FY20 GDP grew even slower at 4%

New Delhi. 29 January

■ he government on Friday revised downwards the economic growth rate cent estimated earlier, mainly due to contraction in secondary sectors

like manufacturing and construction.

"Real GDP or GDP at constant (2011-12) prices for the years 2019-20 and 2018-19 stands at ₹145.69 trillion and ₹140.03 trillion, respectively, showing a growth of 4.0 per cent during 2019-20 and 6.5 per cent during 2018-19," National Statistical Office said in revised national

Under the first revision released in January 2020, real GDP or GDP at constant (2011-12) prices for 2018-19 was pegged at ₹139.81 trillion, showing a growth of 6.1 per cent.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, 29 January

cement sectors.

The output of eight core

infrastructure sectors con-

tracted for the third month

in a row by 1.3 per cent in

December, dragged down

by poor show by crude oil,

natural gas, refinery pro-

ducts, fertiliser, steel and

expanded by 3.1 per cent in

December 2019, according to the provisional data

released by the Commerce

and Industry Ministry on

Friday. Barring coal and

electricity, all sectors recorded negative growth

in December 2020.

The core sectors had

The growth in real GVA

services, construction, trade, repair, hotels and restaurants and financial services," the

During 2019-20, the growth rates of the primary sector (comprising agriculture, forestry, for 2019-20 to 4 per cent from 4.2 per fishing and mining and quarrying), secondary sector (comprising manufacturing, electricity,

gas, water supply and other utility services, and construction) and tertiary sector (services) have been estimated as 3.3 per cent, (-)1.1 per cent and 7.2 per cent as against a growth of 2.2 per cent, 5.8 per cent, and 7.2 per cent, respectively, in the previous year. Nominal net national income at current prices for 2019-20 stands at ₹179.94 trillion as against ₹167.05 trillion in 2018-19, showing a growth of 7.7 per cent as against a rise of 10.3 per cent in the previous year.

Per capita income i.e. per capita net national income at current prices

during 2019-20 has been lower than that in is estimated at ₹1,25,883 and ₹1,34,186, respec-2018-19 mainly due to relatively lower growth tively, for 2018-19 and 2019-20. Per capita PFCE in mining and quarrying, manufacturing, at current prices, for 2018-19 and 2019-20 is electricity, gas, water supply and other utility estimated at ₹84,567 and ₹91,790, respectively.

Fiscal deficit soars to 145% of estimate

soared to ₹11.58 trillion or 145.5 per cent of the Budget Estimate (BE) at the end of December, as revenue realisation was hit by disruptions in normal business activities. According to the data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA), the fiscal deficit at the end of December in the previous fiscal year was 132.4 per cent of the BE of 2019-20.

In absolute terms, the fiscal deficit stood at ₹11,58,469 crore at December-end. For the current fiscal year, the government had pegged the fiscal deficit at ₹7.96 trillion or 3.5 per cent of the GDP in the Budget which was presented in February 2020. The fiscal deficit or gap between the expenditure and revenue had breached the annual target in July this year.

The government received ₹11.21 trillion (50 per cent of corresponding BE 2020-21 of total receipts) up to December 2020. Of this, ₹9,62,399

Union government's fiscal deficit crore was tax revenue, ₹1,26,181 crore was non-tax revenue, and ₹33,098 crore was non-debt capital receipts.

> Non-debt capital receipts consist of recovery of loans (₹14,202 crore) and disinvestment proceeds (₹18,896 crore). The total receipts till December 2020 works out to be 49.9 per cent of the BE. The receipts were 56.6 per cent of the BE 2019-20 at the end of December 2019

> The CGA also said that ₹3,71,640 crore has been transferred to state governments as devolution of share of taxes by the central government up to December 2020.

The centre's total expenditure stood at ₹22.80 trillion or 75 per cent of corresponding BE 2020-21. Out of this, ₹19,71,173 crore was on revenue account and ₹3,08,974 crore was on capital account.

Of the total revenue expenditure. ₹4.72.171 crore was towards interest payments and ₹2,27,352 crore is on account of major subsidies

Commenting on the

the core index con-

contract for the

third consecu-

tive month in

"Based on the

merchandise

December 2020.

plateau in the core sec-

tion trends and recovery in

growth of 0.5-1.5 per cent

in December 2020, trailing

data, ICRA Principal

tinued

Indexing annuity rates to inflation or G-secs on cards

Mumbai, 29 January

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) is exploring the possibility of indexing annuity rates to government securities or the inflation rate so that they reflect

the cost of living of consumers. Annuity products may shift from fixed rates, which generally give lower returns, to floating rates.

Subhash Chandra Khuntia, Irdai chairman, said: "If the annuity rate is indexed to something that reflects the cost of living, it will be good for both the insurer and the policyholders."

A group has been constituted to look

Annuity plans enable customers to receive payments regularly throughout their lives after they invest a lump sum. The insurance industry has seen a surge in demand for annuity products due to increasing life expectancy and rapidly declining interest rates. Experts have said the recent fall in bank interest rates has made annuity products attractive and the demand for such products will continue to soar in the coming years with a huge section of the Indian population working in the unorganised sector, where there is no pension.

The regulator recently launched a standard individual immediate annuity product — "Saral Pension" — which all life insurers have to start offering by April 1. The regulator has introduced standard products in the past few months, starting with standard health products, Covid products, term products, etc. It is also planning to introduce a few other standard products.

Speaking at the annual summit of the Insurance Brokers Association of India (IBAI), Khuntia said around 4.2 million lives had been protected under Corona Kavach and approximately 536,000 under Corona Rakshak. These were the two standard Covid products the regulator had launched in June last year. They are cheaper than comprehensive health policies.

Around 12.8 million lives have been covered under Covid-specific products with a premium of more than ₹1,000 crore, and the sum insured is more than watch on the situation," he said.



IN THE PIPELINE

- A group has been formed by the regulator on this issue
- Falling interest rates has led to
- demand for annuity products Irdai has launched a standard

individual annuity

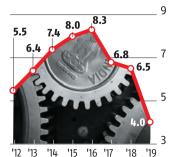
COVID PRODUCTS REPORT CARD

- 4.2 million lives covered under Corona Kavach; 536,000 under Corona Rakshak
- Overall, 12.8 million lives covered under Covid-specific products
- Around ₹1,000 crore premiums have been collected
- And sum insured for these policies has surpassed ₹12 trillion

₹12 trillion. The chairman said insurance companies had been asked to have agreements with network providers (hospitals) on the cost of disposables and Covid treatment. In the initial days of the pandemic the health insurance industry saw costs rising due to disposables because there was no standard charge for such products and customers had to pay for them. But he said it was a transient phenomenon and the costs had come down.

"We would like to develop such agreements between health providers and insurers so that there is some certainty and policyholders are not asked to pay anything extra. Now, things are under control and we are keeping a

THE TRAJECTORY



*Third Revised Estimates: #Second Revised

-13 -14 -15 -16 -17 -18*-19# -20@

Estimates; @First Revised Estimates Source: Ministry of Statistics & Programme

Core sector output shrinks 1.3% in Dec **PERFORMANCE OF EIGHT CORE INDUSTRIES** Growth rates (in %)

Sector	Coal	Crude oil	Natural gas	Refinery products	Fertilisers	Steel	Cement	Electricity	Overall growth
Weight	10.33	8.98	6.88	28.04	2.63	17.92	5.37	19.85	100
Dec 19	6.1	-7.4	-9.2	3	10.2	8.7	5.5	-0.02	3.1
Jan ' 20	8	-5. 3	-9	1.9	-0.1	1.6	5.1	3.2	2.2
Feb ' 20	11.3	-6.4	-9.6	7.4	2.9	2.9	7.8	11.5	6.4
Mar'20	4	-5 . 5	-15.1	-0.5	-11.9	-21.9	-25.1	-8.2	-8.6
Apr'20	-15. 5	-6.4	-19.9	-24.2	-4.5	-82.8	-85.2	-22.9	-37.9
May '20	-14	-7.1	-16.8	-21.3	7.5	-40.4	-21.4	-14.8	-21.4
Jun ' 20	-15 . 5	-6	-12	-8.9	4.2	-23.2	-6.8	-10	-12.4
Jul '20	-5.7	-4.9	-10.2	-13.9	6.9	-6.5	-13.5	-2.4	-7.6
Aug '20	3.6	-6. 3	-9.5	-19.1	7. 3	0.5	-14.5	-1.8	-6.9
Sep ' 20	21	-6	-10.6	-9.5	-0.3	6.2	-3.4	4.8	0.6
Oct '20	11.7	-6. 2	-8.6	-17	6. 3	4	3.2	11.2	-0.9
Nov '20*	3.3	-4.9	-9.3	-4.8	1.6	-0.5	-7.3	3.5	-1.4
Dec' 20* *provisional	2.2	- 3.6	-7. 2	-2.8	-2.9	-2.7	-9.7	4.2	-1. 3

During April-December against a growth rate of 0.6 2020-21, the sectors' output per cent in the same period natural gas, refinery pro-cent, 7.2 per cent, 2.8 per against the earlier projec-2020," she said.

declined by 10.1 per cent of the previous year.

ducts, fertiliser, steel and The output of crude oil, cement declined by 3.6 per cent, 2.9 per cent, 2.7 per tion of 0.1 per cent contraccent, and 9.7 per cent, tion. respectively.

The growth in coal production slowed down to 2.2 Economist Aditi Nayar per cent in the month said that discouragingly, under review from 6.1

per cent in the same month last year. However, electricity output grew by 4.2 per cent in December

The eight core indus- tor data, juxtaposed with tries constitute 40.27 per the uptick in auto produccent of the Index of Industrial Production.

The government also exports, we expected the revised core sector output IIP to rebound to a modest data for September 2020 showing a growth rate of 0.6 per cent in the month the level seen in October

Petronet LNG Limited

Regd. Office: World Trade Centre, Babar Road, Barakhamba Lane, New Delhi – 110001
Phone: 011-23411411, Fax: 011- 23472550, CIN: L74899DL1998PLC093073
Email: investors@petronetlng.com, Company's website: www.petronetlng.com

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, that Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on **Thursday**, 11th **February 2021**, interalia, to consider and approve Unaudited Financial Results of the Company for Pursuant to Code for Prevention of Insider Trading in the Securities of PLL

PLL's Code) as well as circular issued by the Stock Exchanges dated 2nd April 2019, it was informed to the Stock Exchanges vide letter dated 22nd June 2020 that the Trading Window for dealing in securities of PLL would be closed, for all 'Insider' as per PLL's Code, from 1st January 2021 till 48 hours after the financial results for the quarter ended 31st December 2020 would become

In view of the above, the Trading Window for trading in PLL's securities which was closed from 1"January 2021 shall remain closed till 13" February 2021 (both days inclusive). All insiders have been advised not to deal with the securities of PLL during this period.

This intimation is also available at the website of the Company at www.petroneting.com and on the website of the Stock Exchanges where the shares of the Company are listed i.e. https://www.bseindia.com and https://www.nseindia.com.

For Petronet LNG Limited

(Rajan Kapur) **CGM & VP-Company Secretary**

connected SPV Power Projects in UP Solar Park located at Kanpul Dehat and Jalaun districts of Uttar Pradesh for procurement of Power through Tariff based competitive Bidding Process on the basis of International competitive Bidding Process in accordance with Ministry of Power "Tariff based bidding Guidelines for solar PV Power Projects" as per the details mentioned below.

UTTAR PRADESH NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, (UPNEDA), (Deptt. of Additional Sources of Energy, Govt. of U.P.)

Mob.No. 91-9415609019, Tel.No 0522-2720652

Tele Fax: 0522-2720779, 2720829 Website: www.upneda.org.in E-Mail: compneda@rediffmail.com

e-tender Notice

UPNEDA invites Online Bids (e-tenders) for selection of Solar

Project Developers for setting up of total 275 MW capacity Grid

Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar, Luckn

SI. No.	e-Tender No.	e-tender document availability at site	submission	Technical e-bid opening date
1	01/UPNEDA/Solar Park/RfS/2021.	29-1-2021	01-3-2021 upto 6.00 PM.	02-3-2021 at 12.30 PM
	Control and the control and the control and the	Same records a residence of the	The second of the second of the	

The details of tenders can be seen or downloaded from Website: www.bharat-electronictender.com. Director, UPNEDA reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

AstraZeneca ♣ AstraZeneca Pharma India Limited

(CIN: L24231KA1979PLC003563)

Regd. Office: Block N1,12th Floor, Manyata Embassy Business Park Rachenahalli, Outer Ring Road, Bangalore-560 045 Ph.: 080-67748000, Web: www.astrazeneca.com/india

- NOTICE

[Pursuant to Regulation 47(1)(a) of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015]

A meeting of the Board of Directors of AstraZeneca Pharma India Limited will be held on Monday, February 8, 2021 inter alia, to consider and approve the Unaudited Financial Results of the Company, for the quarter ended December 31, 2020.

This information is available on the website of the Company i.e. www.astrazeneca.com/india and also on the website of the Stock Exchanges, www.nseindia.com (National Stock Exchange of India Limited) and www.bseindia.com (BSE Limited), where the equity shares of the Company are listed.

> For AstraZeneca Pharma India Limited Pratap Rudra

Place: Bangalore Date: January 29, 2021 Company Secretary & Legal Counsel



OPEN TENDER NOTICE Tender No. HOMM/4004-18/047001/90

Online Tenders are invited through E-Procurement Mode for the following equipment from reputed manufacturers directly or through their accredited agents in India, required Diamond Mining Project, Majhgawan, Panna-488 001 (MP) India

Description of	Qty	Tender Documents Period	for Submission
Equipment	(No.)		of Offer
Supply of 01 Number Track Dozer of 300 HP to 360 HP Capacity along with Operation and Maintenance Spares for 4 Years/10,000 Hours whichever is earlier as per specifications mentioned in Annexure-III	01	30.01.2021 To 01.03.2021	01.03.2021 by 2.30 PM (IST)

Complete Tender document is available in website www.nmdc.co.in under tende section; www.mstcecommerce.com/eprochome; CPP Portal http://eprocure.gov.ir Any corrigendum to the above tender will be uploaded only on our website www.nmdc.co.in and will not be published. Prospective bidders should visit the above NMDC Limited website from time to time to take note of corrigendum, if any For further details logon to Tender Section of our website: www.nmdc.co.ir

Chief General Manager (Materials

Dated: 29 01 202



Place: New Delhi Date: 29.01.2021



Equity share capital (Face value ₹ 2 each)

Other equity (as per Audited Balance Sheet)

Basic and diluted EPS (Not annualized) (₹)

Cummins India Limited

5.544

6.72

Registered Office: Cummins India Office Campus, Tower A, 5th Floor, Survey No. 21, Balewadi, Pune 411 045, Maharashtra, India Telephone: (020) 67067000 Fax: (020) 67067015. E-mail: cil.investors@cummins.com. Website: www.cumminsindia.com (CIN: L29112PN1962PLC012276)

Unaudited standalone and consolidated financial results for the quarter and nine months ended December 31, 2020 (₹ Lacs) Sr.No. Particulars Consolidated Standalone Quarter ended Nine months ended Nine months ended December 31 September 30, December 31, December 31, December 31, March 31, December 31, September 30, December 31, December 31, December 31, March 31, 2020 2019 2020 2020 2019 2020 2019 2020 2020 2020 2019 2020 (Unaudited) (Unaudited) (Audited) (Unaudited) (Unaudited) (Unaudited) (Unaudited) (Audited) (Unaudited) (Unaudited) (Unaudited) (Unaudited) 1,42,434 1,45,344 3,08,273 4,10,489 5,15,773 1,43,102 1,45,635 3,10,383 4,12,899 5,19,145 Revenue from operations 1.16.019 1.16.999 Profit before exceptional items and tax 24,453 70,507 30.361 18.868 25.383 56.274 65.809 77.891 26.549 18.953 51.844 60.693 25,805 23.778 56.274 64.204 75.906 30.972 21.599 59.677 68.415 80.748 3 Profit before tax 30.361 18.868 4 Profit after tax 23,407 14,555 18,624 43,218 51,103 62,934 24,029 17,316 19,988 46,647 53,537 70,561 Total comprehensive income for the period 23,130 14,987 18,330 42,896 50,203 61,177 23,711 17,722 19,675 46,232 52.578 68,737 [Comprising profit for the period (after tax) and other comprehensive income (after tax)]

8

Place: Pune

Date: January 28, 2021

1. The above is an extract of the detailed financial results filed with the stock exchanges under regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full financial results are

5 544

18.44

5 544

4,11,952

22.70

5 544

8.67

5.544

6.25

5 544

7.21

5.544

16.83

available on the stock exchange websites (URL-www.nseindia.com and www.bseindia.com) and also on above mentioned website of the Company. 2. This statement has been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting held on January 28, 2021.

5.544

5.25

5.544

8 44

For Cummins India Limited Ashwath Ram Managing Director DIN: 00149501

5.544

19.31

5 544

25.45

4,34,660

Making people's lives better by powering a more prosperous world

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5.544

15.59

DELHI

SATURDAY, JAN. 30					
RISE	07:11	SET 17:59			
RISE	19:38	SET 08:24			
SUNDAY, JAN. 31					
A RISE	07.10	SFT 18:00			

RISE 20:41 SET 09:04 MONDAY, FEB. 01 RISE 07:10 SET 18:01

RISE 21:45 SET 09:41

Delhi Weather max min Delhi City Safdarjang 04

Delhi Palam Today 21°C Cold wave would continue at some places. Shallow fog to prevail during the morning and pleasant dry day. few clouds expected.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow 22°C Moderate fog likely to prevail. A cold morning and pleasant mainly sunny day.

THEMOHINDU

any published in this newspaper. PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publis s, Employees of this ne ny be held responsible

HC seeks response to plea by PETA

STAFF REPORTER

The Delhi High Court on Friday asked the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) and the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) to respond to a plea by People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), seeking to issue show-cause notices to several circuses and cancel their registration certificates due to alleged violations committed by them.

A Bench of Justices Vipin Sanghi and Rekha Palli asked the AWBI and the CZA to file detailed replies within three weeks, and posted the case for further

hearing on February 25. PETA submitted that as per the AWBI, only six circuses are functional now, but show-cause notices have been issued to only two of them. To this, the AWBI and the CZA said show-cause notices have been issued to all the six circuses and action is being taken against them.

The plea was filed in a pending petition by PETA for protection of animals in circuses stranded across the country due to the CO-VID-19 pandemic. Another plea by Federation of Indian Animals Protection Organisation, seeking similar relief, is also pending before the High Court.

BJP goons asking farmers to vacate protest sites at Delhi borders: AAP

Manish Sisodia seeks explanation as to why BJP is terming protesters as traitors

Senior AAP leader and Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said that it was not local residents, but "goons of the BJP" who are asking farmers to vacate protest sites at different borders of

While visiting a protest site in Ghazipur at Delhi-Uttar Pradesh border on Friday, Mr. Sisodia said the BJP should explain why they were terming "sardars as traitors"

Meanwhile, Water Minister Satyendar Jain, who had visited the Singhu border with water tankers claimed that the police did not even allow supply of basic facilities such as water to the farmers on the BIP's orders...

"It's unfortunate that "sardars", who are strong patriots, are being called traitors. The real traitors are the ones who are calling the farmers that. Central go-



Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia with BKU leader Rakesh Tikait at the Ghazipur border on Friday. • R.V. MOORTHY

vernment is wronging the farmers under the pressure from 'capitalist friends'. AAP always stands with farmers and the Sikh community," Mr. Sisodia said.

He said that farmers who feed the nation are being called traitors, being abused and being called violent. "The BJP is calling them traitors. The BIP will have to tell the country why they are calling 'sardars' traitors," the AAP leader said.

Mr. Sisodia said that on Thursday, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had talked to Rakesh Tikait, one of the leaders of the farmers. "He [Mr. Tikait] had said that the Uttar Pradesh government has removed facilities for water. We made arrangements last [Thursday] night. We have arranged nine to 10 tankers and toilets on directions of the Chief Minister."

When asked about local people allegedly asking

farmers to leave the protest sites, Mr. Sisodia said, 'These are not locals. These are goons of the BJP."

"Rakesh ji, we are completely with the farmers. Your demands are valid. It is wrong to discredit the farmers' movement, call farmers as traitors and make false cases against leaders of farmers who have been agitating peacefully for so many days," Mr. Kejriwal said in a tweet in Hindi.

Mr. Jain claimed that the central government and the BJP leadership were behind this "shameful decision" to stop the water tankers at Singhu. "They want to keep the farmers thirsty and hungry because they think in this way, they can stop the protest. The Kejriwal government believes that when the farmers are in Delhi, it is our fundamental duty to provide them with water and toilet facilities," he

BJP condemns 'resurgence of miscreants' at borders

Party accuses AAP of supporting them

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Friday sought to condemn "the resurgence of miscreants and arson elements" on the Singhu and Ghazipur borders besides accusing Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) of shoulder-to-"standing shoulder" with them.

president Delhi BJP Adesh Gupta questioned as to why Mr. Kejriwal had not met the policemen injured during the violence on Republic Day or spoken about the incident.

"The condition of many policemen remains critical, but Keiriwal has neither visited the injured security personnel vet nor condemned the incident. These 400 jawans are also sons and daughters of someone and are residents of Delhi," he alleged.

"Kejriwal, who calls himself the son of Delhi, thinks it is better to respect those who spread anarchy than to The condition of many policemen remains critical, but Kejriwal has neither visited the injured security personnel yet nor

condemned the

incident

ADESH GUPTA Delhi BJP president

honour those who fight against such elements. This is the reason why when the police arrived to remove the miscreants peacefully, Kejriwal's entire staff stood with the miscreants," he also alleged.

AAP and Congress stood in support of "miscreants" at protest sites, Mr. Gupta alleged, with Delhi government Ministers "facilitating

The stand of the Kejriwal government in respect to those who "disrespect the national flag" was an insult not only to Delhi, but the entire country, he also alleged.

Delhi reports 249 new virus cases, six more deaths

STAFF REPORTER

Delhi witnessed 249 new COVID-19 cases in the last 24 hours, taking the total number of cases to 6,34,773, according to a health bulletin released by the Delhi government on Friday.

Also, six more deaths have been reported, taking the total number of deaths to 10,841. A total of 58,725 tests were done in the past 24 hours.

1,551 active cases

Of the total cases, 6,22,381 people have recovered and there are 1,551 active cases.

The positivity rate of CO-VID-19 cases was 0.42% on Friday and the overall positivity till now was 5.98%, as per the bulletin.

Out of the total 8,701 beds available for COVID-19 treatment in Delhi, 91.9% beds were vacant.

Also, there were 1,227 containment zones in the city as of Friday.

'U.P. ordinance on conversion capable of public mischief'

It violates fundamental right to practise religion: Justice Shah

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH

Justice Ajit Prakash Shah, former Chief Justice of Delhi High Court, on Friday said the controversial Uttar Pradesh Ordinance aimed at checking unlawful religious conversions for inter-faith marriages was "capable of great public mischief".

Justice Shah made the remarks while speaking at a virtual meet organised by the Delhi High Court Women Lawvers' Forum on 'Attack on Love Marriage and Freedom of Choice'.

Iustice Shah, who headed the High Court Bench that decriminalised homosexuality in 2009, said the idea of fraternity is being tested most in India today. "We are watching this attack on this most fundamental of democratic principles play out in our backyard through The Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Religious Conversion Ordinance, 2020," Justice Shah said.

The former Chairman of Law Commission of India said: "This Ordinance has been promulgated to combat the perceived threat of 'love jihad', a term commonly used to describe interAn aggrieved person can lodge a complaint against anyone. With the executive and legislature having

failed us on this front what can the third arm of the government [judiciary] do.

JUSTICE AJIT PRAKASH SHAH Former Chief Justice of Delhi HC

faith relationships and marriage. The ordinance makes it a criminal offence for a person to convert another by coercion, misrepresentation and so on. There is nothing objectionable in that itself. But it greatly violates the freedom of conscience and the fundamental right to practice religion. It also strikes at the right to life and liberty guaranteed by the Constitution."

Burden of proof He explained that ordinarily, in any given case the burden of proof is on the prosecution. Under this Ordinance, however, every religious

conversion is presumed to

be illegal. The burden of

proof now lies with the per-

son accused of religious con-

version to prove that it is not illegal.

The offence is cognisable and non-bailable, so the police can arrest the accused without a warrant, Justice Shah said, adding, "Interestingly, reconversion is not illegal."

"An aggrieved person can lodge a complaint against anyone. A lot of people can be brought under this net. This law is capable of great public mischief. Indeed my own marriage is inter-faith as amongst one of my children. Such relationship should be celebrated, instead we are criminalising them," he remarked.

"With the executive and legislature having failed us on this front what can the third arm of the government [judiciary] do. In a recent case, the Allahabad High Court held that marriage is a matter of choice and every adult woman has the fundamental right to choose her partner," Justice Shah said.

Speaking at the virtual meet, advocate Kirti Singh said the entire drama of 'love jihad' was done to target inter-faith marriages, and particularly Hindu and Muslim interfaith marriages.

Republic Day celebrations in Delhi come to a close

Arrangements made adhering to COVID-19 norms; attendees, performers wore masks

HEMANI BHANDARI NEW DELHI

Seats were at a fair distance from each other, and not only the attendees but the officers who performed with their drums and pipes had masks on. What stole the show of Beating Retreat was an old favourite composition by the Air Force Band.

As the Republic Day celebrations came to a close with Beating Retreat at Vijay Chowk on Friday, the drums embedded with white light played by the Air Force Band, especially during their composition "Evening Star", got a round of applause louder than the rest.

Performances

"All of it was absolutely amazing. But 'Evening Star' stood out for me. It was really upbeat and different. It was a performance which millennials like us could connect with," said Sneha Bhansali (21) who had come with her friends to the event for the first time on Friday.

Another element of the event which caught people's keen attention was a song on the Indian Army titled 'Hum sher hai Galwan ke', with a video playing out in the background of Army officers in Galwan.

The event started with Navy, Army and Air Force



Beating Retreat event at Vijay Chowk on Friday. • R.V. MOORTHY

chief arriving in their cars followed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu and finally President Ram Nath Kovind with a fleet of decked-up horses.

There were a few new performances this time, including 'Tiranga Senani' and 'Nidar Yodha' presented by the Air Force Band, 'Bharat Vandana' by Naval Band, and 'Abhinandan Bharat' and 'Sambhodan

Echo' by Army Military Band. The retreat ended with the hymn 'Abide with me' followed by 'Saare 1ahan se accha', which visibly evoked a feeling of patriotism in the crowd.

While the number of guests this time being limited owing to COVID-19, a few managed to get entry passes. Harsh Bhandari (17), a resident of Hauz Khas, who had come with his mother, said: "I have come for the third time and I think I will

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

continue to come as I want to join the Army eventually. This event fills me with patriotism.

This was the first time for 76-year-old Krishna Aggarwal at the event, which he had been wanting to attend for last many years. Her four daughters and husband are working for the defence forces and she never got an opportunity to attend one. "I was born before independence so all such events fill me with pride," she said.

tilation index is forecast for

the next two days, AQI is

likely to marginally improve

to the middle to lower end

of the very poor category for

Saturday. AQI is forecast to

IIT-K submits proposal to Delhi govt. on real-time pollution study

It follows move to terminate Washington University's study

NIKHIL M BABU

IIT-Kanpur has submitted a proposal to the Delhi government for conducting a study to find what exactly are the sources of pollutants in the city's air on a real time basis, a Delhi government official told The Hin-

The move follows a decision by Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia to "terminate" the same study, which was being done by University of Washington in St. Louis for the Delhi government, in December.

Cost of project

"According to the proposal, the new study will cost about ₹11 crore. An expert committee will examine the proposal and, if found feasible, then the study will be allotted to IIT-Kanpur on nomination basis without a tender. The decision will be taken by the Cabinet," the

official said. The proposed study is

different from the earlier



The reasons behind pollution in Delhi are a matter of constant debate. ■ FILE PHOTO

one as a whole team will be working on the new one. Also, a "super monitoring site", a tall structure with sensors, will be set up by IIT-Kanpur, as part of the

study, according to officials. "IIT-Kanpur will analyse the data and create an algorithm which will give what are sources of pollution on a real-time basis," the official added. As per the proposal, it will take 18 months to complete the study once ap-

proved. The study is important since what causes pollution in the city has been a matter of constant debate between the city and the Central government. The Delhi government

Haryana is the major cause of air pollution in Delhi during the winter. On the other hand, the Centre has multiple times pointed out that local pollu-

tants in the city are also a

has been stating that stub-

ble burning in Punjab and

main reason. In 2018, the Delhi Cabinet, headed by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, had approved a proposal for the study by University of Washington in St. Louis.

The university went ahead with the study and the government paid them more than ₹50 lakh. However, a three-member committee appointed by the Delhi government raised red flags about the study in October and November.

Later, a decision was taken in December to cancel it and find a new agency to do the study.

ASSI launches injury prevention and awareness programme

STAFF REPORTER

Association of Spine Surgeons of India (ASSI) on Friday said that everyday habits such as prolonged sitting or standing, poor posture, carrying heavy bags, unsupervised or excessive physical training are major contributors to spinal ailments.

sedentary now, you are sitting more, and people tend to slouch in chairs or bed. Especially during the COVID-19 crisis, people are working from home and since there is no proper work environment in most cases, it leads to more bad postures and that in turn leads to spinal ailments and back pain," said H.S. Chhabra, ASSI president and chief of Spine Services at Indian Spinal Inju-

The ASSI on Friday launched a country-wide injury prevention and awareness programme and drive about "spine-healthy lifestyle" and will partner with 1,000 institutions, including schools, colleges and other organisations.

accidents that result in spinal injuries. Simple everyday habits such as poor posture, carrying heavy bags, inadequate furniture, unsupervised or excessive physical training or not wearing helmets are major contributors to injuries. Simple interventions. such as wearing seatbelts and helmets diligently, using ergonomic furniture in offices and schools and adoption of correct posture can go a long way in reducing burden of injuries and back pain. Apart from stressing on the need for using effective safety equipment, the awareness programme will also incorporate awareness on spinehealthy lifestyles, posturecorrection techniques and exercise regimens," said Gautam Zaveri, Joint Secre-

cording to CPCB data. The marginally deteriorate tonational capital's air quality wards the middle-end of the is not expected to improve much in the coming days.

The air quality of Delhi and

Gurugram was in the "very

poor" category and Noida's

was "severe" on Friday, ac-



very poor category on January 31 and February 1," said "An improvement in ven-Petronet LNG Limited

Air quality to remain

'very poor' on weekend

NOTICE Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, that Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Thursday, 11th February 2021, inter alia, to consider and approve Unaudited Financial Results of the Company for the quarter ended 31st December 2020.

Email: investors@petronetlng.com, Company's website: www.petronetlng.com

Pursuant to Code for Prevention of Insider Trading in the Securities of PLI (PLL's Code) as well as circular issued by the Stock Exchanges dated 2nd Apri 2019, it was informed to the Stock Exchanges vide letter dated 22nd June 2020 that the Trading Window for dealing in securities of PLL would be closed, for all 'Insider' as per PLL's Code, from 1st January 2021 till 48 hours after the financial results for the quarter ended 31st December 2020 would become

In view of the above, the Trading Window for trading in PLL's securities which was closed from 1st January 2021 shall remain closed till 13th February 2021 (both days inclusive). All Insiders have been advised not to deal with the securities of PLL during this period.

This intimation is also available at the website of the Company a www.petronetlng.com and on the website of the Stock Exchanges where the shares of the Company are listed i.e. https://www.bseindia.com and For Petronet LNG Limited

(Rajan Kapur)

Place: New Delhi Date: 29.01.2021

CGM & VP-Company Secretary

'Daily habits can lead to spinal ailments'

"Since the lifestyle is more

ries Centre, New Delhi.

"It is not just mishaps or

tary of ASSI.

REGIONAL APPOINTMENT



राष्ट्रीय पृथ्वी विज्ञान अध्ययन केंद्र NATIONAL CENTRE FOR EARTH SCIENCE STUDIES Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt. of India

Advt.No.NCESS/P&GA/1224/02/2021 Date: 29.01.2021 **RECRUITMENT OF ASSISTANT MANAGER**

NCESS invites online applications from eligible Indian citizens

for appointment to one post of Assistant Manager, on direct recruitment basis, in the Pay Level 7 of the 7th CPC Pay Matrix of Rs.44,900-1,42,400 in Group B. For more details visit NCESS website www.ncess.gov.in

Senior Manager

Published by N. Ravi at Kasturi Buildings. 859 & 860. Anna Salai. Chennai-600002 and Printed by S. Ramanuiam at HT Media Ltd. Plot No. 8. Udvoo Vihar. Greater Noida Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar. U.P. 201306. on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD.. Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act)

Inquisitive Ape"

About Author: