should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and have to register in the portal <https://assamtenders.gov.in> by themselves.
The Bidder who have downloaded the tender schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website <https://assamtenders.gov.in>, with proof of payment of non refundable tender fee of Rs. 5000/- (Rupees five thousand) only in the form of demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam, from any nationalized/scheduled Bank and payable at Guwahati. The tender should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule.
Sd/-Executive Director, SSA, Assam Kahilipara, Guwahati-19
Janasanyog No. CF/3082/20

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON
(See Section 82 Cr. P.C.)
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Nazim S/o** Chhote Khan **R/o** H. No. 4412, Gali No. 7, Ajeet Nagar, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **E-F.I.R. No. 23562/20, u/s 379/411/482/34 IPC** registered at P.S. Jagatpuri, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon that the said **Nazim** could not be found and where it has been shown to my satisfaction that the accused **Nazim** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Nazim** is required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before **29.01.2021**.
By Order
Sh. Anubhav Jain
Metropolitan Magistrate-05, Room No. 316, Shahdara District, Karkardooma Court, Delhi
DP/283/SHD/2020
(Court Notice)

India target T20 whitewash

PTI ■ SYDNEY The series pocketed and their confidence restored, India would eye nothing less than a clean sweep when they take on an Australian side significantly weakened by injury blows, in the third and final T20 at Sydney Cricket Ground on Tuesday. Skipper Virat Kohli and his main protagonist of the white-ball leg, Hardik Pandya, will feel a sense of deja vu given that the script has panned out exactly like 2016 when the team got walloped in the ODIs but came back strongly to rout the Aussies 3-0 in the T20 series. After a couple of crushing defeats in the first two ODIs, the Indians have turned a corner starting with the final ODI in Canberra. Even the absence of a white-ball pro like Ravindra Jadeja didn't have an impact during their convincing six-wicket win in the series-clinching second T20 on Sunday. What will boost the Indian team's morale manifold is the fact that it had the confidence to rest both Mohammed Shami and Jasprit Bumrah, relying on a trio of pacers, who between them haven't played even 40 games collectively. India's new white-ball sensation Thangarasu Natarajan has had a superb initiation in international cricket with Australian batsmen still finding it difficult to read him. As Pandya so rightly put it, Natarajan's spell and the 10 runs that Australia failed to score became the difference between winning and losing. The difference between both teams during the last game was the batting of the two teams during the middle overs. Australia lost a bit of momentum after stand-in skipper Matthew Wade was dismissed while his opposite number Kohli played some outrageous shots after the Powerplay to up the ante. Shreyas Iyer's induction in place of an injured Manish



regular skipper Aaron Finch, David Warner, Mitchell Starc, Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood did have an impact although three of the five did play in the first T20 that India comfortably won by 11 runs. D'Arcy Short hasn't looked the part as an opener in the two games and one would expect Marcus Stoinis and Glenn Maxwell to shoulder more responsibility as senior players. But Australia's thin-on-experience bowlers will have to

Aus vs India (3rd T20) Live from 1:40pm IST SONY TEN 1, 3 & SIX

play out of their skins to stop the Indian juggernaut which has started rolling. A 3-0 win would be the perfect booster shot for it before the all-important Test series. In case of Australia, while a thrashing would impact them a lot but they would try and look at it from a different perspective — most of their Test specialists will not have the scars of a clean sweep when they take on India under the lights at the Adelaide Oval, starting December 17.

new ball as Umesh maintained a good channel outside off-stump as Pucovski trying to cut a back-of length delivery gave a simple catch to Shubman Gill at point. Ashwin (19-2-58-2) also did his Test chances no harm. For Australia A, the giant all-rounder Green continued his rich vein of Sheffield Shield form with an unbeaten 114 off 173 that had 10 fours and a six. He showed good temperament against the Indian attack while adding 104 runs for the sixth wicket with his national skipper Tim Paine (44) after being reduced to 98 for 5. Another 49 for the eighth wicket with paceman Michael Neser (33) ensured that Australia A recovered well from a batting collapse. India started well with the

Green's ton overshadows Indian bowlers

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Senior pros Umesh Yadav and Ravichandran Ashwin staked strong claims to be included in India's playing XI for the first Test with impressive performances against Australia A, which scored 286 for 8 on the second day, riding on Cameron Green's unbeaten century. Australia now have a 39-run lead after India A declared their innings at 247 for 9 in the first hour of the second day, with skipper Ajinkya Rahane remaining unbeaten on 117. With Mohammed Shami and Jasprit Bumrah being automatic choices, Umesh (18-3-44-3), fighting for third pacer's slot, certainly looked more penetrative compared to Mohammed Siraj (19-4-71-2) with the new ball.



Australia A batsman Cameron Green celebrates after scoring hundred CA/Twitter

The 'Vidarbha Express' removed both rival Test team openers Will Pucovski (1) and Joe Burns (4) in his third and fourth over with the new ball to make initial inroads. Ashwin (19-2-58-2) also did his Test chances no harm. For Australia A, the giant all-rounder Green continued his rich vein of Sheffield Shield form with an unbeaten 114 off 173 that had 10 fours and a six. He showed good temperament against the Indian attack while adding 104 runs for the sixth wicket with his national skipper Tim Paine (44) after being reduced to 98 for 5. Another 49 for the eighth wicket with paceman Michael Neser (33) ensured that Australia A recovered well from a batting collapse. India started well with the

Australia A vs India A Live from 5:00am IST SONY SIX NETWORK

ner was again in action in the 31st over when he trapped Nic Maddinson (23) with a delivery that kept straight. Green and Tim Paine then scripted another recovery act to take Australia A to 186-5 at tea. After the break, Umesh peppered Paine with bouncers with one hitting him on the helmet. The strategy worked as Paine pulled one only to be brilliantly caught by Prithvi Shaw at backward square leg, ending their 104-run stand. Siraj then got his second scalp in the 67th over, removing James Pattinson (3) but Michael Neser (33) frustrated India A before being run-out in 80th over. Green, who was dropped on 24 by Hanuma Vihari in second slip and then on 78 by Wriddhiman Saha, completed his hundred with a four in the 81st over. The experienced off-spin-

Smith will do great job as captain: Wade

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Australia's stand-in T20 skipper Matthew Wade on Monday said batting mainstay Steve Smith, who has "plenty of say" in how the team is driven on the field, would do a "great job" if he is given the leadership role again. Wade took over the captaincy reins for the second T20 on Sunday after Aaron Finch picked up an injury in the opening game. Asked about Smith, who lost the captaincy role because of his role in the 2018 ball-tampering scandal, Wade said the team has a lot of options and they include the batting star. "We have so many good leaders, I have been given the captaincy but we have got Smith, we have got Moises (Henriques), who captains his BBL team. We have guys with a lot of experience, there is a lot of discussions among the seniors but we are all working together," Wade said.



"It is not me driving the field, obviously Finchy (Aaron Finch) is our captain and we all work together when he plays well. So Smith has plenty of say, he has been a great captain for a long time and he will do a great job if he gets an opportunity," he added. Coach Justin Langer said Australia's T20 against India on Sunday was too early for Steve Smith to regain the captaincy. "Of course, we talked about a number of things," Langer told

Fox Sports, when asked if Smith was considered. "We've got so many options. Steve has done a brilliant job in the past. There's probably a bit of a process we need to go through until he becomes captain again. We'll go through that." Langer added: "When the English crowd gave him a standing ovation at The Oval last year — talk about earning respect... he's doing all the right things to show leadership without a title at the moment."

Fans return to Anfield for big win

AFP ■ LIVERPOOL

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp said he had "goosebumps" as fans returned to Anfield on Sunday, roaring the Premier League champions on to a comprehensive 4-0 win against Wolves. The Reds have not had the chance to play in front of their supporters since they ended their 30-year wait to be crowned English champions in June. But they made up for lost time, swaggering to a comfortable win as the 2,000 fans permitted to attend due to coronavirus restrictions sang the club anthem "You'll Never Walk Alone". Wolves showed glimpses of a threat early on but the result was rarely in doubt once Mohamed Salah had given the home side the lead midway through the first half. Second-half goals from Georginio Wijnaldum, Joel Matip and a late own goal from Nelson Semedo underlined Liverpool's superiority as they joined leaders Spurs on 24

points. "The game, the atmosphere, it was so nice I had goosebumps," an emotional Klopp told the BBC. "They started 'You'll Never Walk Alone' — really nice. I never knew it could feel that good. This started in February and we were waiting to get normality back. Normality is good — I don't think we appreciated it as much. It was very, very touching." The home fans had something to cheer in the 24th minute. There did not appear to be much danger when Liverpool captain Jordan Henderson sent a long ball over the top into the Wolves penalty area. But Wolves captain Conor Coady, who used to be on Liverpool's books, got his calculations wrong. The ball came off his chest and Salah nipped in to fire home left-footed. Wolves were awarded a penalty in the dying minutes of the first half after Mane was adjudged to have fouled Coady. But VAR ruled out the spot-kick after the TV replay showed



there had been no contact. Wolves searched for a way back into the match in the early stages of the second half and

Coady found himself in a threatening position in the Liverpool box before Fabinho whipped the ball away. Seconds later, Liverpool were charging forward again on the counter-attack, towards the Kop. Henderson played a long ball which Wijnaldum collected before producing a measured, curled finish into the top left-hand corner of Rui Patricio's net. Liverpool put the result

beyond doubt in the 67th minute when Salah's inswinging cross was met by Matip, who headed in from close range. By now the home side were in total control. Liverpool's fourth goal came when substitute Trent Alexander-Arnold, returning from injury, produced a delicious cross from the right which was turned in by Nelson Semedo for an own goal.

Williamson joins Kohli at No 2

PTI ■ DUBAI

New Zealand captain Kane Williamson on Monday moved up a rung to join his Indian counterpart Virat Kohli at the second spot in the latest ICC Test rankings for batsmen. On the other hand, West Indies captain Jason Holder conceded his top ICC Test all-rounder's ranking to England star Ben Stokes after an unimpressive outing against New Zealand in the first Test which his team lost by an innings and 134 runs. Australia's Steve Smith, with 911 points, kept his hold on the pole position in the batting charts ahead of Kohli and Williamson, who hit a match-winning double hundred against the West Indies in



Hamilton. India's Cheteshwar Pujara remained seventh on the list ahead of Stokes (8th) and England captain Joe Root (9th) respectively. New Zealand opener Tom Latham entered the top-10 at the 10th position. Ajinkya Rahane (11th) and Mayank Agarwal (12th) have both dropped a place each.

Pak squad clears fifth Covid test

PTI ■ CHRISTCHURCH

The touring Pakistan squad has returned negative in a fifth round of Covid-19 tests and will now be able to leave their managed isolation on Tuesday, subject to clearance from the health ministry, New Zealand Cricket said on Monday. The 53-member Pakistan team was denied the right to train while in managed isolation in New Zealand after eight members of the touring squad had tested positive for Covid-19. "This is to advise the Pakistan squad's fifth and final day 12, Covid-19 tests have all been returned as negative," NZC said in a statement. "As a consequence, and pending final Ministry of Health approval, the squad will leave managed isolation tomorrow and fly to Queenstown, where they will train ahead of the T20 and Test series against the BLACKCAPS."

Advertisement for Government of Odisha, Department of Water Resources, Angul Irrigation Division. Includes details about a procurement notice for a double cover system.

Advertisement for Government of Odisha, Department of Water Resources, Angul Irrigation Division. Includes details about a procurement notice for a double cover system.

Advertisement for Government of Odisha, Steel & Mines Department, Directorate of Geology, Odisha. Includes details about an exploration programme in Mankarnacha Iron Ore Block.

Advertisement for SCB Medical College & Hospital, Cuttack. Includes details about a short tender call notice for supply of food license.

Advertisement for Government of Odisha, Office of the Executive Engineer, Nabarangpur (R&B) Division. Includes details about a procurement notice for a double cover system.

Advertisement for Government of Odisha, Office of the Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Rayagada. Includes details about a procurement notice for a double cover system.