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Surge of elation on bhoomi puja eve

Ayodhya decked up, PM to lay foundation of Ram Mandir at 12.44-12.45 pm

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■
AYODHYA

The temple town of Ayodhya has been fortified and decked up like never before, painted all over in yellow hue, for the 'bhoomi puja' for the construction of Ram Temple at the Ram Janmabhoomi Complex. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone on Wednesday.

"The foundation stone function will start at 12.30 pm and the shila (stone) will be laid between 12.44 and 12.45 pm after offering prayers to Lord Ganesha," Champat Rai, general secretary of the Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust told this reporter.

The PM will lay a 40-kg silver brick to symbolise the start of construction of the Ram Temple that is his core to the ruling BJP's ideology and poll promises. A campaign for the temple marked the rise of the party to the national spotlight in the 1990s.

Rai said that religious functions like different pujas have started. These include Ramachan Puja, where prayers are held to invite all major gods and goddesses who consider Lord Ram as their Ishh (the god of worship). Vedic saints are conducting the prayers facing Ram Lalla on his temporary seat, Rai said.

A total of 21 priests from Varanasi, Ayodhya, and Prayagraj started the ritual of Bhoomi Puja by organising Gauri Ganesh Puja at the Bhoomi Pujan site on the Ram Janmabhoomi premises. Priests are also performing puja at the Hanumanagarhi and Ram ki chavni temples and aarti at the

Saryu ghat in the evening. On Tuesday morning, Ramacharya puja along with dhawal and Nisan puja of Lord Hanuman were performed at the Hanumanagarhi temple. Except for the priests of the temples, none was allowed to attend these pujas due to Covid pandemic.

Pandit Kalikram handed over a green colour dress along with a religious flag to the head priest of the Ram Lalla temple Acharya Satendra Das, which Ram Lalla will wear on Wednesday. Ram Lalla will wear a yellow dress on Thursday. Pandit Kalikram has been sending the dresses for the idols for the last two years. He will also light diyas at almost all the temples of Ayodhya in the evening of August 5.

The city has been turned into a fortress with barricades put up across the main thoroughfare of Ayodhya - particularly those lanes which connect the city to Ram Janmabhoomi Complex. The jawans of the paramilitary force are deployed around the city. The shops are closed. The road side eateries have downed their shutters, but the local residents are not complaining.

"Our movements have been restricted for two days but we are not complaining. This is an indicator of good things to come. We will have our own Ram Temple after almost five centuries. And for that why will we complain," Dilip Maurya, who owns Maurya Tea Stall near Ghatgaur, said.

There is an air of festivity around Ayodhya. Religious songs or the chanting of Sunderkand wafts through the air as one drives through the empty roads of Ayodhya.



Devotees light lamps on Deepotsav at Ramghat on the eve of bhoomi puja of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya on Tuesday

SIDELIGHTS

- Iqbal Ansari, a litigant in the temple-mosque dispute, was the first person to be invited
- 1,000 men deployed in Ayodhya to shoo away monkeys at temple site
- UP CM Yogi Adityanath's official residence fully illuminated on Tuesday
- Silver coin as 'prasad' for every guest in Ayodhya
- Coronavirus test certificate compulsory for Ayodhya invitees
- I feel humbled that during the Ram Janmabhoomi movement, destiny made me perform a pivotal duty in the form of the Ram Rath Yatra from Sonmath to Ayodhya in 1990, which helped galvanise the aspirations, energies and passions of its countless participants
- LK ADVANI

Not invited, Advani recalls his role in temple movement

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Not invited to attend the Ram Mandir bhoomi puja ceremony in Ayodhya on Wednesday, the architect of the Ram temple movement and veteran BJP leader LK Advani on Tuesday reminded his role in 'galvanising the aspirations, energies and passions of its countless participants of the movement.'

Claiming that it was a historic and emotional day for him and for all Indians, Advani recalled the 'pivotal duty' he

performed in carrying out the Ram Rath Yatra from Sonmath to Ayodhya in 1990.

A day before Prime Minister Narendra Modi lays the foundation stone for a Ram temple in Ayodhya, Advani said in a statement it is his belief that the Ram Mandir will represent India as a strong, prosperous, peaceful and harmonious nation with justice for all and exclusion of none to truly usher in 'Ram Rajya, the epitome of good governance'.

Foundation stone was laid in 1989; on August 5 just construction will start: VHP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) president Alok Kumar has claimed the foundation stone for the construction of a grand Ram Temple at the birthplace of Lord Shri Ram was laid way back in 1989, and on August 5 just the construction work will start.

Without taking any names, he said the construction of the temple was embroiled in the hurdles created by various

Modi to stay for 3 hours, to pray at Ram Lalla temple

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be in Ayodhya for over 3 hours on Wednesday, and for the first time offer prayers at the Ram Lalla temple and Hanumanagarhi after becoming the PM of the country in 2014.

Though Modi had visited erstwhile Faizabad district, now rechristened as Ayodhya by the Yogi Adityanath Government, he never went to these temples to avoid any controversy.

Modi will also be the first Prime Minister to visit Ram Janmabhoomi Complex. Earlier, Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi had come to Faizabad but did not offer prayers at RJB Complex.

The PM will fly from New Delhi at 0935 hours on Wednesday morning by a special IAF aircraft and will reach Lucknow at 1035 hrs.

CBI probe into Sushant death, proposes Bihar

PTI ■ PATNA/MUMBAI

The Bihar Government on Tuesday recommended a CBI enquiry into actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death case. Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said, a move contested by Rhea Chakraborty's lawyer, who insisted the State had no jurisdiction to make such a recommendation.

As Patna and Mumbai Police were locked in a bitter turf war over who had the mandate of law to investigate the sensational death of Rajput, Nitish earlier said his Government will recommend handing over the case to the central probe agency after the actor's father gave his consent.

KK Singh, Rajput's father, had on July 25 lodged a police complaint against Chakraborty, a leading actor and his son's rumoured girlfriend, of abetting his suicide, keeping him in wrongful confinement and defrauding him of crores of rupees.

"The actor's father spoke to the DGP and gave his consent for a CBI probe. Since he had lodged an FIR with Bihar police, we could not have recommended a CBI enquiry. Now that he has consented, I have asked the DGP to complete all formalities today and the Government will send its recommendation today itself," Nitish had told journalists.

Rhea Chakraborty's lawyer Satishmane Shinde, meanwhile, called into question the Bihar government's decision. "There cannot be transfer of a case which had no legal basis to begin with for the Bihar police to get involved," he said.

Aaditya slams 'dirty politics', says he has no role in case

TR RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A mid indirect insinuations being made at him by the BJP-led Opposition on issues relating to actor Sushant Singh Rajput's alleged suicide, Maharashtra's influential Minister Aaditya Thackeray on Tuesday slammed opponents for indulging in 'dirty politics' and 'malicious' him and his family, and categorically said he has nothing to do with Sushant's suicide.

So much so that Rane claimed that on a day when Maharashtra's former Chief Minister and BJP's Rajya Sabha member Narayan Rane alleged that the actor and his ex-manager Disha Salas were 'murdered', So much so that Rane claimed that Disha was "raped" and "murdered". He also alleged both the incidents were linked.

Breaking his silence over the allegations linking him to Sushant's suicide, he said he had over the past several days by the BJP leaders without naming him, 30-year-old Aaditya, who is the son of Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, issued a statement in Marathi on his twitter handle, denying his role in matters relating to the actor's suicide and said his political opponents were desperately indulging in 'dirty politics'.

Heavy rain likely to continue in State

BHUBANESWAR: The Special Relief Commissioner on Tuesday issued an advisory to the district Collectors over heavy rainfall forecast in the State in view of the low pressure area formed over the Bay of Bengal.

The Collectors were asked to closely watch and monitor the situation as waterlogging might occur in low-lying areas. Meanwhile, the well-marked low-pressure area over the north Bay of Bengal has resulted in heavy to very heavy rainfall in some parts of the State as per the Regional Office of IMD here.

The districts of Baleswar, Bhadrak, Mayurbhanj, Balasore, Dhenkanal, Kalahandi, Balangir, Subarnapur, Sambalpur, Deogarh and Cuttack could very likely witness heavy rainfall till Friday. The IMD issued yellow warning for 17 districts including Ganjam, Balangir, Boudh, Kandhamal, Mayurbhanj, Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapada and Jharsuguda.

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Trump bans hiring of H1B visa holders, blow to Indians

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

In another huge blow to Indian IT professionals eyeing the US job market, President Donald Trump has signed an executive order asking federal agencies to hire Americans and preventing them from contracting or subcontracting foreign workers, mainly those with H-1B visas.

The move came over a month after the Trump administration on June 23 suspended the H-1B visas along with other types of foreign work visas until the end of 2020 to protect American workers in a crucial election year.

The H-1B visa, most sought-after among Indian IT professionals, is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in specialty occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise. The technology companies depend on it to hire types of foreign work visas until the end of 2020 to protect American workers in a crucial election year.

PNS



the federal government lives by a very simple rule, hire American," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office of the White House on Monday before signing the order against hiring H-1B visa holders for federal contracts.

Trump told reporters that his administration will not tolerate firing of hardworking Americans in the pursuit of cheap foreign labour.

"As we speak, we're finalising the H-1B regulation so that no American workers are replaced ever again. H-1B should be used for top highly paid talent to create American jobs, not as inexpensive labour

programmes and destroy American jobs," said Trump, who was surrounded across the Cabinet Room table with individuals campaigning against job outsourcing.

Prominent among them were Sara Blackwell, founder and president of Florida-based Protect US Workers organisation; Jonathan Hicks, a software engineer in the Tennessee Valley Authority; and Kevin Lynn, founder of Pennsylvania-based US Tech Workers.

The H-1B visa has an annual numerical limit cap of 65,000 visas each fiscal year as mandated by the Congress.

'Offer prayer in Covid warriors' honour'

Naveen urges people to observe silence today

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Tuesday called upon the people to observe a silent prayer in the honour of deceased Covid warriors at 6 pm on Wednesday.

He also urged people to take oath to praise Covid warriors' continued efforts and abide by the Government's Covid guidelines in true spirit.

"I will lead a silent prayer in Covid warriors' memory," Patnaik said, adding, "Tomorrow Odisha will cross 25,000 recoveries. This is a momentous occasion in our fight against the pandemic. Together, we have been able to save more lives than in other parts of the country. Our fatality rate at 0.57% is one of the lowest in the country."

"For us every life is precious and saving each person is our mission," he said. The Chief Minister also warned officers that delay in payment of financial support, as announced by the Government, to families of deceased Covid warriors would not be tolerated at all.

Pradhan tests Covid +ve

NEW DELHI: Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan has tested positive for Covid-19. He has been admitted to Medanta Hospital in Gurugram for past few days.

Earlier, Pradhan had been

in isolation after some of his officials tested positive. In a tweet, Pradhan stated, "After 1 day of isolation, I have tested negative for COVID-19. I underwent coronavirus tests. The sample report showed I tested positive."

149 more test +ve in BBSR; total 3,217

Day's highest 19 cases in Siripur slum - 91 infected in Cuttack city; total 1,182

BHUBANESWAR / CUTTACK: Bhubaneswar again reported a spike in positive cases on Tuesday with 149 new ones. With this, the capital city's total tally of positive cases rose to 3,217.

Notably, the city had registered 89 cases on Monday. Out of the 149 new cases, 98 cases were detected from quarantine centres and 51 were local contacts, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation said.

The quarantine cases included 19 from Siripur Khandagiri Sahi linked with an earlier positive case; 11 of Salia Sahi linked with an earlier case; seven of Nayapalli Bir Colony linked with an earlier case; six of Dumduma Raghunath Nagar four of Uda Sahi linked with an earlier case; three of Badagadi Bir Colony; three, all employees of a Government hospital, linked

with an earlier case: three of Khandagiri Tapoban Basti; three of Unit-1 near market; two of Shailashree Vihar; two of Jayadev Vihar; two of Shailashree Vihar VIM area; and one of Pokharpur Phase-2 with a travel history of Hyderabad.

The local contacts included four cases of Old Town; three of Salia Sahi; two of Ganganagar; two of Jayadev Vihar; two of Laxmisagar near post office; two of Jharpada; two of Baranunda Hill Colony; two of Nayapalli Iskon Basti; and two of Unit-8.

With the new cases, the city's total active cases rose to 1,254. However, 1943 patients have recovered while 18 have died of the deadly disease so far.

On Tuesday, Cuttack registered 91 more positive cases, taking the city's total to 1,182. Out of the new cases, 73 were from home quarantine, 12 local contacts and six from institutional quarantine.

Of the home quarantine cases, 28 were from the Belura Sahi containment zone in Malgoudan, 14 from the Old Rausapatna containment zone and 11 from Thoriasahi. PNS

'State Covid tally may go up by 50K in Aug'

Govt Adviser also sees death surge by 200 more
ILS Dir says pandemic to be stable by last week

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

200 in August, said Prof Jayant Panda, Technical Advisor to the Health and Family Welfare Department.

However, Institute of Life Sciences (ILS) Director Dr Ajay Parida said the pandemic would be stable in the State by the last week of August after reaching its peak. With 29 persons dying in the first three days of August, the death toll in the State has mounted to 216. The State's infection stood at 37,681 on Tuesday.

"At this stage of the pandemic, numbers will rise. We may add another 50K cases in August with around another 200 deaths," said Prof Panda in

a tweet. However, he advised people not to worry as the number of recoveries is also increasing with 23,000 patients having already been cured.

The projection on fresh cases and fatalities in August was made on the basis of the prevailing trend.

Dr Parida said, "It cannot be said right now as to what would be the total number of positive cases in August as the virus has different strains."

He said most of the Covid-19 deaths are linked to pre-existing ailments or comorbidities. "Death of symptomatic patients with no comor-

bidity can be cured if they are diagnosed and treated early," he added.

Meanwhile, Health and Family Welfare ACs PK Mohapatra said the State Government is improving infrastructure for Covid-19 management in view of the rise in the infection tally.

At present, 6,760 CCHs are operational in 6,798 gram panchayats and 1,482 cluster-level TMCs have been set up with 71,754 beds and 14,094 persons are now in hospital isolation.

9 more die; State Covid toll at 216

1,384 new +ve cases; total 37,681
Day's highest 288 in Ganjam yet again
Record 1,409 recoveries; total recoveries 24,482

BHUBANESWAR: Coronavirus claimed nine more lives in the State on Tuesday, taking the total death toll to 216. Out of nine, six persons died in hotspot Ganjam district. The other deaths were registered in Puri, Jajpur and

Khordha districts. The deceased in Ganjam included a 40-year-old man of Ganjam locality and a 50-year-old man, a 46-year-old man, a 60-year-old man, a 70-year-old woman and a 60-year-old man elsewhere.

The other casualties included a 40-year-old man of Ganjam locality and a 50-year-old man of Khordha and a 57-year-old man of Puri district.

Meanwhile, the spike in Covid-19 cases continued, with 1,384 new cases on the day. With this, the total tally in the State reached 37,681. Of the new cases, 889 were detected in quarantine centres and 495

were local contacts. The day's highest cases of 288 were reported from Ganjam district followed by Khordha 201, Cuttack (121), Sambalpur 82, Keonjhar 66, Sundargarh 64, Kandhamal 62, Dhenkanal 51, Koraput 49, Kalahandi 47, Bhadrak 40, Jajpur 39, Gajapati 38, Baleswar 37, Malkangiri 34, Puri 34, Nayagarh 31, Mayurbhanj 28, Jagatsinghpur 20, Kendrapada 12, Bargarh 10 Balangir five, Nuapada three, Jharsuguda three, Boudh two and Nabarangpur two.

However, a record 1,409 patients recovered on Tuesday, taking the total recoveries to

24,482. The highest 258 recovered in Ganjam district, followed by 218 in Khordha, 128 in Cuttack, 121 in Bargarh, 121 in Gajapati, 84 in Koraput, 68 in Cuttack, 58 in Baleswar, 34 in Nabarangpur, 30 in Kalahandi, 25 in Jajpur, 24 in Malkangiri, 19 in Keonjhar, 16 in Bargarh, 12 in Boudh, 12 in Kendrapada, 11 in Jharsuguda, 10 in Nayagarh, nine in Boudh, eight in Nuapada, seven in Mayurbhanj, five in Dhenkanal, four in Bhadrak, two each in Angul and Jagatsinghpur and one each in Deogarh and Kalahandi. PNS

2 from Odisha in Top-10 Civil Services list

• **Abhishek Saraf**
8th, Sanjita
Mohapatra 10th

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Two candidates from Odisha have been ranked in the Top-10 of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) examination, results of which were declared on Tuesday.

While Abhishek Saraf has ranked eighth, Sanjita Mohapatra emerged 10th in the Civil Services examination. Besides, 18 others from the State have got different ranks.

They are Anshuman Raj (107), Anup Das (120), Nabal Kumar Jain (125), Sailaja Das (190), Rahul Mishra (202), Hema Nayak (225), Arushi Mishra (229), Ashish Das (291), Ankit Shankar Mishra (294), Sonali Mishra (300), Divya Mishra (312), Arghya Pattnaik (361), Jubin Mohapatra (379), Samir Kumar Jena (441), Manas Ranjan Sahu (567), Shivam Mishra (712), Prasad Mohanty (715) and Bibhuti Bhushan Nayak (819).

A total of 829 candidates have been selected to various Civil Services through the 2019 edition of the exam. Pradeep Singh has topped the exam.

The UPSC conducts the Civil Services exam every year for selection of candidates to Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Foreign Service (IFS), Indian Police Service (IPS) and other Central

Services.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan congratulated the successful candidates.

"Congratulations to all the successful candidates from Odisha who have cleared UPSC examination. May they work with dedication to take welfare initiatives to grassroots bringing visible changes in people's lives. Wish them bright careers," tweeted Patnaik.

"I hope successful candidates will work for development in grassroots level and will be part in the making of powerful Bharat," Pradhan said while congratulating them.

PCC president Niranjan Patnaik too congratulated the candidates. He expressed happiness for two candidates from Odisha getting ranks in Top 10.

More tests key to keep Covid under control

DR MANOJ KUMAR SAHU

Coronavirus infection in Odisha, like elsewhere, in the country is spreading at an alarming rate with scare and suspicion writ large. Normal life has been disrupted and livelihoods seriously hit. Dr Manoj Kumar Sahu, Gastroenterology, answers some of the basic questions over the disease.

1) What is the present scenario in Odisha?

Till May end, there were 2,104 cases, June (5,212) and by July, the number was 28,26,113 (78% of total cases). The infection is increasing exponentially and showing its true nature.

2) Why are the positive cases showing an increasing trend?

As we are doing more tests the number is increasing, this is not completely true. If you see the proportion of increase in cases, it is much more than the increase in tests; so the truth is, there are many active cases and the infection is

spreading at a rapid pace.

3) Are we doing enough testing?

Delhi is doing more than 25,000 tests in a day, resulting in a downward infection trend. Odisha's population is 2.5 times of Delhi. Presently, we do more than 14,000 tests a day. Our test positivity rate is more than 10 per cent which clearly depicts that the infection is spreading significantly. India is doing more than 6 lakh tests a day, and increasing it to 10 lakh a day, resulting in declining positivity rate to 9 per cent from 13 per cent last week. Kerala, Assam population is much less than Odisha, still they do more tests. The aim is to keep the positivity rate below 5 per cent. It is only possible if we sincerely search for infection and do aggressive testing.

As India is indigenous producing the kits in sufficient number, we need to increase the tests significantly and the testing facilities should be available liberally and wide spread.

4) Have we reached com-

munity transmission?

When no source of infection is identified in more than 20 per cent of positive cases, then we are in community transmission stage. The local cases are increasing and constitute more than 38 per cent of total, but we are able to trace the source of infection in more than 80 per cent of cases.

5) Is plasma therapy the effective solution till the vaccine is developed?

Plasma therapy has been used since more than 100 years for various infectious diseases with mixed results. In Corona infection it is recommended for patients with moderate symptoms on oxygen and deteriorating in spite of Dexamethasone. Plasma therapy is not for all critically ill patients, but it is found to be very effective in some select cases. Plasma donation is an extremely safe procedure, those who have recovered should come forward with noble intention and save many lives.

6) When will vaccine be available?

Currently more than 160 vaccines are being researched across the globe, 26 entered into human trials, 4 in the 3rd or final phase of the trial. Oxford vaccine is the front runner, and Serum Institute of India has taken the responsibility of mass production and distribution. Moderna vaccine has started the large final stage trial on 30,000 volunteers. Two of our indigenous vaccine candidates (Covaxin and Zycov-D) have started the phase I human trial. If everything goes in the right path and the vaccine is found to be safe and effective, it is expected towards the year end or first quarter of the coming year. But the way the infection is spreading, if not controlled, there may not be many takers for the vaccine when it is available.

7) Five different strains/ clades of Corona virus in Odisha found. Should we be worried?

This will not affect treatment and the vaccine develop-

ment, but these strains might spread rapidly. We need to control the infection.

8) What should be the strategy for Odisha?

We are in the right direction. Surveillance, testing, tracing, treating, strengthening infrastructure need to continue effectively door to door. We have to increase the number of tests significantly, there should be wide spread and easy availability of testing facilities. The community participation and cooperation of people is extremely important to win the war. There should not be any stigma associated with corona infection, the infected people and those who were cured of Covid-19 must be treated with empathy. The non Covid health issues must be taken care of simultaneously by tele-consultation facility in every hospital and by mobile doorstep healthcare like Dhanvanti Rath as in Ahmedabad.

(The writer is a senior doctor gastroenterology. Mob: 838486518)

State plans cage fish culture in reservoirs

Dept invites bids from farmers, entrepreneurs

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State Government has come out with a new policy to promote cage fish culture in medium and large reservoirs. The Fisheries and Animal Resources Department has invited expression of interests (EOI) from interested farmers and entrepreneurs for availing long-term lease for five years extendable to a maximum of another five years in the sub-zones of the Hirakud reservoir.

Utilising a modest fraction (1%) of the surface area, the large and medium reservoirs

can contribute to a substantial quantity of fish production in the State, an official said.

Cage culture fisheries have a huge potential for increasing the fish production, he said, adding that it is often considered as the future of reservoir fisheries and also to promote entrepreneurship in aquaculture and create job opportunities.

"The cages are enclosed spaces to rear fish enclosed on all sides with net walls except for leaving an opening at the top for feeding and handling the fish stock," the official said.

The cages are of many shapes like circular, square or rectangular and are equally good from the production point of view and their choice is mainly based on consideration as fish species to be framed, endurance, cost, avail-



ability of materials, convenience in assembling and transporting the components.

In the first phase, cage culture will be promoted in five zones and 100 subzones of the

Hirakud reservoir which can be leased out to primary fishery cooperative societies, entrepre-

neurs or companies. Each sub-zone has a cage surface area of 600 square meters and can accommodate a maximum of 24 rectangular cages of 6-meter length x 4 m width x 4 m depth dimension or three circular cages of 16 m diameter. In rectangular cage, around 3,000 kg of fish can be harvested.

Various fish species like katla, rohu, mrigal, amur carp, pangasius, asian seabass/barramundi, pearl spot, bhetki, tilapia would be used for cage culture. The cage culture guidelines have strict conditions for maintaining water quality, cage maintenance, fish health monitoring.

The State already has vast freshwater resources extending around 6.84 lakh hectares. During 2019-20, the State produced around 8.16 lakh metric tonnes of fish.

Higher cess: State sees 59% less liquor sale

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Odisha, which has imposed a Covid cess of about 50% on liquor, witnessed an average 59% decline in sales in May and June.

It reported a decline of 66% sale in May and 51% in June compared to the corresponding months last year, according to a report of the Confederation of Indian Alcoholic Beverage Companies (CIABC).

The report also referred to imposition of Covid cess and related decline in liquor sale in some other States. While

Odisha and two Union Territories imposed Covid cess of over 50%, six States imposed a cess between 15%-50% and 14 States up to 15%.

Across the country, there was a decline of 25% and 15%, respectively, in May and June, said the report.

The CIABC hopes the State Governments would take measures on the basis of its data to bring tax increases down to sustainable levels, ideally below 10%. If the cess is reduced, consumers would get relief and the Governments would collect more revenue, it views.

Santali Wikipedia holds mega event to mark 2 yrs

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Twenty Santali Wikipedia users from across India, Nepal, and Bangladesh contributed 865 articles in the language during a two-month online edit-a-thon, which was organised to mark the two years of the community.

Amid the Covid-19 pandemic, the community, which turned two on August 2, tried to engage itself to increase the content in Santali, one of India's 22 scheduled languages.

It is not only the first tribal language Wikipedia in India but also one of the fastest-growing Wikipedia communities, growing 198% year on year after Silesian, Wikipeet (562.11%) and Egyptian Arabic Wikipedia (398.45%).

"Congratulations to the Santali Wikipedia community

on their 2nd anniversary and for their brilliant edit-a-thon," tweeted Jimmy Wales, founder of Wikipedia.

CEO Katherine Maher also wished the first indigenous language Wikipedia from South Asia on its successful journey.

During the edit-a-thon that ended on August 2, Rakesh Murmu from Jharkhand contributed the highest articles of 174, followed by Ramjit Tudu and Aryan Murmu from Odisha, Bijendra Hansdah from Jharkhand, and Bodi Basu from West Bengal. Wikipeet Albus Tudu and Shibu Murmu were the top contributors from Bangladesh and Nepal, Odisha's Maina Tudu



wrote the highest articles among female contributors. Santali, mainly oral language until the development of Ol Chiki by Pandit Raghunath Murmu in 1925, is spoken by 7.6 million people in India alone, according to the 2011 Census. Its speakers live mostly in Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha and Assam. It is also spoken in Bangladesh and Nepal.

Xavier Varsity launches MBA courses

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The XIMB/Xavier University, Bhubaneswar successfully held its inauguration and orientation programmes for Executive MBA (2020-2021 Batch) and MBA courses of Business Management, Human Resource Management and Rural Management for 2020-2022 batch on Monday.

Vice-Chancellor Dr Er Antony D. Xavier chaired the meeting in the presence of Prof Fr EA Augustine and the Deans of the respective schools under

University. Associate Dean, Admissions Prof. Bikram Kumar Bahinipati presented the student profile of the batches.

Prof Shridhar Kumar Dash, Prof Andrew Dutta and Prof's Peppin spoke. Financial Controller Pr V Arockia Das proposed a vote of thanks.

Stating that an opportunity lies in every crisis, the Vice-Chancellor advised students to prepare themselves for the market would need them the most at the end of Covid pandemic situation.

Childhood dream realised: Sanjita

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A society's foundation can get stronger and basic issues relating to health, education and women are resolved, said 27-year-old Sanjita Mohapatra, who secured 10th rank in the UPSC-2019 examination.

Sanjita, a CET, Bhubaneswar alumna, said it was her childhood dream to become an IAS officer. "When people used to ask my parents what your child would be when she grows up, then they would

instantly say she would become a Collector. So, it was very much there since childhood to become an IAS officer," the Rourkela girl said.

She said, "I never counted how many hours I spent on study. Quality study matters. I followed a strict routine and set targets on a daily basis." Several NGOs, NRIs and the trust of the school where I studied have helped me a lot financially. I would like to serve the society for this and the best platform is through administration," she said.

Sanjita had secured 10th rank in the Odisha Civil Services Examination-2018. However, she continued her study to attain her ultimate goal



to crack the UPSC examination.

After graduating in Mechanical Engineering, Sanjita worked in the New Plant Mill of Rourkela Steel Plant. After working for almost five years, she quit job and later got married. However, that didn't distract her from achieving her goal.

'Inferior medicine, PPE kits being provided'

BJP seeks CCTVs at Covid Hospitals

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

BJP State vice-president Bhrugu Baxipatra on Monday alleged that Covid patients are suffering a lot due to supply of low-quality medicines and PPE kits to Covid Hospitals in Ganjam district.

He alleged that oxygen

cylinders which usually work for two-three days are getting emptied in two-three hours. He also alleged that doctors are not available for 24x7 hours due to faulty management. While there are only 300 beds available for Covid patients, death of oxygen has added to woes of the patients, he said.

He said paracetamol and Azithromycin tablets being supplied for treatment of Covid patients are of very low quality.

Stating that BDOs are not supplying required medicines and PPE kits to doctors, Baxipatra demanded that CCTVs be installed at CCCs and Covid Hospitals so that laxities would come to the fore.

Even near BBSR, students perch on trees for online study

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

While several instances of students facing problems for online classes owing to poor mobile network and internet service are being reported from the State's rural areas, peculiar scenes of students perching themselves on tree-branches near the capital city Bhubaneswar have also now come to the fore.

Only 15 km from city, students of Chudangagada, Chudukoli, Bangali Basti, Andharua, Bhalunka, Godibari, Gaintala, Jhumka and Adibasi Sahi near Deras within and around the Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary are struggling hard for online classes.

With no other option, while some students climb trees, others move to hills everyday to attend online classes. Putting



their lives at risk, they sit on tree branches balancing their bodies or on the heights to get stable mobile network.

Some young volunteers have come forward to help these hapless students. Using their personal internet data, the youths download videos and documents sent by school-teachers during online classes and also teach the students through their mobile phones and laptops.

Volunteers Pradeep Murmu, Rajendra Nakhika,

Hem Singh, Madhi Tudu and their team also sometimes visit door to door to help the children in their studies. However, it is not possible to reach out to all students, said one of the volunteers.

Earlier, issues of poor mobile network posing great difficulty for students during online classes have been reported from remote interior districts like Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Malkangiri, Koraput, Jharsuguda and Ganjam.

Cancel TPCL Lol, allow Cesu to function, CM urged

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha Rajya Bidyt Shramika Karmachari Engineers Ekata Manch has strongly opposed the Tata Power Company Limited (TPCL) review petition to OERC's vesting order and urged the Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to cancel the letter of intent (LoI) of TPCL and allow Cesu function as before.

"It is surprising that the TPCL, which has 51% share in the TPCL, has filed a review petition within just 20 days of taking over the assets and license of the Cesu. While vesting order in binding on all parties of the TPCL, the Mancha sees the TPCL's move as to gain absolute control over TPCL and license to loot the public assets, consumers and employees," alleged the Manch in a letter to the CM.

In its review petition, the

TPCL has sought for a higher AT&C loss trajectory and permission to use the physical assets of Cesu as collateral security to raise funds. It has also wanted to use consumer's and contractor's security deposits to meet their working capital needs. Most importantly, the company is refusing to give corporate guarantee as a cover for payment security mechanism for payment towards purchase of bulk supply power to Gridco and transmission charges to OPTCL, wrote the Manch.

"In its vesting order, the commission has fixed a fine of Rs 50 crore for each 1% shortfall in meeting target of AT&C Loss. While vesting around Rs 1,081 crore of consumer security deposits, contractor's security deposits etc," the commission has allowed the TPCL to use maximum up to Rs 347 crore as collateral security for arranging working capital and gradually reduce dependence on it. But TPCL wants full utilisation of the security amount which is not in the interest of the organisation and consumers of the State," pointed out the Manch.

The Manch also mentioned that the Reliance was ousted from the Odisha Discoms only because it did all these in the matter of Southco Wescos and Nesco, refusing to give corporate guarantee and sign shareholders' agreement, terming these are different entities.

"Therefore in the greater interest of the State, consumers and employees, we request you to cancel the LoI issued in favour of TPCL in accordance with Clause 34 and 61 of the vesting order and direct the GRIDCO to refund TPCL of the value of 51% equity share amounting to Rs 150 crore and performance guarantee money of Rs 150 crore to TPCL. Allow the Cesu to continue operations as per the earlier scheme," demanded the Manch.

State revenue up in July despite lockdowns

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Despite lockdowns and sub-optimal functioning of many sectors in the economy due to the Covid pandemic, the State has witnessed improvement in revenue generation in month of July.

The situation has improved in both Own Tax and Non Tax revenue collection. By the July-end, Rs 13,838.76 crore of Own Tax and Non Tax revenue was collected. And in this month, Rs 5531.21 crore of Tax revenue was collected, which was better than the June collection of Rs 4,966.71 crore.

Better collection was experienced in Non Tax revenue, thanks to a rise in revenue from mining and metallurgical industries.

So far as Own Tax revenue collection is concerned, the July collection was Rs 3,786.22 crore and progressive collection by July 31 was Rs 8,386.96

crore.

Stamps and Registration registered a huge improvement of 208% with collection of Rs 1,008.96 crore. This was due to onetime collection from new mining lessees.

Excise revenue collection was Rs 384.61 crore, which was more than the June collection of Rs 374.52 crore.

The transport Sector showed much better results in July with Rs 323.19 crore, which was Rs 128.18 crore. Commercial Tax collection was Rs 1,889.67 crore, out of which State GST was Rs 801.71 crore.

The Budget Estimate of Own Tax collection is Rs 38,350 crore. However, experts feel this target will not be achieved due to intermittent lockdowns, shutdowns and other Covid restrictions.

Non Tax is concerned, progressive collection by July was Rs 5,451.80 crore;

and only in July, it was Rs 1,745 crore. As per the Budget Estimate, Non Tax collection target has been set at Rs 17,650 crore.

In both Own Tax and Non Tax collection, the Budget Estimate is Rs 56,000 crore, which would be difficult to achieve due to the pandemic.

However, Grants from the Union Government is being released and the State has received Rs 10,321.91 crore by July 31 during 2020-21 fiscal.

So far as total revenue receipts are concerned, he State has received Rs 32,308.15 crore by end of July progressively. In July only, the State received Rs 9,302.53 crore registering growth of 6.88% compared to July 2019.

The total revenue receipts include Own Tax, Non Tax, Share Tax and Grants from Centre; and the Budget Estimate is Rs 1,24,300 crore for 2020-21.

Surge in +ve cases

Two-day shutdown in Bhuban NAC



PNS ■ DHENKANAL

The district administration on Tuesday decided to impose shutdown in Bhuban NAC area of Dhenkanal district from August 5 to 7.

The decision was taken following 40 persons from the area tested Covid-19 positive. Out of the 40 cases, majority are local contacts. Intensive contact tracing and active surveillance would be carried out in Bhuban during the period, the district administration said.

All healthcare facilities like hospitals, clinics, nursing

homes, including medicine stores, movement of ambulances and all medical personnel, Central and State Government officials on emergency duty, telecom services, media, petrol pumps, LPG agencies, grocery and milk outlets, movement of good carriers, industries have been exempted from the shutdown restrictions.

Besides, banks and other financial institutions are permitted to operate with 25 per cent of staffs. Dhabas on National Highways would remain open but no dining is allowed.

5 mobile health clinics launched in Ganjam



PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

In order to provide better healthcare services to people amid the Covid-19 pandemic, the Ganjam district administration on Tuesday launched five mobile health clinics. District Collector Vijay Amruta Kulange flagged off the health

clinics at the Collectorate.

A doctor, a pharmacist and a health worker are deployed in each mobile health clinic.

While Chhatrapur, Brahmapur and Bhanjanagar subdivisions are allotted one mobile health clinic each, two vans are deployed in the Brahmapur Municipal

Corporation area, informed the Collector.

Equipped with oxygen cylinders, the five mobile health clinics have been donated by the Tata Steel.

A total of 133 ambulances, including 89 vans, have been given to different panchayats in the district.

In Baleswar

1 dies, 1 hurt in attack by miscreants

PNS ■ BALESWAR

A person was killed and another sustained critical injuries after being attacked by a group of unidentified miscreants late on Monday night at Belbaria village in Baleswar district.

The deceased was identified as Tapan Patra.

Tapan along with Priyabrata Mahapatra of Parikula village under the panchayat had gone to a nearby village to bring diesel. The duo was returning home

when a group of intercepted them and attacked them with sharp weapons.

Later, the duo was rescued and admitted to the District Headquarters Hospital. However, Tapan succumbed while being shifted to the SCB Medical College Hospital.

On being informed, police reached the spot and launched a probe into the matter. While the exact cause behind the attack is yet to be ascertained, police suspect the case as a fall out of past enmity.

Custodial torture to docs

OMSA urges CM for action against culprits

Activist moves NHRC on issue

RAJESH BEHERA ■ KENDRAPADA

The Odisha Medical Services Association (OMSA) on Sunday brought to the notice of CM Naveen Patnaik by filing a petition the alleged human rights violation of two doctors in police custody.

An OMSA office bearer alleged that on July 31, two doctors, including Dr Debashis Sahu and Dr Sibasis Sahu of Kendrapada were arrested by police without prima facie inquiry. They were beaten, verbally abused and the police tore their pants and shirts in police custody. Even, the stripping photo of the two doctors has been made viral while they were in custody which is purely a violation of human rights, he said.

Though on August 1, the doctors were released on bail due to interference of the district Collector of Kendrapada but it is an affront on the doctors and their professions, alleged OMSA State general secretary Dr Biswajit Samal.

The OMSA demanded that the Chief Minister take the matter seriously and take action against the police personnel responsible for such inhuman treatment to two doctors.

Meanwhile, social activist Dillip Samantaray moved the NHRC seeking a Crime Branch /judiciary inquiry into the alleged custodial torture to both the doctors and their staff and a direction to the DGP of Odisha to submit an Action-Taken Report within four weeks of time by taking disciplinary action against the police besides a compensation of Rs 1 crore to the doctors and their staffers. Acting on the complaint, the NHRC registered a case.

Gangadhar Meher birth anniv celebrated

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR/ BARGARH

The Gangadhar Meher Jayanti Committee and the Utkal Sammilani jointly celebrated 159th birth anniversary of Swabhab Kabi Gangadhar Meher here on Monday. Members garlanded the statue of Meher at Kalinga Hospital Square here. Committee joint secretary and Sammilani Mancheswar Branch president Dillip Dashsharma presided over the meeting. Among others, committee convenor Mihir Meher and secretary Samir Meher, Sammilani vice-president Shital Chandra Mohanty, Akshay Kumar Jethi, Kshetra Mohan Nayak, Sudhanshu Sahu, Ratnakarna and Nityamanda Mohapatra were present.

In another event, Vedic expert Surendranath Chhotray

presided over the legendary poet's birth anniversary through videoconferencing organised by the Swayamsiddha Foundation. Noted persons like Dr Sushil Kumar Bag, Ajit Kumar Das, Gandharba Das, Sharat Chandra Mallick remembered the poet.

Meher Jayanti was observed at different places in Bargarh district. At Barpali, the legendary poet's birthplace, a souvenir was inaugurated in the presence of his great grandson Mainindra Meher and other relatives.

Khageswar Seth Sahitya and Kalaparishad celebrated Meher's birth anniversary



through online at Bijepur. Sub-Collector Tanmay Darwan attended as chief guest at Padampur programme.

Man tonsured, beaten forced to drink urine

PNS ■ BHADRAK

A man was tonsured and forced to drink urine by locals at Baunsab village under the Tihidi police limits in Bhadrak district on Monday evening.

As per a police complaint lodged by the victim's wife, a group of people arrived at his house and ransacked his motorcycle parked at the veranda. Later, they tied him with a rope and thrashed him mercilessly. The attackers then dragged him on the village road, smeared his face with lime, tonsured him and garlanded him with shoes, she stated in the FIR.

She further alleged that some locals urinated on her husband's face and forced him to drink the urine when he wanted water.

Acting on the complaint,

police have registered case against 17 persons, including some women. The incident was fallout of past enmity, reports said.

District Collector Gyana Ranjan Das has directed the local Tehsildar and the Tihidi police station IIC to investigate into the incident.

"The victim was arrested for attacking a person and later released on bail. To settle scores, some locals assaulted



him," said Tihidi police station IIC Ramesh Singh.

Man found hanging in forest in Bhadrak

Wife alleges murder

PNS ■ BHADRAK

A man's body was found hanging from a tree in a forest near Kantipuradia village in the Basudevpur area of Bhadrak district on Tuesday morning. The deceased was identified as Kalish Majhi (38).

Majhi, who was working at a textile mill in Bengaluru, had returned home after the Covid-19 lockdown. A duel had taken place on Monday between him and his younger brother and uncle.

He went to the market in the evening but didn't return, following which his family members searched for him at



various places but in vain. However, he was found hanging on Tuesday.

On the other hand, Majhi's



wife alleged that he was murdered. Police recovered the body for postmortem and started an investigation into the incident.

Vedanta Nand Ghar project gets ISO tag

PNS ■ LANJIGARH

Nand Ghar, Vedanta Group's flagship corporate social responsibility project, has announced that three of its centres in Kalahandi, have received the prestigious ISO certification.

The Nand Ghars have been awarded the 'ISO 9001 2015' certification for providing a wide gamut of services including improving quality of services in early childhood education, improved maternal and child healthcare at doorsteps, improved nutrition outcomes and sustainable skill

livelihood for women. The Nand Ghars that were recognized are located at Basantapada, Kansari and Kendubardi villages in Lanjigarh block. The ISO certification has been issued for a period of three years. "Five Anganwadi Centres (3 Nand Ghars) of Kalahandi district got ISO certification. The process of transformation has begun. Planning to do 100 per cent ISO certification. Credit to WCD, Block, Vedanta, Nand Ghar team and KPMG," Kalahandi Collector Dr Parag Harshad Gavali, said in a tweet.

More staff +ve: VIMSAR OPD shut

PNS ■ SAMBALPUR

The authorities of VIMSAR, Burla closed the out-patient department (OPD) services on Tuesday after nine more doctors of the medicine department, two attendants and a nurse tested positive for Covid-19.

VIMSAR Director Lalit Kumar Meher said that after a patient from Atabira of Bargarh district, who was admitted to the VIMSAR tested positive for coronavirus, swab samples of the doctors, the nurse and attendants had been sent for tests.

He further informed that more doctors and nurses are likely to test positive. Earlier, 26 doctors and nurses of the VIMSAR had been detected Covid-19 positive.

J'suguda gets Dist Court complex

PNS ■ JHARSUGUDA

The newly built up District Court complex was inaugurated on Monday by Orissa High Court Chief Justice Mohammad Rafik in presence of Justice AK Mishra through Video Conferencing at Jharsuguda.

District and Sessions Judge Pradumna Kumar Naik, ADJ Rajarajan Padhi, CJM Sunil Kumar Das, Collector Saroj Kumar Samal, SP Rahul PR and ADM PK Sahoo were also present on the occasion.

In the court complex, 11 court rooms with office of the Presiding Officers, conference hall, litigants rest rooms and other facilities are there for better conducting of the cases.



Further, the Bar Association is waiting for new courts like Family Court, Vigilance Court, Coal Bearing Act Tribunal to be functioning at Jharsuguda said Chairman,

Interim Body, Jharsuguda District Bar Association (JDBA) P Ramamohan Rao.

The JDBA general secretary and many other lawyers were present.

Apathy to Ganjam Covid patients: NHRC seeks ATR

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

Acting on a petition against the Tata Covid Hospital and the myriad lapses in healthcare services provided to Corona affected patients of Ganjam by the hospital, the NHRC has sought action taken report (ATR) in four weeks from the District Magistrate (Khordha) and Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare.

The complaint was filed by rights activist cum BJP leader advocate Srikantha Padhi on Tata Covid Hospital's failure to meet the healthcare needs of Corona affected patients in Ganjam.

Angul wrong injection death NHRC orders re-analysis of viscera report

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), New Delhi has directed its DG (Investigation) for a further medical analysis on annoyance of the chemical analysis report of viscera of Shibaram Pradhan who died allegedly due to wrong administration of an injection about two years back.

The report was furnished by the ADG, State Forensic Laboratory, Rasulgarh, and Bhubaneswar. The DG (Investigations) has been

asked to submit the report by September 19, 2020.

The NHRC issued this direction on a case filed by Human Rights Watch secretary Sangita Swain.

Earlier, the Health Department had informed the NHRC that Shibaram Pradhan had gone to ENT specialist Dr Benudhar Satapathy, Amalapada, Angul for his throat pain. As per his prescription, Shibaram bought an injection and medicine from the Tarini Medicine Store, Ashram Chhak. He got the injection

administered in his body after the Medical Store staff only and left for home in an auto-rickshaw. However, he collapsed in the auto on the way and died on the spot.

Swain alleged that police have not taken any action despite a complaint lodged with them. She prayed the commission to take criminal/disciplinary action against the responsible Medical authority or the doctor and the police. She too demanded a compensation of Rs 20 lakh to the kin of the deceased.

Crisis in Punjab Cong after MP, Raj

Punjab Congress chief Sunil Jakhar has written to party president Sonia Gandhi seeking action against 2 RS members for flaying State Govt over hooch tragedy



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, internal wrangling within the Congress has now surfaced in Punjab. Punjab Congress chief Sunil Jakhar on Tuesday said he has written to party president Sonia Gandhi seeking immediate action for anti-party activities against the party's two Rajya Sabha MPs Pratap Singh Bajwa and Shamsher Singh Dullu who have gone to town attacking its own Government over the tragic hooch incident.

Both Bajwa and Dullu have petitioned the Governor demanding a CBI and ED probe into the hooch tragedy and directly blamed Chief Minister Capt. Amarinder Singh for turning a blind eye to the alert they had sounded earlier. Jakhar described the attack of the two MPs on their own government as a 'copy-paste job' of what happened in Rajasthan in January when in the wake of 107 infant deaths there, Sachin Pilot had flayed his own government that added

Talks option open if Pilot camp leaves Khattar's hospitality, says Congress

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With the Rajasthan Assembly session scheduled next week, the Congress is making attempts to hold talks with the rebel MLAs of the Sachin Pilot camp on the condition that they leave the hospitality of Manohar Lal Khattar-led BJP Government in Haryana.

Congress' chief spokesman Randeep Surjewala on Tuesday maintained that the only condition for talks with the dissenting Rajasthan MLAs is that they leave the BJP's 'suraksha chakra' (protection). "Innocent kids are being killed, gang rapes are taking place, people are being beaten up in Gurugram. There is no police available for them, but 1,000 policemen are deployed for the security of 19 upset MLAs. The legislators should first give up the Haryana police's security, and friendship and hospitality of the BJP, return home and only then will the dialogue take place," said Surjewala on the sidelines

of party briefing. The Congress has accused the BJP of making attempts to topple the Ashok Gehlot-led Congress government in Rajasthan by luring Pilot and a few dissidents MLAs who have been camping at a hotel in Haryana arranged by the BJP.

Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot, who earlier used harsh words against his former Deputy CM, struck a softer note saying he would welcome his deputy back and other dissident MLAs as well if the party's high command forgives them (dissenting MLAs). I will hug them. I have no prestige point," Gehlot said while talking to the media outside a Jaipur hotel, where the MLAs loyal to him were shifted ahead of the assembly session from August 14.

Gehlot has also rejected the claim of dissident Congress MLAs that their work was not being done. The rift in the State Congress came to the fore

before they can cause any serious damage. Enough is enough now and he has demanded serious action against them from the party president," Jakhar said.

When Pilot and 18 other MLAs rebelled against the Gehlot government a month earlier, Gehlot has accused Pilot of trying to topple the Government and in between Gehlot had to do the rounds of Governor, Prime Minister and even wrote to President of India.

Amid internal rift at its peak for two weeks last month, senior Congress leaders including Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi tried their best to ask Pilot not to aggravate the crisis and get back to the party fold.

Other leaders who reached out to Pilot then were former Union Minister P Chidambaram and powerful party functionary Ahmed Patel.

"None, perhaps in the history of Congress might have received so much of pamper as Sachin Pilot received in terms of about 20 senior leaders including Rahul and Priyanka asking him to pacify. We will try again ahead of the Assembly session," Surjewala said.

Jakhar described the action of the two MPs to approach the Governor as a manifestation of their desperate desire to grab the high seat of power by hook or by crook.

₹455 crore loan for JNU infra development

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Giving a big boost to its infrastructure development, the Centre has disbursed to the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) a loan of ₹455 crore from the Higher Education Funding Agency (HEFA) for construction of new academic buildings, hostels, research centres and installation of an integrated and unified Enterprise Resource Planning System.

JNU Vice Chancellor Jagdish Kumar Mamidala said the funds allotted will be used for the construction of a vast range of infrastructure-related projects on campus. "The funds allotted by HEFA shall be utilised for the construction of hostels for students and research centres of Engineering and Atal Bihari Vajpayee School of Management & Entrepreneurship, Trans-Disciplinary Academic Research, Advanced Animal Research Facility," Mamidala said in a University Press statement.

He further said that the Advanced Instrumentation Research Facility, incubation centre for start-up companies, special care centre for E-learning and a lecture hall complex will be set up, among other work.

The statement further added that the unified and integrated Enterprise Resource Planning system will help in ensuring that all academic and administrative processes can be



JNU has over 8K students who are accommodated in 18 hostels with one even for married students

conducted online in an integrated manner. Additionally, the University also mentioned that the Special Centre for E-learning would benefit approximately 1.1 lakh candidates on an average who fail to secure admission at the central varsity every year.

"The Special Centre for E-learning shall impart education by offering online degree programs to many such students who could not be admitted to JNU. These students can benefit from the expertise of JNU faculty," the statement added.

One of the reasons for the wrong reasons, the JNU has over 8,000 students who are accommodated in 18 hostels with one even for married students.

Despite the students' unrest, the University received a record 1,35,462 applications, which is 22% higher than last year, for admission to various courses this year. In 2019, the university had received 1,08,982 applications for admissions to several undergraduate, postgraduate, MPhil and PhD courses.

Patnitop land grab case: CBI searches at 11 locations in J&K

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Tuesday conducted searches at 11 locations including Jammu, Udhampur and Kathua Districts of Jammu and Kashmir at the offices and residential premises of public servants involved in the land grab case. The CBI is also searching for the CEOs of Patnitop Development Authority (PDA) in an ongoing investigation of a case, registered on the allegations of large scale illegal construction/encroachment of land in the location of Patnitop area of Udhampur District.

In its case, the CBI has accused 74 persons including eight public servants and 66 proprietors of hotels, resorts taking up construction. Earlier, a Preliminary Enquiry was conducted by the CBI on the directions of the High Court of J&K in the matter.

"It was alleged that the public servants having dominion over the land grab case in Patnitop, in conspiracy with the Owners/Proprietors of the Hotels/Guest Houses/Resorts, have allowed illegal construction/illegal use of the said land in violation of law, leading to loss to the Government," the CBI said in a statement.

It was further alleged that many Hotels/Guest Houses were constructed without any permission and were not registered with PDA. It was also alleged that officials did not take any action despite being aware of such encroachment. In some cases, no compounding fee was allegedly deposited by the Hotels, the agency alleged in the FIR.

The searches were conducted at the offices and residential premises of the three former CEOs of PDA and officers of the Transport Department and Sales Tax Department which led to the recovery of incriminating documents, huge investments in Fixed Deposits and immovable properties among others, officials said, adding further investigation is continuing.

They said accused will soon be summoned for questioning and separate disproportionate cases will be registered after verification of the seized documents relating to assets.

The three former CEOs of PDA accused in the case are MM Malik, Additional Transport Commissioner of Jammu Rakesh Kumar Srangal, Joint Transport Commissioner Raman Kumar Kesar, Deputy Commissioner of Sales Tax Ramesh Singh and Joint Transport Inspectors Amresh Jasrotia and Zaheer Abbas.

Bihar polls: EC seeks parties' opinion by Aug 11



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Despite a growing demand to postpone the upcoming Assembly polls in Bihar due to the coronavirus pandemic and floods, the Election Commission (EC) has asked national and regional political parties to suggest their inputs by August 11 on how to conduct election campaigns and public meetings in the State in view of the crisis.

In a letter addressed to presidents and general secretaries of recognised political parties — both state and national — the EC stated "response from many parties is still awaited". Amid the ongoing pandemic situation, "the EC has decided that some more time may be given to the political parties who have not sent their suggestions". Earlier, the poll body had sought their views and suggestions by July 31.

The term of the current assembly ends on November 29 and a new assembly has to be constituted before that. Presently, 13 districts are reeling under severe floods while the pandemic is expected to peak by October and November.

Several parties of Bihar have demanded that the polls be deferred.

Army to start process of screening women officers for Permanent Commission soon

Application invited by Aug 31

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Army will soon start the process of screening women officers for giving them Permanent Commission (PC). It will convene a special Selection Board for this purpose and the women officers wanting to opt for PC will have to submit relevant documents by August 31.

Towards this end, detailed administrative instructions have been issued to all affected women officers for submission of applications for consideration by the board, the Army said in a statement on Tuesday.

Women officers who have joined the Indian Army through the Women Special Entry Scheme (WSES) and Short Service Commission Women



(SSCW) are being considered and all of them have been instructed to submit their application forms, option certificate and other related documents to Army headquarters not later than August 31, it stated.

Specimen formats and detailed checklists have been included in the administrative instructions in order to facilitate correct documentation, the Army said adding the selection board will be scheduled immediately after receipt and verification of applications.

On July 23, the Defence Minister issued a Government Sanction Letter specifying grant of PC to women officers in all streams in which they presently serve -

Army Air Defence (AAD), Signals, Engineers, Army Aviation, Electronics and Mechanical Engineers (EME), Army Service Corps (ASC), Army Ordnance Corps (AOC) and Intelligence Corps in addition to the existing streams of Judge and Advocate General (JAG) and Army Educational Corps (AEC).

Following the Supreme Court verdict in February in which it directed the government that women officers in the Army be granted PC and command postings in all services other than combat. More than 300 women officers are likely to benefit from the new order.

Due to the prevailing restrictions imposed in view of the COVID situation, multiple means of dissemination of administrative instructions have been adopted to ensure that these documents reach all affected women officers on priority, the statement added.

Singhvi favours comprehensive, aggressive policy against China

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the backdrop of confrontation at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh, India has to go in for a comprehensive and aggressive policy on China, Congress leader Abhishek Singhvi has said. He also advocated a three-pronged shift in the strategy of dealing with the eastern neighbour.

Airing these views in a seminar recently, Singhvi was in favour of the three-pronged strategy including New Delhi investing in building military capability, increasing diplomatic efforts by aligning with like-minded groupings such as Quad and inflicting economic injury to China.

A webinar organised by Law and Society Alliance, a think-tank and Defence Capital, a national security and strategic affairs platform here, Singhvi said India and its polity has to grow

beyond local party politics to usher in single-minded, focused, and unified response to the China challenge.

He also called for a change in the mindset of the Indian bureaucracy and diplomats in providing strong, deft and resolute handling of the Chinese challenge on all fronts, be it geopolitical, economic or diplomatic.

"India and China are two swords in one scabbard called Asia. There has to be forced respectability between the two. In the real world, both respect and outward likeability are consequences of power. The need is to generate fear about India in China. Only this is going to set the equilibrium between the two giants," the Congress leader said.

Strongly proposing that India should work towards leveraging its ties with Tibet and Taiwan, he said the divinity and glory of His Holiness

the Dalai Lama needs to be given the right place that he deserves in India, and New Delhi must unhesitatingly enhance diplomatic relations with Taiwan.

World Uyghur Congress director for China Affairs Ilshat H. Kokbore, in his presentation, highlighted the alleged human rights abuses by China on the minority Uyghur community in East Turkestan. He said in 2014, Tibetans organised an event on persecuted communities of China. "Out of many leaders, only I was able to attend while all others were not allowed," he added.

Recalling the intolerable human rights violations on him and his family, Ilshat said because he was outspoken against the Communist regime in China, his family was persecuted. His brother killed in 2004, his sister arrested in 2014 and his father died of shock.

Amity researchers develop prototype of cost-effective, multi-mode portable ventilator for Covid-19 patients

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A team of Research Scholars & Scientists from Amity University's ASET Design Centre has developed the prototype of a cost-effective, multi-mode portable ventilator specifically designed for Covid-19 patients.

Some of the salient features of this smart ventilator are volume and pressure control in accordance with the age of the patient; The ventilator offers a feature to adjust the breath volume supply to the patient according to their age. On the advice of the medical experts, the operator just needs to select the required age and the ventilator will supply the necessary volume and pressure of the breathing air automatically to the patient, the University said in a statement.

Also, the ventilator can be rapidly deployed to any location as the majority of the parts can be 3D Printed and assembled locally. It is priced at under ₹10,000.

Covid-19 virus more virulent to males compared to female



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Covid-19 virus seems to be more virulent to males when compared to their female counterparts. Sample this: About 68 per cent of deaths due to virus is reported among male patients and 32 per cent among female patients in India, said the Union Health Ministry while sharing the details of the profile of the Covid-19 patients. Also, 50 per cent of the total Covid-19 deaths reported in India so far are among people aged above 60, said Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan at a press briefing here.

"About 37 per cent of

COVID-19 deaths in India took place in the age group of 45 to 60 years, while 11 per cent of deaths were recorded in the age group of 26 to 44 years," he said.

According to a study involving thousands of patients from Europe, men have higher concentrations of angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 (ACE2), an enzyme that enables the SARS-CoV-2 virus infect healthy cells in their blood, than women and this may probably help explain why men are more vulnerable to Covid-19 than women.

The study has been published in the European Heart Journal.

Sharp spike in Covid-19 cases likely in coming days

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid increasing efforts for ramping up the Covid-19 test capacity across the country, the Government on Tuesday indicated a further sharp surge in the infection in the coming days with case-lades already set to cross the 19-lakh mark on Tuesday.

Almost 50,000 Covid-19 cases are being reported daily over the past few days. However, the cases are all set to be on the higher side as more tests means detection of more cases, indicated Union Health secretary Rajesh Bhushan while addressing a press briefing.

He said that presently 28 states and UTs are performing more than 140 Covid-19 tests per day. The rate of testing per lakh or per million population as the parameter defined by the WHO.

However, as the remaining seven States are yet to improve their testing capacity, the officials do not rule out more cases once they too enhance their test rate. "A total of 28 states and UTs are conducting more than 140 COVID-19 tests per day per million population. India is the rate of testing per lakh or per million, what is the test positivity rate," she said in an interactive session through video conference.

He said 28 states and UTs

have a Covid-19 positivity rate of less than 10 per cent, while India's positivity rate as on date is 8.89 per cent. Many states have increased their testing capacity, both RT-PCR & Rapid Antigen tests. Goa, Delhi, Tripura, and Tamil Nadu have increased their testing capacity, said Bhushan.

More than 2 crore Covid-19 tests have been conducted, including more than 6.6 lakh tests in the last 24 hours. Recovered cases are now double of the active cases. In fact, Soumya Swaminathan, WHO's chief scientist at a video conference at Geneva too expressed concerns that India has a low testing rate when compared to some of the countries that are successfully trying to curb it.

"In India as a whole, the testing rates are much lower compared to some of the countries, who have done well like Germany, Taiwan, South Korea, Japan. Even the United States is testing a huge number of people. So we need to have some benchmark and every public health department needs to have benchmarks on what is the rate of testing per lakh or per million, what is the test positivity rate," she said in an interactive session through video conference.

More than 18K desi ventilators supplied within 2 months

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Imported till May, ventilators manufactured within the country are now meeting the domestic demand with the Union Health Ministry stating that in less than 24 months more than 18,000 Make-in-India ventilators have been supplied to the States/UTs /Central Govt Hospitals/DRDO facility.

Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan on Tuesday also said that funds from PM Cares fund were utilised to procure about 30,000 ventilators worth ₹2,000 crore.

An order for 30,000 ventilators has been placed with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL). Bhushan said adding that Scannray provides tech support to BEL. Further orders of 13,500 ventilators from Andhra Pradesh MedTech Zone (AMTZ) and 10,000 ventilators from AgVa have been placed by the Union Health Ministry.

In response to a question about the rejection of AgVa ventilators, Bhushan said that these devices of a different make were rejected in Mumbai. He further clarified that the ventilators in question were donated to BMC-run hospitals and other healthcare facilities in Maharashtra by an NGO.



Bhushan said that only 0.27 per cent of total active cases in India are on ventilator support across the country

Stating that the export of ventilators will not impact the domestic supply, Bhushan said that only 0.27 per cent of total active cases in India are on ventilator support across the country. "About 18,000 ventilators have reached states," he said.

In response to a question about the rejection of AgVa ventilators, Bhushan clarified that these devices of a different make were rejected in Mumbai. He further clarified that the ventilators in question were donated to BMC-run hospitals and other healthcare facilities in Maharashtra by an NGO.

RAM TEMPLE BHOOMI PUJAN

Corona test certificate mandatory for invitees

Lucknow: All invitees to the August 5 foundation stone-laying function for the new Ram temple in Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh will have to carry a mandatory coronavirus-negative certificate, one of the organisers said on Tuesday.

Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teertha Kshetra Trust chairman Shri Ram Chandra Prasad said the step was taken as a precautionary measure due to the coronavirus situation in the country. "Only those who have medical certificates and have been tested negative for coronavirus will be allowed entry for the 'bhumi puja' on Wednesday," he said.

Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Maurya, who is among the invitees, said on Tuesday that he would get his corona test done as required.

Health officials, meanwhile, said that they were fully prepared to test VIPs scheduled to hold the ceremony in state capital Lucknow while en route to Ayodhya for the religious ceremony. Rashtriya Swamivak Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat is in Lucknow for a few hours and is scheduled to proceed to Ayodhya by train. Bhagwat is staying at the Saraswati Shishu Mandir where a posse of police has been deployed.

Silver coin for every guest

IAS ■ AYODHYA

Every guest who is invited for the 'bhumi puja' ceremony for the grand Ram temple in Ayodhya on Wednesday, will be gifted a silver coin as 'prasad'.

The silver coin, on one side, has the image of Ram Darbar which includes Lord Ram, Sita, Lakshman and Hanuman and on the other side is the insignia of trust. The guests will also be

given a box of 'laddoos' and a photograph of Ram Darbar. According to sources, over 1.25 lakh laddoos, called 'Raghupati laddoos' will be distributed to guests, residents of Ayodhya and others on August 5.

All the guests who are coming from other districts or states have been asked to reach Ayodhya by Tuesday evening because the borders of the district will be sealed in the evening.

A total of 175 people have been invited to the Sri Ram Temple Trust for bhumi puja, including about 135 saints who will come from different parts of the country. There is a code on every invitation card, which is designed for security.

Former deputy Prime Minister L.K. Advani, Dr. Murali Manohar Joshi and former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Kalyan Singh will not be attending the ceremony.

Allow followers to celebrate on bhoomi puja day: BJP to TMC

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Even as Bengal Government changed its bi-weekly lockdown dates beginning Wednesday which coincides with the ground-breaking ceremony at Ram Janmabhoomi site in Ayodhya, State BJP president Dilip Ghosh on Tuesday warned the Mamata Banerjee Government against committing excesses on the followers of Lord Rama who would celebrate it in their own manner.

"Though the BJP has not kept its own promise on Wednesday we have reports that many followers of Lord Rama would celebrate the day that is coming after 500 years

of struggle... I will expect that the Government will not cause any hindrance to those who will celebrate this ceremony," Ghosh said.

On reports that the billboards in favour of the celebrations were being torn down by the police at Kharagpur town Ghosh said "any excesses perpetrated on the Ram Bhaktis (followers of Lord Rama) will be dealt with accordingly," wondering "why the Government does not take cognizance of lockdown violations in areas dominated by certain communities and why it clamps down heavily on the Hindus when they celebrate their festivals." He said "the police were

tearing down the hoardings put up by the followers of Lord Rama in Kharagpur. This is an atrocity committed on the Hindus who want to celebrate the occasion peacefully. The people are watching and they will take appropriate decision at an appropriate time if the Government tries to play mischief here."

Warning that the Trinamool Congress will have to bear heavy prices for its misadventures on Wednesday he invoked an oft repeated slogan in a media broadcast saying, "ho jayega kharagpur chur chur ho jayega (anyone who confronts us will be blown into smithereens)."

J&K mainstream parties face difficulty in branding image post Art 370 abrogation

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Post Abrogation of Article 370 and reorganisation of the erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir into two Union Territories the majority of Kashmir based mainstream political leaders, belonging to the National Conference (NC), Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and the Congress party are still struggling to 'resurrect' their image in the eyes of their supporters.

Though some of them including PDP Chief Mehbooba Muft are still under detention but all those who are out are 'purportedly' avoiding attending political functions due to growing 'mistrust' between them and their followers. So far only Omar Abdullah has gone public with his political statements, signalling a divide within his own party.

Majority of these leaders

continue to remain in a 'state of shock' and find it difficult to stomach the fact that the ruling National Conference, instead of consolidating its base the Bharatiya Janta Party is also facing resistance for failing to come up to the expectations of the people in the last one year.

On the other hand the common masses, in both the regions, are yet to come out of the hangover of experiencing a 'roller coaster' ride.

On its part, the Union Territory administration is claiming they are working round the clock to bring back the derailed political process on track and embark on the road to prosperity.

In the absence of the elected government in office the 'trickle down' government

strength to their political adversaries. These events could not be held due to Covid-19 pandemic in the region, instead of consolidating its base the Bharatiya Janta Party is also facing resistance for failing to come up to the expectations of the people in the last one year.

Under the leadership of Lt. Governor Anurag Kumar Mishra, "the period was utilised by the top bureaucrats to formulate structured policies for different sectors to ensure ease of business". To promote e-governance the entire government machinery has been augmented to reach out to the masses. At present at least 27 different services have been extended to speed up public delivery mechanisms.

Speaking to The Pioneer, a senior IAS officer, Rishi Kant Singh, who is holding the charge of Power Development Department and Spokesman of Jammu and Kashmir govern-

ment said, "in the last one year several flagship projects have been completed and work is going on to complete the remaining projects to ensure their timely completion."

He said, "506 languishing projects costing Rs. 665 crores stand completed while 963 projects costing Rs. 2256 crores are scheduled for completion by March, 2021."

According to official sources, the pace of work on different projects sanctioned under the Prime Ministers Development Package has been expedited.

Till June 2018 before the BJP-PDP alliance gov collapsed only 26 percent of the total fund was utilised. At present around 49 percent i.e. Rs 28,768 crore has been utilised.

The Local package was worth 80,000 crores.

Rs 58,627 crore was allocated for the Union Territory of J&K. A total of 63 infrastruc-

ture development projects were to be built up in Jammu and Kashmir under the Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP). Between November 2015 and October 2019, only 18 projects were completed.

In the last one year the government also approved resumption of issuing of domestic certificates to West Pakistani refugees, Valmiki Community, Gorkhas, earlier considered as non state subjects and were deprived of their citizenship rights.

During the period the government also approved reservation benefits to people living along the international border (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Social Welfare Department had recently notified reservation rules for people residing within 0 to 6 km of International Border (IB), after amending Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Act-2005.

The government made the amendments in Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Rules, provided reservation to 1,083 people residing in 508 villages along the IB, in direct recruitments, professional institutions and post-graduate courses. Another senior IAS officer, currently holding the charge of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, Navin Choudhary said, "around 10,50 lakh farmers have been enrolled for Kisan Credit Card scheme in Jammu and Kashmir". Out of this 4 lakh cards were distributed during special drives in the recent weeks. He said, due to prevailing circumstances centering around Covid-19 pandemic, we are focusing on strengthening the primary sector in Jammu and Kashmir. The manufacturing and the services sector has taken a major hit so in order to protect the economy and small farmers we are extending them financial services and opening the doors for them to sustain themselves instead of getting into the trap of local money lenders.

He said, "we had no tourism policy. Horticulture policy and now we have policy documents of 22 sectors in place". He said all this happened due to the lean structure of the government. "Compared to the previous set up the decision making process is much faster in the new dispensation".

Sharing a report card of his own department Navin Choudhary said, "around 10,50 lakh farmers have been enrolled for Kisan Credit Card scheme in Jammu and Kashmir". Out of this 4 lakh cards were distributed during special drives in the recent weeks. He said, due to prevailing circumstances centering around Covid-19 pandemic, we are focusing on strengthening the primary sector in Jammu and Kashmir. The manufacturing and the services sector has taken a major hit so in order to protect the economy and small farmers we are extending them financial services and opening the doors for them to sustain themselves instead of getting into the trap of local money lenders.

108 die, 5,603 new cases in TN

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Though Tamil Nadu lost 108 of its citizens to Covid-19, 5,603 new persons testing positive for the pandemic on Tuesday, the day has some encouraging news too.

Across the State, 6,501 persons were discharged from hospitals and left for their homes getting cured of Covid-19. Till date a total of 2,08 lakh persons have been cured of the pandemic.

While the State had 56, 698 active cases on Monday, the numbers came down to 55, 152 by Tuesday evening, said the bulletin issued by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

The 125 laboratories across the State tested 52,955 persons on Tuesday, establishing Tamil Nadu's lead over other States in testing maximum number of persons.

The situation in Chennai showed some improvement as the number of persons tested positive for the pandemic came down to 1,023. There is a strong feeling that situation in Chennai is gradually improving. But the same could not be said about the three neighbouring districts of the Metropolis, Chennai West (248), Kanchipuram (220) and Thiruvallur (358) remained areas of concern similar to Virudhunagar in south (424).

Gold smuggling: NIA takes 2 more persons in custody

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

A source in the National Investigation Agency (NIA) probing the gold smuggling scam in Kerala told *The Pioneer* that investigation is moving in the right direction and speed and more powerful people would be taken into custody soon. "It is slow process, but the best people are coming into cases like this take place. Whatever information we have collected is capable to take us to the doorsteps of the powerful and mighty," said the official.

The NIA on Tuesday took into custody two persons from Malappuram district who are involved in distributing the smuggled gold to the end users and diverting the money to terrorist organizations. Shafeeq and Sharafuddin were arrested based on the details furnished by T K Rameez who has been arrested earlier by the NIA.

Meanwhile, the agency handed over the case diary and other docu-

ments related to the arrest of Swapna Suresh and Sandeep Nair, the kingpins of the gold smuggling scam, to the court hearing their bail application. "The court has asked us to ensure that there are sufficient proof so that we could slap the UAPA charge against the accused. We handed over the materials for the consideration of the court. The prosecution grounds under which we could bring them under the UAPA (Unlawful Activities Prevention Act)," said Jaishankar V Nair, lawyer representing the agency in this case.

Interestingly, the Kerala Police does not ignore the anonymous exam investigation. The general feeling is that the State's police force is under orders from its top bosses not to help the NIA but even to deride the probe. The allegation that Swapna Suresh and Sandeep Nair could escape from Kerala to Bangalore (from where the NIA arrested them) could be the tacit support of the Kerala Police.

UPSC results: Pradeep Singh tops exam

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Already in the Indian Revenue Service, Pradeep Singh from Haryana has topped the 2019 UPSC Civil Services Examination while Pradeep Singh from Uttar Pradesh made it to the top among the women candidates. There are a total of 19 women candidates in the first 50 rankers.

The Union Public Service Commission on Tuesday declared the results of the Civil Services Examination 2019 which includes for the first time a 10 percent quota for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) as one of the various categories like General and other reserved categories. Of the total of 927 vacancies, 78 candidates have made it under EWS.

According to the results declared by UPSC this year, 829 candidates have been selected for the various services, including 66 who have been provisionally recommended. The

results of 11 candidates have been withheld. The results are on the basis of the written examination held in September 2019 and the interviews for a personality test held between February and August 2020 and in between the candidates during the Corona related country wide lockdown.

The 10% EWS was implemented for the first time this year, with 78 candidates selected under that category. Apart from 304 successful candidates in the general category, there were 251 from Other Backward Classes, 129 from Scheduled Castes and 67 from Scheduled Tribes.

The successful candidates will join the Indian Administrative Service, Indian Foreign Service, Indian Police Service and Central Services Group A and B, in accordance with their merit list. There were a total of 927 vacancies reported by the government in these services, says a UPSC statement.

1,083 infected in Kerala

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

More than 1,000 new persons tested positive for Covid-19 in Kerala on Tuesday. A release by the Government of Kerala said the State saw 1,083 new persons getting diagnosed with Covid-19 on Tuesday. Out of this, 902 persons contracted the pandemic through local transmission.

Though 1,021 persons were cured of the pandemic and left the hospitals for home, things are becoming worse in the State. All 14 districts saw more persons getting afflicted with the coronavirus through local transmission. There were 71 persons who could not attend the hospital from where they got infected. Three persons lost their lives during the last 24 hours.

Thiruvananthapuram had 247 new patients, 237 of them were contracted through local transmission. Similarly, in Ernakulam district, the source of the pandemic was traced to the source of the pandemic, 122 were affected because of local transmission.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan called off his media interaction in the last minute cure of the pandemic and left the hospitals for home, things are becoming worse in the State. All 14 districts saw more persons getting afflicted with the coronavirus through local transmission. There were 71 persons who could not attend the hospital from where they got infected. Three persons lost their lives during the last 24 hours.

Those who infected with the virus on Tuesday include 16 health workers and 35 juveniles of the ITBP station at Alappuzha. The data also saw the hospitalization of 1,241 patients. There are 509 hotspots in the State.

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one male namely **Deepak Kumar Sharma, S/o: Kailash Sharma, R/o T-13/3991, 1st Floor, Baljeet Nagar, Delhi. Age: 23 years, Height: 5'8", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Long, Built: Medium, wearing Dark Blue colour Capri and Maroon colour T-Shirt and Sleeper in feet,** has been missing from his house since 22.07.2020. In this regard a DD NO. 50-A, dated 23.07.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Patel Nagar, New Delhi

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

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail: dcg@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-23456839
Ph. No.: 011-23456838, 24368641
DP/236/CD/2020 Ph.: 011-25872637, 25874034

SHO P.S. Patel Nagar, New Delhi

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that two boys namely (1) **Yashpal Singh @ Suraj, S/o: Ajay Kumar, R/o 157C JG-II, Vikas Puri, New Delhi. Age: 19 years, Height: 5'10", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Built: Strong, and (2) **Harsh Kumar @ Nona, S/o: Late Shyam Kumar, R/o 157 C, JG-II, Vikas Puri, New Delhi. Age: 14 years, Height: 5'2", Complexion: Fair, Face: Oval, Built: Fat,** both has been missing with Silver colour Honda Access Scooty No. DL45HR7277 since 16.07.2020 from their house. In this regard a FIR No. 538/20 U/S 363 IPC, dated 20.07.2020, has been registered at P.S. Vikas Puri, New Delhi**

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

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail: dcg@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-23456839
Ph. No.: 011-23456838, 24368641
DP/162/WD/2020 Ph.: 011-25551213, 8750871131

SHO P.S. Vikas Puri, New Delhi

Varisha murder case: Girl who was deemed dead and family buried her, comes alive

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

A new twist has emerged in the Varisha murder case. Recently, after identifying the dead body found in a trolley bag in Ghaziabad as family preference, it was buried by the family members and her in-laws were sent to jail for murder. But, now Varisha has returned alive. She herself reached Aligarh's Gandhi Park station and told about the whole episode. Bulandshahr police has taken her from Aligarh police in their custody.

A woman arrived at Gandhi Park police station in Aligarh district on Monday evening. She told the police that she was married to a young man Aamir, resident of Uttar Pradesh who was killed by Bulandshahr police on June 1. On July 1, a month after her marriage, she came to her maternal home in Aligarh. After which, on July 17, she reached back to her in-laws.

It is alleged that upon arriving at the in-laws house, the accused in-laws snatched her jewellery and accused her maternal side of stealing the jewelry. On opposing she was beaten up by her husband on July 22. Due to this she left her in-laws house in the afternoon of July 23.

However, she did not go to her maternal home and went to

2 girls among 16 from J&K, Ladakh crack UPSC exam

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Sixteen candidates including two girls, belonging to the Shimla and border areas of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh on Tuesday cracked the prestigious Civil services examination-2019 with flying colours.

Topping the charts from Jammu region, Abhishek Augustus, secured AIR 38. He comes from the family of POJK refugees currently settled in the border belt of RS Pura.

Abhishek is currently undergoing training at the Shimla and border areas of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh Academy of Audit and Accounts. He had secured AIR 268 in UPSC 2018.

Three other candidates from Jammu, Sunny Gupta secured AIR (148), Dev Abhi (177) and Parth Gupta 240. Speaking to The Pioneer over the telephone from Shimla, Abhishek Augustus credited his success to the overall support extended by his family and close friends who motivated him throughout the long journey. Abhishek's father is lecturer in government higher secondary school in Sai close to Indo-Pak border and his mother is a teacher in a private school. His sister is pursuing PG in surgery from GMC Jammu.

An alumni of National Institute of Technology, Srinagar, Abhishek completed his schooling from DAV school RS Pura and Higher secondary from Govt Boys school, RS Pura. After completing his Computer engineering he went to New Delhi to prepare for UPSC examinations. After failing in the first three attempts he cracked the exam last year securing 68 th rank and this year he improved his ranking and made it to the top 50. Two other candidates who made it to the list Dr Asrar Ahmad Kitchloo (248) and Asif Yusuf Tantray (328), come from distant areas of Bhaderwah and Kulgam.

Dr Asrar, son of a doctor craved to become a doctor and his third attempt. He considered Shah Faesal, topper from Kashmir valley, as his first role model along with other successful candidates from the erstwhile Doda district namely Dr. Sehrish Asgar, Vimarsh Aryan and Abhishek Sharma. Sharing mantra of his success, Dr Asrar Kitchloo said, to crack UPSC examination the aspiring candidates should log out of the social media platforms and maintain consistency in their studies.

Several other successful candidates hailed from remote areas and made it to the final list of successful candidates by sheer dint of hard work. Instead of attending coaching classes of established institutes, the majority of these students preferred self study and focused on their goal from the very beginning.

After Ayodhya

As the foundation stone is laid for the temple, we must not let triumphalism get the better of Lord Ram's *dharma*



Years of politics and the clash of "isms" have actually overlooked the cultural consciousness and the civilisational ethos that Lord Ram represents. Revered variously as *Maryada Purushottam* Sri Ramchandra Raja of Ayodhya or the *Imam-e-Hind*, he has, beyond being a central figure of the Hindu pantheon, been an anchor of the Indic way of life and the way it should be lived. As Swami Vivekananda said, "he is an embodiment of truth, morality and ideals." The God-king of Ayodhya, who set an example of what social order should be and how it should be conducted, is, therefore, more of a human construct, one we could model ourselves after easily. And he was a selfless leader of people, putting them first. His wars were on principle of the right over wrong; he could have converted all the *rakshasas* into his own clan after killing Ravana but he chose not to. Simply because he respected his limits and that of others and believed in upholding the sense of righteousness. It is this vision that pervades our collective consciousness and regardless of whether a temple at his birthplace was demolished and a mosque built in its place, which in turn was overrun, the fact is Ayodhya is unanimously believed to have been the place where he was born. In that sense, it is our existential fountainhead. He is a belief and emotion so strong that restoring his birthplace is not about historical corrections but a return to the truth as it should be seen and practised. To that extent the *bhoorn puja*, or the foundation-stone laying ceremony at the site, is not just a milestone, it is an edict on what *dharma* should be. It should not be about Hindu triumphalism but about upholding values exactly the way he would have wanted. Lord Ram was a pluralist, not an isolationist. Celebrating him shouldn't be about symbolism, for majoritarian might is measured by grace, not by muscularity of an imposition. But that is a tall order in today's show and tell politics. What began as a mass movement to reclaim the site, launched by the BJP in 1989 to chart an alternative political path, gained massive traction once the then party supremo LK Advani began a Rathayatra from Gujarat. Although he couldn't complete the yatra, it aroused passions across the country and paved the way for the party's ascendancy to political power. And in the process, religiosity overtook secularism as an electoral agenda. Only social justice forces in the shape of VP Singh, Mulayam Singh Yadav and Lalu Prasad Yadav held out. But that led to polarisation and Ram became less of a guiding visionary with his neo-disciples becoming more like avengers of historical insult. Hinduism became Hindutva. In fact, the Congress, too, was taken in by the Hindutva wave with Rajiv Gandhi himself allowing the opening of the Babri Masjid gates and "shilanyas" prayers to be held inside for fear of losing the Hindu vote. This opened the floodgates for the right-wing fringe like the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and the Bajrang Dal to claim political centrality. That's when the temple became more than a symbolism, a runaway cause to justify everything from a majoritarian perspective. Rajiv Gandhi had grossly misjudged that the mosque, too, could co-exist. That was not to be. Advani had merely sought a balanced discourse where Hinduism could be defined not by exclusion, revisionism and minority appeasement but as an inclusive philosophy of national life. One that translated into the reasoned prime ministership of Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Unfortunately, today he and many seniors have been benched, not even consulted or properly invited to temple affairs. Meanwhile, the headline extremism and otherisation of non-Hindus have become the centrifugal force of the BJP, one that has been condoned by a tacit electorate, which returned the Narendra Modi Government with a brute majority. One that has the silent approval of the Opposition, which has fallen in line, swept aside by the tide of identity politics.

So what after Ayodhya? Is it the culmination of temple politics or will it be milked further electorally? Or will it spur a demand for more reclamations at Kashi and Mathura? At one time, hardliners would have been enthusiastic but the BJP's ideological anchor, the RSS, is itself cautious about continuing the temple issue beyond the *Ram janmabhoomi*. In fact, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat has categorically said that there are no plans for either Kashi or Mathura, that the RSS does not get into agitations and that the Ram temple was an exception. Having won a massive mandate, the BJP had to address its core constituency and has delivered a promise made many years ago and which at one time seemed just manifesto material. But both the RSS and the BJP are also realist about consolidating power. While the nation heaved a collective sigh of relief at the resolution of the Ayodhya dispute, there is undoubtedly a sense of fatigue about continuing politics in the name of Ram. There are much bigger concerns in the post-pandemic world to tackle, the bleak economy and restarting the nation once again. Even Ayodhya wants to get back to normal, hoping the temple will accelerate the local economy. Besides, the BJP's image has already taken a beating courtesy hate crimes, cow vigilantism and the anti-citizenship law protests and it wouldn't want to create new faultlines or give ammunition to others to do so. *Ram raja* may be ideal but the BJP has got to get real.

Forlorn hopes

Wholesale dispatches for the auto industry are climbing back to 2019 levels. Is this a good sign or a false dawn?



When reports from the automotive industry came early in August, they were reassuringly positive. The country's largest carmaker, Maruti-Suzuki, said that wholesale dispatches to dealers were up by one per cent from July 2019. The country's second-largest carmaker, Hyundai Motor India, registered a decline of two per cent for domestic dispatches. While both carmakers have showed a considerable decline in exports, other producers, too, displayed a relatively healthy number of wholesale dispatches for July 2020 compared to July 2019. Even two-wheeler companies, Hero Motocorp, Honda and TVS, showed considerable numbers in July 2020, almost matching July 2019 numbers and importantly climbing significantly over sales in June 2020. And in a sign that the rural economy is picking up, tractor sales for July 2020 continued to surpass expectations, showing double-digit growth for all leading manufacturers.

However, there are some signs that things have not all returned to normal. Commercial vehicle sales are still muted, with transporters still having excess capacity. With educational institutions and public transportation services limited, there has been almost no offtake of buses in the past four months. One must draw attention to the difference between wholesale and actual retail sales; the latter are yet to recover. While most manufacturers have managed to get their production in order, thanks to special permissions even in lockdown zones, retail sales have been hit as dealerships have had to stay closed on days when cities, districts and even whole States endured lockdowns. What must also be remembered is that the entire automotive industry was suffering in 2019. Sales had been muted as the economy was still sputtering. In fact, last year, sales were down sharply from 2018. One should wait and watch to see how actual retail sales in the months of August and September pan out. These are historically weak months leading up to the bonanza of the last three months of the year, the so-called "festive season." And while it is encouraging to see that auto manufacturers have managed to get their houses back in order, much more needs to be done for the entire economy to get back on track after the Wuhan virus derailed all hopes of growth. These might be green shoots but they may not be enough to ensure that the plant called the economy grows big and strong by 2021.

Turning liability to asset

Merely privatising the PSBs will get us nowhere. Along with this move, the Government must bring sector-specific reforms. And they must come quick



GOURAV VALLABH

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its Financial Stability Report released on July 24 warned that the Non-Performing Assets (NPA) ratio of scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) could rise up to 14.7 per cent by March 2021 from the current 8.5 per cent in March 2020. This piece of news was followed up by former RBI Governor Urjit Patel's shocking revelation that the central bank wanted to be tough against the loan defaulters but the Government wanted him to "go soft", which eventually forced him to resign. A series of happenings in the banking sector in recent times has made everyone doubt the character and intentions of the current Government to recapitalise public sector banks (PSBs).

Recently, the All India Bank Employees Association (AIBE), too, released a list of 2,426 borrower accounts that have been categorised as "willful defaulters" with dues amounting to ₹1,47,350 crore to the banking system. It also mentioned that such huge amounts are being technically written off by the NDA Government. Moreover, recently, the Union Government announced that only five PSBs would continue to exist and that the rest of the unmerged banks would be sold off to private bidders in the name of recapitalisation. Only last year, the Government had merged 10 State-owned banks into four, creating a handful of larger banks in the process.

On the one hand, the Government is trying to infuse private capital into the PSBs and on the other, it is forcing both the State Bank of India (SBI) and Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) to bail out failed private sector banks such as Yes Bank. The statements and actions of the Government appear to contradict each other. A comparison of the BSE PSU Bank index of India (SBI) from 2014 to 2020 reveals that the former has seen no growth in the last six years while the latter has seen a steady rise. The BSE PSU bank index has instead fallen by 2.63 per cent, while the overall index has grown approximately by 11 per cent on a CAGR basis. This clearly reflects that investors are not happy with the way the PSBs have been functioning.

On the one hand, the Government is pushing for a technical write-off of bad loans, on the



other, it has failed to investigate or punish the willful defaulters. This is evident from the fact that SBI has been recovering less than one per cent of its write-offs each year. As per reports, SBI's technical write-off of bad loans in the last eight years amounted to ₹1.23 lakh crore, while recovery from bad debts during the same period was less than ₹9,000 crore, which is less than one per cent of the collection efficiency every year.

Around ₹4,545 fraud cases — involving about ₹1.85 lakh crore — were reported by scheduled commercial banks and select FIs during 2019-20 as per RBI in an RTI response. This takes the total loss to ₹3.6 lakh crore due to frauds in the last six years (FY 2014-15 to 2019-20). Since July 19, 1969, when 14 banks were nationalised, they have been contributing immensely to build credit lines for the marginalised sectors like agriculture. The National Credit Council, in its meeting held in July 1968, emphasised that commercial banks should finance priority sectors like agriculture and small-scale industries.

Over the years, the priority sector lending norms have seen major changes and have, in fact, evolved with a greater focus on those segments that have traditionally been neglected from accessing credit. Thus,

“THE GOVERNMENT MUST COME UP WITH A WHITE PAPER THAT MUST BE PREPARED IN CONSULTATION WITH ECONOMISTS, FORMER FINANCE MINISTERS AND RBI GOVERNORS. THE WHITE PAPER SHOULD INCLUDE DIVESTMENT PLANS FOR PSBS. A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION INTO THE DIVESTMENT PROCESS, TOO, IS A MUST”

it has become a handy tool to address the problem of financial exclusion.

In the latest report of its Internal Working Group to review agricultural credit, the RBI said that the impact of the institutional framework put in place has largely leveraged formal credit to the agriculture sector. From ₹37.71 billion in 1981 (approximately 16 per cent of the agricultural GDP in 1980-81), the SCBs' outstanding advances to agriculture and allied activities have grown significantly to ₹13,694.56 billion in 2017-18, which formed approximately 16 per cent of total bank credit ie, ₹86,254.25 billion and approximately 51 per cent of agriculture and allied GVA at current prices.

Merely privatising the PSBs will get us nowhere. Along with this move, the need is for sector-specific reforms. In his book, *What the Economy Needs*, Now, Rajan has suggested that privatisation be just one element of the overall reform process. It should not become the foremost plank in banking sector reform and is fraught with adverse consequences.

To put it simply, Rajan is of the view that "simple" solutions like privatising PSBs may be no panacea. Consolidation and privatisation of PSBs can have little to do with setting Indian banking

right as these actions may be necessary but will not be sufficient by a long chalk.

The Government should clarify its approach to steer the PSBs out of the crisis. It should come up with a white paper that must be prepared in consultation with top economists, former Finance Ministers and RBI Governors among others. The white paper should include divestment plans for PSBs. A thorough investigation into the divestment process, too, is a must. Further, steps must be taken to ensure utmost transparency in the valuation of brand, network and the value for the number of accounts created over the last 51 years through significant brand-building.

The Government also needs to clarify the future of bank employees. The challenge is also for it to continue providing cheap agricultural credit to farmers once the entire banking sector becomes driven by the private sector. No doubt, the state of the PSBs has been of great concern to a common citizen of our country. The country needs them to perform better. Delays in the recognition of the inevitable has haunted India's financial sector. Reforms must come quick.

(The writer is professor of finance and national spokesperson of the Congress. Views expressed are personal)

SOUNDBITE

In this profession (cinema), you are only as good as your last project. Some films don't turn out the way you expect them to.

Actor — Sharman Joshi



The decisions that Governments take now will have lasting impact on hundreds of millions of young people, and on the development prospects of countries for decades to come.

UN Chief — António Guterres



Hindutva is now the basic coat on the canvas of polity and political parties subscribing to its various shades, as well as being vying for power in future as socialism and secularism are no longer the pivot of politics.

Former RSS ideologue — KN Govindacharya



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Better late than never

Sir — PV Narasimha Rao should be remembered for being a tactful Prime Minister, who handled a peculiar situation that developed in the country when an uncontrolled gathering pulled down the disputed structure at Ayodhya on December 6, 1992, paving the way for the ultimate foundation stone-laying ceremony for a grand Ram temple today.

He will also be remembered for successfully running a minority Government for a full five-year term and paving the way for a new era of economic reforms. It is indeed regrettable that like many other Congress veterans, he was not only sidelined by his own party but even insulted after his death. The Congress still refuses to look beyond the Gandhis.

Though a bit late, the present ruling Government has done well to honour forgotten national heroes such as Rao and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, a real tribute, however, will be when Rao is honoured with the highest civilian award of Bharat Ratna. He deserves the maxi-

COVID-19 fallout on children

Data collated so far show that children are less affected clinically by COVID-19 than adults; they are not completely immune to SAR-CoV-2; are only less susceptible to contracting the virus and developing severe disease from it; and they can be carriers but are far less likely to spread the contagion than adults. However, the Coronavirus pandemic affects children less in terms of health but its impact on their lives and growth is incalculably immense. It has turned their world upside down; has exacerbated the problems already faced by them due to poverty, malnutrition, regressive cultural values and practices, poor parenting and physical abuse.

The pandemic has caused a decline in economic activity, fall in household incomes and has forced millions of families to subsist on reduced daily intake of food. Deprived of adequate nourishment, children suffer stunted physical and cognitive growth. Governments must arrange to provide food to children who used to get mid-day meals in schools. Children are creative, inquisitive and agile; they need classrooms and playgrounds to grow up and bloss-



om. They are at an impressionable age; they are profoundly affected by what happens to them and around them. The pandemic makes it a ceaseless struggle between their resilience and vulnerability to cope with its impact. It is important to ensure that children don't will and come to think of themselves as the "lost generation." Their protection, health and well-being must be the world's priority.

G David Milton Maruthanocod

mum recognition.

Madhu Agrawal Delhi

Change for good

Sir — Once again, the Prime Minister's Office intervened at

the right time to help the common man. This time, it has brought an end to the practice of eateries charging exorbitant prices for snacks and beverages at the Kochi airport. The snacks and beverages sold at food outlets at the airport burnt a hole in the passengers' pocket as a

heavy amount was charged. The PMOs intervention has brought the prices down to tea and snacks being sold at ₹15 and coffee at ₹20. Earlier, people had to shell out ₹100 for a cup of tea and a minimum of ₹200 for snacks. Other airports across the country must take cue and slash

prices of refreshments.

M Pradyu Kannur

Trust Govt hospitals

Sir — With the Coronavirus having breached the 1.8 million mark, it has spared none. Even Bollywood celebrities, as well as many of our leaders, have been hit by the virus. Union Home Minister Amit Shah is the latest one to have contracted the disease and has been hospitalised in one of the best and costliest private hospitals in the country. Several other Ministers at the Centre as well as in States have contracted the virus. Shockingly, most of them were treated and continue to be admitted in private hospitals. To the contrary, when an average person falls sick, he/she prefers reaching out to a Government hospital as private ones are unaffordable. Our administrators must start trusting the Government facilities.

Rishi Via email

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

The Congress must decide

The party needs leadership, direction, revival, a new narrative and unity. Maybe even a non-Gandhi at the helm, soon



KALYANI SHANKAR

For the first time since Sonia Gandhi took over as the Congress president after the resignation of Rahul Gandhi last August, the rift between the "old guard" loyal to Sonia and Team Rahul has come out in the open. The reason for this is simple. Both the senior and younger leaders are frustrated with the *status quo* in the party when it sorely needs to revive, with a strong leadership at the helm. However, this "old guard" versus "young Turks" fight in the Congress is not new. It was there even during Indira Gandhi's days when she split the party in 1969, pushing out the syndicate led by then Congress president K Kamraj. The syndicate thought that they could manipulate Indira but she proved to be a shrewd politician and emerged stronger despite the split. After she won the Bangladesh war, politically she reached her zenith. Later, when the Congress party split in 1978, Congress (Indira) emerged as the real Congress.

When Rajiv Gandhi succeeded Indira in 1984 after her assassination, he was surrounded by his own coterie. But he also kept some of the senior leaders close to him. Since Rajiv was a politically strong leader with over 400 Congress MPs backing him, the feud between the seniors and younger leaders was muted.

Later, after Rajiv's assassination, a section of the old guard brought Sonia into the party in 1988. They were loyal to her while she also depended on them for support and guidance as she was a political greenhorn. It was a big task to guide such an old party as the Congress. Things went smoothly for years and over time Sonia tightened her grip on the party.

However, the fight between the old guard and the young leaders began when she promoted her son. While the senior leaders were apprehensive about their future, Rahul's team was getting impatient to get madder roles within the party and in Congress-ruled States. The politically-savvy old guard managed to block all attempts to bring a non-Gandhi to the helm of the party and bring back Sonia when Rahul resigned last August. Rahul himself criticised the old guard in the May 25 Congress Working Committee meeting.

Now, with the departure of Jyotiraditya Scindia in March and rebellion by Sachin Pilot — two of the closest aides of the Gandhi son — Team Rahul is further agitated. The fact that the newly-elected MP Rajiv Satav, said to be close to Rahul, was bold enough to be critical of the old guard and the UP-2, says a lot about the divide within the party. It was only after senior leaders like Anand Sharma, Manish Tiwari, Milind Deora and so on retorted strongly that Satav withdrew his remarks about UP-2.

Sonia and Rahul are not like Indira and Rajiv. Leading a weakened Congress is different from leading a politically-strong party. The departure of two young and charismatic leaders like Scindia and Pilot in the last four months and the loss of Madhya Pradesh and a wobbling Rajasthan have weakened the leadership further. Younger leaders from Team Rahul like Milind Deora and Jitin Prasada are likely to leave soon.

The immediate urgency in the party is the leadership vacuum. If Rahul wants to come back as the party chief, he should do so at the earliest. The "Bring Rahul" chant has already begun. Fortunately for the Gandhis there is no challenge to Rahul. However, if he does not want to come back, Rahul should make it clear now.

Dissent in the Congress is also not new as it functioned as an umbrella party providing space for all kinds of opinions. But discussing differences within the party forum and publicly airing grievance are two different things. The generational divide in the Congress goes much beyond and if no corrective measures are taken, it will affect the revival of the party.

Can this issue be resolved? It is indeed tricky, as both camps are not willing to wait. With both Sonia and Rahul helplessly watching the fight and with a leadership crisis plaguing the party, they need some quick and out-of-the-box thinking. As the old guard says, now is the time for introspection and correction. The party should have a convective like I did in Pachmarhi and Shimla.

Former Minister Salman Khurshid has put the present crisis in perspective. In an article, he sums up, "The loss of promising young leaders, irrespective of the reason, is indeed unfortunate and sad. But the young, who feel we, the older generation, are not giving way, must not forget that there are even younger ones waiting on the sides. The crisis is not about young and old but about those who want to leave and those who are determined not to abandon the ship in stormy weather."

The erosion has begun in the party like it happened before Sonia took over in 1998. The Gandhis should realise that 2020 is not 1998. Also, the family has proved that they are not vote catchers now. The party needs leadership, direction, revival, a new narrative and unity. Maybe even a non-Gandhi at the helm, soon. But it needs to decide fast as time and tide wait for none.

(The writer is a senior journalist)

IT IS A BIG TRAGEDY. IT COULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE POLICE. THAT IS WHY NO ACTION IS BEING TAKEN.

—CONGRESS RAJYA SABHA MP

SHAMSHER DULLO

POINT COUNTERPOINT



I ASSURE YOU AS THE CHIEF MINISTER THAT NO ONE WILL BE SPARED AND THE GUILTY WILL BE PUNISHED TO ENSURE JUSTICE.

—PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER

AMARINDER SINGH

Miles to go in J&K

Politically, the revocation of Articles 35A and 370 marks the fulfilment of the BJP's poll promise but emotional integration may take more time and requires imaginative handling by all stakeholders



PRAMOD JAIN

During the last one year, Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) has seen many far-reaching changes.

On August 5, 2019, the Parliament revoked Articles 35A and 370 of the Indian Constitution and reorganised J&K through an Act of Parliament, carving J&K as well as Ladakh as Union Territories (UTs) out of the erstwhile State. The J&K Constitution became inoperative, all Central laws now extend to J&K and many State laws are inoperative. The other major changes included the abolition of the bicameral legislature and its replacement by a unicameral arrangement and reduction in the life of the Assembly from six to five years. There is now only one flag in J&K i.e. the Tricolour. Though politically, the revocation of Articles 35A and 370 marks the fulfilment of the BJP's long-held election promise, emotional integration may take more time and requires imaginative and sustained handling by various primary and secondary stakeholders.

Institution-building for good governance: Good governance is predicated upon a reasonably robust institutional framework in terms of both structure and agency. While a lot has been done in terms of the structure, the agency needs due attention, keeping the long-term horizons in view.

J&K never had direct British rule or the Indian Civil Service (ICS). The All India Services (AIS) were extended to it as late as the 1960s and have not yet bloomed in the real sense. Till recently 50 per cent localisation — especially when the State services are themselves recruited on a very narrow, limited-to-J&K base — was a regressive policy that has been done away with. For administrative integration and for higher standards of public administration, the UT should have 100 per cent direct recruit AIS officers. Fortunately, the IAS, IPS and IFS cadres have been reviewed and are being expanded shortly. There are quite a few bright women in the State services; they need encouragement, exposure and training. Post-1990, the J&K Police managed to get enormous authority, manpower, infrastructure and funds. But they need to adequately attend to maintaining law and order, crime management and public safety. This should be done in a manner that is transparent and ensures public access as well as accountability at various levels of the civil set-up.

Civic engagement: To build a progressive and modern UT, the focus must be on strengthening, even re-doing, from the perspective of the user-citizen, the institutions of governance so that they speedily and professionally respond to public issues, people's problems and local needs. Civic engagement and public outreach programmes like "Back to Villages", devolution of more powers including control over staff, functions and funds to the elected municipal and panchayat bodies, block development councils (BDCs) of J&K are indeed welcome steps. Giving good monthly honoraria to all, having life insurance and providing the protocol equivalence of District Magistrate to all the BDC Chairmen will boost their morale and motivate others to join public life, thereby strengthening the local democratic institutions. However, the new initiatives must be supplemented by a "Back to Basics" programme. The every department, both in the UT secretariat and in the field, so as to attend to the basic but forgotten/ignored/diluted aspects pertaining to the very reason *d'être* of governance.

At the core of this approach lies the need for an enhanced civic engagement and to afford an opportunity to the enlightened citizens, especially urban, to relate to and become a part of the system, thereby enhancing the "ownership" of the

“INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT BASED ON CIVIC ENGAGEMENT HAS TO BE A GENUINELY PARTICIPATORY EXERCISE, IN WHICH ALL DELEGATED RESPONSIBILITY IS DISCHARGED BY THE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES; ALL DECISION-MAKING HAS TO BE THEIRS. THE TRADITIONAL BUREAUCRATIC AND TECHNOCRATIC APPROACH, JOKINGLY CALLED 'YOU PARTICIPATE, I DECIDE,' HAS TO BE REPLACED BY A PRO-PEOPLE ORIENTATION IN THE GOVERNMENT MACHINERY, ESPECIALLY IN THE STATE RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYATI RAJ DEPARTMENT AND PANCHAYATI RAJ DEPARTMENT.”



Government-funded schemes and projects. This enervation of the administrative structure and agency, coupled with enforcing accountability and productivity, especially at the cutting edge levels, will reduce citizens' trust deficit, enhance social capital and mainstream the marginalised population — the processes of social engineering necessary for inclusive development.

People as stakeholders: Inclusive development based on civic engagement has to be a genuinely participatory exercise, in which all delegated responsibility is discharged by the elected representatives; all decision-making has to be theirs. The traditional, bureaucratic and technocratic approach, jokingly called "you participate, I decide", has to be replaced by a pro-people orientation in the government machinery, especially in the State Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department and in the Urban Development Department, besides others having a significant public contact.

The newly-empowered Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and municipal bodies must not be seen as the Government's departmental appendages or field units, as the officers tend to be seen, but as separate *loci* of power. Better functioning bodies must be given additional responsibilities and funds so as to build their stake in local area development. A new and revamped grievance redressal mechanism (complaints registering methodology) needs to be put in place so that people can raise their voice about all that is unwanted or unacceptable. The old practice of officers holding regular camps in villages and at the *tehsil* headquarters needs to be strengthened and institutionalised. At least, one day a week, BDCs and other bodies must be filled up through early elections. Now that the 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments have been extended to J&K, bringing about positive changes is both imperative and logical. The statutory post of the ombudsman for the PRIs also needs to be filled up early.

Restoring basic services: Connected with the above is the task of restoring basic services like 4G, which will go a long way to assuage the grievances of the younger generation and help businesses. Essential services like high-speed internet, power and water supply must keep pace with the citizens' expectations. While there is a marked improvement in the supply of quality electricity in the twin capitals and major towns, similar improvement is yet to be registered with regard to rural areas. People often complain that every wind and rainstorm leads to a power breakdown. Better power and water supply and other managerial issues must be tackled with the people's participation, taking PRIs on board, with the Divisional Commissioners and District Development Commissioners playing the key role of coordination and monitoring.

Strengthening the rule of law: The rule of law is a basic ingredient of a democratic system, free society and a market-led economy. It postulates that all citizens are equal before law, none is above the law, none can be a judge in his own cause; there would be no arbitrariness in decisions taken by public authorities. The celebrated historian and author, Niall Ferguson, avers that the decline in the rule of law is a major factor contributing to the degeneration of nations.

In almost every Assembly session in J&K, there have been acrimonious debates, *inter alia*, on the alleged backdoor appointments, political bigwigs being asked to recommend names for selection of candidates, appointments through relaxation of rules and so on. In this backdrop, the rule of law needs to be strengthened and re-established, wherever required, in the day-to-day working of the administration at various levels, and it needs to be visible. The task may require training and re-training the decision-makers, their intensive monitoring and introduction of checks and balances as well as giving punishments for wrongdoing. It is indeed difficult, though not impossible.

Political party development: Though the timing of the electoral event is the sole discretion of the Election Commission of India, election to the State Assembly is the logical next step. Since political parties are a necessary part of the electoral and democracy-building processes, they need to come out of their current, self-imposed hibernation. All parties need also to seriously go in for "political party development". They should groom ideologies with a grip over the political economy and public policy issues, those who can link up the macro and micro, and devise vision, mission, strategy and plan of action to establish a bottom-up interface with the voters, especially the younger ones.

All parties perhaps need a new pedagogy and communication approach, through social media platforms, emails and text messages. They also need to strengthen the governance institutions because people's political behaviour is always influenced by the institutions, political and administrative. Collectively all of them have a responsibility to ensure that democracy delivers, and deliver to the satisfaction of the electorate at large.

Limitation of stereotypes: It has been seen that J&K-related stereotypes don't generally capture the essence of all that is good, bad and ugly, and only strengthen the archetypal discourse fixed on the media platforms, emails and text messages. They also need to strengthen the governance institutions because people's political behaviour is always influenced by the institutions, political and administrative. Collectively all of them have a responsibility to ensure that democracy delivers, and deliver to the satisfaction of the electorate at large.

(The writer is a retired IAS officer of the J&K cadre)

The kingmaker with the heart of a king

Now that Amar Singh is no longer with us, I am sure he will be remembered by the ordinary people as long as they live for his kindness



SANTANU GANGULY

It was August 2018 and I was curating a Bengali Film Festival in Delhi. National Award-winning actress Rituparna Sengupta was one of the guests at the festival. While heading towards her hotel from the airport, she told me, "I have invited Amar Singh for the opening ceremony."

So I conveyed the message to the organisers. But to my surprise, they informed me that the Samajwadi Party leader and Rajya Sabha member was not to be accommodated as the festival got support from the Chief Minister of Delhi, Arvind Kejriwal. The Chief Minister's Office had clearly mentioned that as per established protocol, no other political

person from any other political party could be present at the function. It was a very peculiar situation and the organisers were very tense as they did not want to offend the Chief Minister.

So, the moment Amar Singh arrived, I took him to the conference room, since the opening ceremony was yet to begin. I made him comfortable, gave him a cup of tea and set up an interview with *Doodardashan*. My intention was to let the Chief Minister arrive and take his seat on the stage before seating Amar Singh in the front row among the audience.

Those moments spent with Amar Singh, while waiting for Arvind Kejriwal to arrive, turned out to be very memorable. I got the opportunity to talk to the veteran politician, industrialist, the close friend of Bollywood royalty Amitabh Bachchan and the kingmaker of Indian politics over very close of an hour. I call him kingmaker, because of the way he saved the Manmohan Singh Government in a floor test in Parliament. Even his



harsh critics will have to agree that he had been blessed with exceptional floor management skills in Parliament.

During our chat, I was amazed to hear him speak fluent Bengali. Then he claimed himself to be a Bengali at heart and began talking about his school and college days in Kolkata, the time, the memories, the culture, the people and, of course, the politics.

It was then that I reminded him of his great contribution to the Cinefan: Asian Film Festival, 2003.

This was before Cinefan was merged with Osiatis. Aruna Vasudev had a hard time organising the festival as she got very nominal Government and corporate support. So she had approached Amar Singh on the recommendation of Vasant Sathe. At that time, Amar Singh gave us the ₹1 lakh we needed as the cash award for the Best Film voted by the audience. Amar Singh was very busy with some political engagement, he requested Vasant Sathe to present the award.

After listening to my tale, Amar Singh just smiled and said, "You know the ordinary people and the poor people always gratefully remember whatever little I have done for them. It has happened many times that during my visit to my constituency, many people come along with their children and ask them to touch my feet. They tell their children that 'he is your grandfather. He did our *Kanyadaan*. Without his help our

marriage would not have been possible'. Frankly speaking I don't even remember the occasion or I personally don't recall the people who remember my help. I think my purpose in life is solved." After a small pause, he continued, "But whatever I have done for rich people... no one ever thinks about those efforts." I could see the sadness on Amar Singh's face when he said that.

During the course of our conversation, I discovered that he was an avid reader and had an amazing collection of books in his personal library. After learning this fact, I requested him to visit the book store next door to the auditorium going to the auditorium. He readily agreed and chose a good amount of books, mostly on history and politics. The store employees panicked as they did not have the facility to take payments through a credit or debit card and the bill was a whopping ₹20,000. Unfazed by this, Amar Singh just murmured "Oh! That's not a big amount", and took out the money from the pocket of his kurta and gave it to them.

Meanwhile, Kejriwal arrived and the opening ceremony of the film festival began. So we proceeded inside the auditorium. Amar Singh got his designated seat and everything went smoothly.

After the ceremony, when Kejriwal got off the stage to leave, Amar Singh just got up and with folded hands said to him in Hindi, "Krun, nahi pelhane ji" (Don't forget to recognise me?). Kejriwal, with his popular and charming smile, quickly held Amar Singh's hands and exchanged greetings very cordially.

Anyway, at the end of the day, all of us were discussing Amar Singh's great knowledge of the fact that the ordinary people remembered his good deeds but the rich never remembered his kindness. Somehow, to this day, I can't forget the sad, hurt face of Amar Singh. Now that he is no longer with us, I am sure he will be remembered by the ordinary people as long as they live.

(The author is a Delhi-based film festival curator, director, producer and freelance writer)



FOREIGN EYE



GIVING WINGS TO CREATIVITY

The Coronavirus pandemic has reconfigured the home as a site of creativity, one glimpsed through webcams and headphones. The format will surely vanish when arts venues reopen around the world. But for some women musicians this year, before and during the lockdown, the domestic space has offered artistic liberation at odds with the home's reputation as a place of constraint for women.

(The Guardian editorial)

AFGHAN PRISON ATTACK

Kerala doctor among ISIS suicide bombers

Kabul/New Delhi: Of the 11 ISIS suicide bombers involved in the Afghanistan prison break terror attack that left 39 people dead on Monday, one was a doctor from Kerala.

Official sources told IANS that the ISIS suicide bomber has been identified as Kalluketti Purayil Jias, a physician and resident of Kasargod in Kerala.

On Sunday evening, as per official sources in Kabul, 11 ISIS terrorists stormed the Jalalabad prison to break free their cadres, killing 39 people. In a fierce gun-battle which lasted for almost 24 hours, the Afghan security forces killed all the 11 attackers.

Jias, according to the National Intelligence Agency (NIA) which has been investigating his case, went to Afghanistan to join the Islamic State's Khurasan Province branch of Daesh, the global Islamist terrorist group, in 2016. As per the NIA, Jias was in the case, Jias had gone to Afghanistan along with his pregnant wife Refaella. While Jias at the time was 33 years old, his wife was 26. Sources said Refaella and their child are in the custody of Afghan authorities.



The July 2016, a parent from Kasargod had lodged a police complaint, stating that his 30-year-old son Abdul Rashid was missing along with his wife Ayisha (Sonia Sebastian) and child for almost two months after they had gone to Mumbai. Around the same time, 14 other cases of missing people, including Jias, were registered by their parents and relatives in the police station of the same area. Preliminary investigation revealed that the missing persons had left India to join the ISIS.

During the investigation by Kerala Police, the role of 29-year-old Yameen Mohammad Zahid, a resident of Batla House in Jamia Nagar, New Delhi, but originally from Sitamarhi district in Bihar, as a co-conspirator of Abdul Rashid was revealed.

She was arrested on August 1, 2016, after she got intercepted at the Indira Gandhi

International Airport in New Delhi while attempting to flee India for Afghanistan along with her child.

As per the Kerala police, Yameen was actively aiding Abdul Rashid in his activities, including raising funds to support the ISIS. The case was handed over to the NIA after she was arrested.

The NIA investigation revealed that Yameen "was highly influenced and radicalised with the pro-jihad

ideology" and recruited the main accused Abdul Rashid. She "compelled her husband to divorce her and upon her compulsion, her husband pronounced third talaq in the month of Ramadan, 2015. Immediately after the third talaq, she had left her place of work at Kollam and gone to the house of Jias at Kasargod for attending the secret, pro-ISIS classes conducted by Abdul Rashid," the NIA chargesheet said.

The NIA investigation revealed that Abdul Rashid, Yameen and others were involved in activities to further the objectives of the ISIS in Kerala and other places of India. Fifteen people, including Jias, had fled the country to join the terror group in Nangarhar province in Afghanistan. Though the NATO and Afghan forces claim to have killed most ISIS members in Nangarhar, sources said many escaped from the region. In the chargesheet, the NIA listed Jias, a resident of Hamsa Sagar, Thekperum, near the government hospital in Padana, Kasargod, as an accused and absconder in the case. **IANS**

UK lawmakers urge sanctions over Hong Kong police violence

London: British lawmakers investigating rights violations by Hong Kong police have urged the UK Government to sanction the city's leader for allowing "excessive police violence" toward humanitarian workers helping those injured in pro-democracy protests.

Tuesday's report from the bipartisan All Party Parliamentary Group on Hong Kong said first aid workers, as well as doctors and nurses, have been subjected to intimidation, threats, physical violence and arrests during months-long clashes between police and protesters that began in the city last year.

"The Hong Kong Police Force's treatment of humanitarian aid workers and their interference within hospitals have resulted in injured protesters not receiving the required medical care at any time or at all," the report said.

Lawmaker Alistair Carmichael, who co-chairs the parliamentary group, said the violence was "not the actions of a few rogue officers" and was



"clearly a systematic and quite deliberate" change that aligned more with policing in mainland China.

The report's authors said they drew their conclusions after receiving over 1,000 pieces of written evidence and hearing many firsthand experiences from witnesses.

It called for Britain to urgently impose sanctions on Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam and the city's police commissioner.

The semi-autonomous city has seen its most violent anti-government protests in the past year, as demonstrations against a proposed law that would allow suspects to be extradited to China grew into a much wider protest movement. **AP**

Lankans to vote in parliamentary election today

Colombo: Sri Lankans will vote in the twice-postponed parliamentary election on Wednesday with the powerful Rajapaksa family-run party expected to gain control of the assembly that could allow them to amend the Constitution to restore presidential powers.

Over 16 million people are eligible to vote to elect 196 out of a total of 225 lawmakers for the next five years. Twenty-nine others will be named from a national list according to the number of votes received by each party.

The counting would take place only on the following morning - a departure from the practice of counting the ballots from 8 pm on the election night. President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has hopes for a two-thirds majority for the Sri Lanka People's Party (SLPP) in the general election so that he can amend the Constitution to restore presidential powers curbed by a 2015 constitution. His older brother is the former president Mahinda Rajapaksa, who is seeking reelection as prime minister, is assured of a sweeping victory as the main Opposition is badly divided. **PTI**

China accuses US of 'outright bullying' over TikTok

Beijing: China accused the United States on Tuesday of "bullying" over popular video app TikTok, after President Donald Trump ramped up pressure for its US operations to be sold to an American company.

In the latest diplomatic spat between the world's two biggest economies, Beijing hit back after Trump gave TikTok six weeks to arrange a sale of its US operations - and said that his government wanted a financial benefit from the deal.

"This goes against the principles of the market economy and the (World Trade Organization's) principles of openness, transparency and non-discrimination," said foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin.

The app has been under fire from the US national security groups, and Trump said that Microsoft was

in talks to buy TikTok. He has given ByteDance until mid-September to strike a deal, a tactic that is almost unheard of.

"It's got to be an American company... it's got to be owned here," Trump said on Monday. "We don't want to have any problem with security."

The US and China have clashed over various fronts recently, essentially barring Chinese telecoms company Huawei from the US market and waging a global campaign to isolate the company over national security concerns.

Beijing slammed the latest move as a "political manipulation," Wang told a regular press briefing Tuesday. "The US, without providing any evidence, has been using an abused concept of national security... unjustifiably suppressing certain non-US companies."

Malaysia police raid Ijazera's office, seize 2 computers

AP ■ KUALA LUMPUR

News broadcaster Al Jazeera said Malaysian police raided its Kuala Lumpur office Tuesday, calling it a "troubling escalation" in a government crackdown on media freedom.

Police opened an investigation last month into an Al Jazeera documentary on the treatment of undocumented migrants after officials complained it was inaccurate and biased. Seven Al Jazeera staff members have been grilled by police as part of the probe for alleged sedition, defamation and violating the Communications and Multimedia Act.

Al Jazeera, a Qatari-state owned broadcaster, said in a statement that police seized two computers during Tuesday's raid, which it called "an attack on press freedom as a whole." It urged Malaysian authorities to cease the criminal investigation. **AFP**

Pak court appoints 3 senior lawyers as amici curiae in Jadhav's case

Islamabad: A top Pakistani court has named three senior lawyers as amici curiae in the case of Kulbhushan Jadhav as it ordered the Pakistan government to give "another chance" to the military court for the death-row prisoner.

Jadhav, the 50-year-old retired Indian Navy officer, was sentenced to death by a Pakistani military court on charges of espionage and terrorism in April 2017.

India approached the International Court of Justice against Pakistan for denial of consular access to Jadhav and challenging the death sentence.

The Hague-based ICJ ruled in July 2019 that Pakistan must undertake an "effective review and reconsideration" of the conviction and sentence of Jadhav and also to grant consular access to India without further delay.

A two-member bench of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) comprising Chief Justice

Athar Minallah and Justice Mianul Hassan Aurangzeb appointed the three lawyers on Monday as it held a hearing of the petition filed by the Pakistan government to appoint a lawyer to the military court.

"We feel that in order to ensure the effectiveness of the review and reconsideration of the conviction and sentence of Commander Jadhav, a reasonable opportunity ought to be extended to the latter and the Government of India to arrange legal representation and to file a petition."

"We, therefore, at this stage restrain ourselves from appointing a counsel on behalf of the government and will advise the Government of Pakistan to extend an opportunity to Jadhav and the Government of India for arranging legal representation in terms of Article 32(1)(c) of the constitution and in accordance with the applicable law the court order said. **PTI**

ed," the court said in its order.

The Pakistan government in its petition has claimed that Jadhav refused to file a review petition or an application to reconsider the verdict against him by the military court.

"We feel that in order to ensure the effectiveness of the review and reconsideration of the conviction and sentence of Commander Jadhav, a reasonable opportunity ought to be extended to the latter and the Government of India to arrange legal representation and to file a petition."

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UK suspends digital visa processing tool amid allegations of racism

London: The UK government on Tuesday said that it will be suspending the use of a digital tool to process visas amid a legal challenge that claimed it amounted to "racism" as the computer algorithm discriminated against applicants on the basis of nationality by design.

The Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants (JCWI) and digital rights group Foxglove, which had initiated the Judicial Review challenge against the system in the High Court in London in June, celebrated the suspension of the artificial intelligence (AI) based decision-making tool, which will take effect from Friday.

"We have been reviewing how the visa application streaming tool operates and will be redesigning our process to make them even more secure and robust," a UK Home Office spokesperson said.

"We do not accept the allegations Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants made in their Judicial Review claim against the Home Office, which is still ongoing it would not be appropriate for the department to comment any further," the spokesperson said.

From Friday, the current Streaming Tool will no longer be used, with a redesign expected to be in place in a few months' time by autumn.

In the interim period, the Home Office said the streaming or sifting of the "overwhelming majority" of visa applications will be done by reference to person-centric attributes, such as evidence of previous travel, and nationality will not be taken into account.

The Streaming Tool is said to have used a traffic-light system to assess every visa application to the UK since 2015. **PTI**

MOULIN COMMERCIAL LIMITED					
CIN: L24890DL1902P, C057811; Ph. No: +91-124-4232222 E-mail: info@moulincorp.com Reg. Off: 1 Anand Gram, Arya Nagar, M.G. Road, New Delhi - 47 Copy. Off: 11B, Park Road, Tower - B, Golf Course Road, Sector - 44, Gurgaon - 122002, Haryana, India					
Extract of Standalone Financial Results for the Quarter and year ended on 31st March, 2020					
Particular	Amount in Lacs				
	Quarter ended on 31.03.2020	Year ended on 31.03.2020	Quarter ended on 31.03.2019	Year ended on 31.03.2019	
Total Income from Operations (net)	25.31	89.13	29.75	96.97	
Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(0.51)	6.82	(2.40)	15.31	
Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(0.51)	6.82	(2.40)	15.31	
Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax and other comprehensive income (after tax))	(0.58)	4.70	(2.55)	11.05	
Total Comprehensive Income for the period (comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and other comprehensive income (after tax))					
Paid-up equity share capital (Face value Rs. 10 per share)	57.30	57.30	57.30	57.30	
Reserves (excluding revaluation reserves as shown in the Balance Sheet of previous year)					
Earnings per share - (after extraordinary items) - (Rs. 10/-)	(0.01)	0.82	(0.36)	1.53	
Diluted earnings per share - (after extraordinary items) - (Rs. 10/-)	(0.01)	0.82	(0.36)	1.53	
Notes: The above is an extract of the detailed form of the Standalone results for the three months and year ended on 31st March, 2020 filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full form of the Standalone Financial Results for the three months and year ended on 31st March, 2020 are available on the Company's website and the Company's website.					
For Moulin Commercial Limited (Ashish Gupta) Managing Director CIN: 00115969					
Dated: 31st July 2020 Place: Delhi					

Netanyahu warns Hezbollah after Israeli strike in Syria

Jerusalem: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday warned the Lebanese militant Hezbollah group and others after Israeli forces said they thwarted an infiltration attempt from Syria by suspected militants.

The Israeli military announced late Monday that it had struck targets in Syria after the militants tried to plant explosives in the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights.

Israel struck the four suspects, who were believed to have been killed. Netanyahu, who toured a military base on Tuesday, said Israel would not hesitate to take further action.

"We hit a cell and now we hit the dispatchers. We will do what is necessary in order to defend ourselves. I suggest to all of them, including Hezbollah,

to consider this," he said.

The incident came amid heightened tension on Israel's northern frontier following a recent Israeli airstrike that killed a Hezbollah fighter in Syria and anticipation that the militant Lebanese group would retaliate.

Following the airstrike, the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights was hit by explosives fired from Syria and Israel responded by attacking Syrian military positions and beefing up its forces in the area.

Last week, Israel also said it thwarted an infiltration attempt from Lebanon by Hezbollah militants, setting off one of the heaviest exchanges of fire along the volatile Israel-Lebanon frontier since 2006 war between the bitter enemies. **AP**

Man beaten with bats over face mask dispute in Paris suburb

AP ■ PARIS

A resident of a Paris suburb was beaten with baseball bats because he asked a fellow laundromat patron to wear a face mask - a requirement in all indoor public places in France to fight resurgent coronavirus infections in the town.

Surveillance video of the attack published Tuesday by Le Parisien newspaper shows two people with bats and two others attacking a masked man inside the laundry facility then forcing him face down on the floor.

The victim, identified only as Augustin, told BFM television that he was beaten because he had asked one of the attackers to wear a face mask when he entered the laundromat in the town of Soisy-sous-Montmorency north of Paris.

Virus created largest disruption of education in history, affecting 1.6 bn students, says Guterres

United Nations: The COVID-19 pandemic has created the largest disruption of education in history, affecting nearly 1.6 billion students in all countries and continents and an additional 23.8 million children and youth could drop out or not have access to school next year, the UN Secretary-General said.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

(Be it known to all and everybody that SMT. KIRAN BHATTARA W/o Late Shri Jagdish Chandra R/o House No. 101, F/7, First Floor, Lane No. 5, Krishna Nagar, Sanjaydurg Enclave, New Delhi-110029, do hereby relinquish, declare and break all her social, financial or any kind of relation from her ex daughter-in-law Swati Batra (son/My grandson) Master Aditya Dev Batra alias Dev Batra (Minor DOB 02/03/2007). It is hereby declared that Swati Batra alias Swati Gupta and her Master Son Aditya Dev Batra alias Dev Batra shall have no relations whatsoever with my family and my son Dev Batra alias Swati Gupta and her Master Son Aditya Dev Batra shall not be responsible for any kind of act done by Swati Batra alias Swati Gupta and her minor son Aditya Dev Batra.

Kiran Bhatta email: kiranbhatta53@gmail.com

Deepak Agnihotri (Advocate)

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

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

Whereas

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

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(14) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of IICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Arun Dixit/ Rupesh Dixit/ LBE0L000445771/ LBE0L0004350148	DDA Built Up Flat M/G Plot No- C-13/F, 2nd Floor, Munirka, Delhi/ July 29, 2020	February 22, 2020/ Rs. 27,58,022/-	Delhi/ Ncr
2.	Devarakonda Srinivas (Swami)/ LBE0L0004471475/ LBE0L0004123592	Flat No-04, Ground Floor, Tower Victoria, Block-B, Grand Omaze, Situated At Plot No- 01.02.03, Sector-93B, Noida, Uttar Pradesh/ July 30, 2020	February 22, 2020/ Rs. 57,23,264/-	Delhi/ Ncr

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

Date: 05-08-2020
Place: Delhi/Ncr

Authorized Officer
IICI Home Finance Company Limited

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information of the general public that my client Kishan Chand S/O D-51 Jhama Colony, Delhi-110095 do hereby announce that I have severed all relations and ties with my son Mr. Rishi Sharma and daughter-in-law namely Mrs. Usha D. Hemchand on account of their conduct and behaviour with me. I have concerned them and as such am one dealing with them shall deal with them at his/her own costs, risks, and consequences and I shall not be liable for any of act/omission of my son and daughter in law in any manner whatsoever. Hereonforth my son or his wife will have no phone or right or title or interest in any of my immovable or movable properties.

Delhi
Dated 29.07.2020
HEMANT GUPTA

Metro Railway, Kolkata
Kolkata's Pride

ZONAL CONTRACT FOR ZONE 5

Principal Chief Engineer, Metro Railway, Metro Rail Bhavan, 33/1, J. L. Nehru Road, Kolkata - 700071 for and on behalf of the President of India invites Tender Notice for e-tendering for the following work:

Name of work : Zone No. 5, i.e., Zonal Contract for up-keep of structures in RTS Box, overhead structures, stations & allied service buildings, fire hydrants, pipeline works etc. from Km.07714 to Km.16718 between stations KCCN (E) to KMUK (In.) including KMUK yard and car shed, up-keepment of buildings and structures, water pipeline structures, water treatment plant, Bore Well at S. B. Ghosh Memorial Hospital along with water treatment installations, fire hydrants, pipeline work etc. of Metro Railway, Kolkata. **Tender Value :** ₹ 4,57,13,744.63 (approx.). **Cost of Tender Document :** Nil. **Earnest Money :** ₹ 3,78,000/-.

Completion Period : The contract shall be in force up to 30.06.2022. **Date of Closing :** 26.08.2020 at 12.00 hrs. The Tender Document and other details can be obtained from the website www.reps.gov.in. The bidding for the tender is to be submitted only through e-tendering on above website. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any manual offer, if received, shall not be accepted and will be summarily rejected.

Abridged e-Tender Notice No.: Civil-2337-2020 (Open)

FASTER SAFER SMOOTHER CLEANER

China, WHO in talks on plans to trace virus origin

Beijing: China and the World Health Organisation are discussing plans to trace the origin of the coronavirus outbreak following a visit to the country by two experts from the UN Agency, the foreign ministry said on Tuesday.

Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin told reporters the experts conducted "preparatory consultations on scientific research cooperation in virus tracing" during their two-week stay, which ended Sunday.

Their talks touched on research in the areas of population, environment, molecules, animal traceability and transmission routes of the coronavirus, Wang said. **PTI**

Sensex snaps 4-day losing streak with 748-point leap

RIL, HDFC BANK LEAD CHARGE

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmarks made an emphatic comeback on Tuesday after four straight sessions of losses as market heavyweights Reliance Industries and HDFC Bank saw robust buying amid firm global cues. The BSE Sensex soared 748.31 points or 2.03 per cent to close at 37,687.91, while the NSE Nifty rallied 203.65 points or 1.87 per cent to 11,095.25. Reliance Industries was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, surging 7.10 per cent, reports said the company was close to inking a deal to acquire the retail assets of Future Group. HDFC Bank jumped 3.94 per cent after the RBI approved the appointment of insider Sashidhar Jagdishan as the next

MD and CEO of the bank. He will take over from Aditya Puri in October this year. Maruti, Axis Bank, HDFC, ICICI Bank and Bajaj Finance also finished with gains. On the other hand, Tech Mahindra, Techcombank, HCL Tech, UltraTech Cement and Infosys were among the laggards, shedding up to 2.75 per cent.

According to traders, stock-specific action in index-heavy weights drove the markets higher. Further, strong foreign fund inflows and positive cues from global markets cheered investors.

Exchange data showed that foreign institutional investors purchased equities worth ₹ 7,814.49 crore on a net basis on Monday. "Reliance led the day's show for the bulls and we saw support in late afternoon trade from key pivots like HDFC Bank and Reliance Map," GDP rose to around 78 per

cent. "Key highlight of today's trade was good participation in the broader market with smart money finding its way into select midcaps across sectors," said S Ranganathan, Head of Research at LKP Securities. BSE energy, finance, realty, metals, auto, healthcare and bank indices rallied up to 5.60 per cent, while IT and tech ended in the red. Broader BSE mid-cap and small cap indices jumped up to 1.23 per cent.

Asian markets closed higher, tracking gains in Wall Street following better US manufacturing data.

Stock exchanges in Europe were also trading on a positive note in early deals as investors shrugged off escalating US-China tensions and rising coronavirus cases.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 1.61 per cent lower at USD 43.44 per barrel.

Coronavirus fallout a rising risk for Indian ABS, says Moody's

IANIS ■ NEW DELHI

The fallout of the coronavirus pandemic is raising risks for Indian asset-backed securities, rating agency Moody's Investors Service said on Tuesday. However, the agency said that recent structural changes and the credit enhancement build-up has partially offset the growing credit challenges.

"The high take-up of coronavirus-related payment moratoriums and the economic downturn triggered by the pandemic are disrupting the cash flow of ABS transactions and as a result, are raising liquidity risks," Dipanshu Rustagi, a Moody's Assistant Vice President and Analyst, said in a statement.

Accordingly, for Indian auto ABS that Moody's rates, and as a result, are raising liquidity risks, Dipanshu Rustagi, a Moody's Assistant Vice President and Analyst, said in a statement.

per cent of underlying loans are currently on payment moratoriums, as are 55-65 per cent of loans in Indian micro, small and midsize enterprise (MSME) lease ABS.

"Meanwhile, the economic downturn is increasing risks for borrowers and consequently likely to trigger a deterioration in asset quality at least through the remainder of the year," Rustagi said.

Specifically, slowing growth is dampening demand for freight transport for commercial vehicle operators, while also weighing on the earnings and profitability of most MSMEs. As per the statement, a further risk lies in the financial deterioration evident at many Indian financial institutions that sponsor ABS deals, since the credit quality of Indian ABS is dependent on sponsor's credit servicing of securitised portfolios.

Minimum ₹500 cr net worth must for licence to sell petrol, diesel to retail, bulk users

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Tuesday said any entity with a net worth of at least ₹500 crore is eligible for obtaining the liberalised licence to sell petrol and diesel to retail and bulk consumers.

Clarifying on the November 2019 liberalised fuel licensing regime, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas said any entity with a net worth of ₹250 crore can get a licence to retail petrol and diesel to either bulk or retail consumers. For the seeking authorisation for both retail and bulk should have a minimum net worth of ₹500 crore at the time of application, it said in a statement.

Last year, the Government had decided on the retailing of auto fuels, allowing non-oil companies to venture into the business — a move that could help private and foreign firms to enter the world's fastest-growing market.

According to that, a company had to invest ₹2,000 crore in

either hydrocarbon exploration and production, refining, pipeline or liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals to obtain a fuel retailing licence in India.

In the statement, the ministry said the government had on November 8, 2019, notified simplified guidelines for grant of authorisation for bulk and retail marketing of motor fuels (petrol) and high-speed diesel (diesel).

"The simplified guidelines aim at increasing private sector participation in the marketing of petrol and diesel," it said. "An entity desirous of seeking authorisation for either retail or bulk must have a minimum net worth of ₹250 crore at the time of making an application — ₹500 crore in case of authorisation for both retail and bulk."

The Central Government had last set fuel marketing conditions in 2002 and the November 2019 change was based on the recommendation of a high-level expert committee.

products by removing the strict conditions applicable earlier. The other requirements as per the November 2019 notification include the need for companies to install facilities for marketing of at least one new generation alternative fuel, such as CNG, LNG and biofuels, or electric vehicle charging stations, and the year of the start of operations.

The retailers will necessarily have to set up five per cent of the total outlets in rural areas within five years.

The new policy liberalises fuel retailing by increasing private sector participation, including foreign players. "It will also encourage dispensing of alternate fuels and augmentation of retail network in remote areas and ensure high level of customer service," the statement added.

The Central Government had last set fuel marketing conditions in 2002 and the November 2019 change was based on the recommendation of a high-level expert committee.

GDP seen contracting, NITI Aayog suggests ways to boost demand

IANIS ■ MUMBAI

With the economy going through a slowdown, the NITI Aayog is of the view that India's GDP may contract around 5.1 per cent in the current fiscal.

In a recent presentation to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Finance Ministry, it has suggested ways to boost demand, specifically in the key sectors of automobiles and real estate.

As per NITI Aayog, the long-awaited scrappage policy should be brought in to help the automobile sector. It has also recommended removal of cess on automobiles.

In a bid to revive demand in the realty sector, it has suggested reinstatement of the subvention scheme which was discontinued last year.

Further, the think tank has also recommended Government spending as private expenditure and invest-

ment is likely to take a backseat in the current scenario.

NITI Aayog, in its presentation, also noted that manufacturing sector growth and capacity utilisation was severely low even before the nationwide lockdown was implemented.

Among several other recommendations, the think tank has recently suggested the creation of a postal bank — postal bank — by merging the regional rural banks, among other

It has also suggested easier norms for granting bank license

recommendations to the government. The NITI Aayog has suggested the over 1.5 lakh post offices in the country should be made outlets for the proposed Daks Bank, said the think tank.

Further, it has also suggested easier norms for granting bank licenses. In another major recommendation, it has suggested privatisation of three banks — Punjab & Sind Bank, UCO Bank and the Bank of Maharashtra, said people in the know.

Worst seems to be over, farm sector to cushion Covid impact on economy: FinMin report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The worst seems to be over and the agriculture sector will provide a cushion for the coronavirus-hit economy this fiscal as there are prospects of good monsoon, finance ministry said in a report on Tuesday.

India is well on the path of recovery from a trough in April, aided by supported by proactive Government and Central Bank policies, the Macro-economic Report for July, issued by the Economic Affairs Department, said.

"With India unlocking, the worst seems to be over for the economy as high-frequency indicators recovered in June 2020 from unprecedented lockdown-induced setbacks on account of rising COVID-19 cases and intermittent State lockdowns remain," it said.

It further noted that the rise in Covid-19 cases and subsequent intermittent lockdowns have not dented the prospects for growth and recovery, and called for constant and dynamic monitoring. Pinning hopes on the farm sector, the report said, agriculture is set to cushion the shock of the Covid pandemic on the line-shock of COVID-19 pandemic on the Indian economy in 2020-21. "With the forecast of a normal monsoon at 102 per cent of long-period average (LPA), agriculture, which contributes about 15 per cent of total gross value added, is set to cushion the shock of COVID-19 pandemic on the Indian economy in 2020-21," it said.

Timely and proactive exemptions from COVID-induced lockdowns to the sector facilitated uninterrupted harvesting of kharif crops and enhanced sowing of kharif crops, it said, adding, a record procurement of wheat has enabled a flow of around ₹ 75,000 crore to the farmers which will boost private con-

sumption in rural areas.

Since September, 2019, the terms of trade have improved in favour of agriculture and has reinforced rural demand. This has manifested in an increase in rural core inflation between March and June 2020. As a result, the push for growth in rural areas has been significantly pitched in rural India," it said.

Pointing at the recent landmark reforms announced in agricultural sector, it said the deregulated and liberalized the agricultural sector, further, crop over the farmers to become a bigger and more stable participant in India's growth journey.

Talking about some parameters showing improvement, the report said, contraction in industrial activity, measured by Index of Industrial Production (IIP) and eight core industries, has eased in May as compared to April. Industrial output increased across all sectors and sub-sectors, and the IIP in May was against April.

Signs of further recovery were witnessed in June with India's Manufacturing PMI improving from 30.8 in May 2020 to 47.2 in June 2020 with output and new orders contracting at much softer rates than seen in April and May, it said. Services PMI recovered from 12.6 in May 2020 to 33.7 in June 2020, owing to some stabilization in output levels with around 59 per cent of firms reporting no change in output, 4 per cent reporting growth and 37 per cent reporting reduction since May, it added. There was also an uptick in infrastructure and construction activities in the unlocking phase, it said, adding, contraction in production of finished domestic steel recovered from 41 per cent in May to 31.1 per cent in June 2020.

Maruti Suzuki's Nexa 3rd largest retailer of passenger cars

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Maruti Suzuki's premium retail brand Nexa has become the third largest retailer of passenger cars in the country and currently has a market share of 11 per cent, according to a senior executive. Nexa contributes more than 20 per cent of Maruti Suzuki's annual volumes, grossing over 30,000 units per month even in this downturn.

Today, Nexa is the third largest retail automobile channel with a market share of 10-11 per cent.

At present, Nexa contributes close to 20 per cent of our overall sales. With Nexa, we are able to attract modern urban consumers," Maruti Suzuki Executive Director for Marketing and Sales Shashank Srivastava told PTI. Maruti Suzuki has a 51 per cent share in the domestic passenger car market. Since the launch with 30,000 customers as it now sells five premium models of Maruti.

Nexa started operations in July 2016.

In October 2016, it rolled in the Baleno, the premium mini SUV, which was followed by Ignis, a hatchback in January 2017. In April 2017, it launched the premium sedan, the Swift. In August 2019, the XL6, a crossover MPV, was rolled out.

At present, there are 370 Nexa showrooms across 200 cities. "Nexa marks the first initiative by a car maker here to go beyond selling cars by creating a new format of retail experience."

In these five years, Nexa, with its intelligent brand associations and unique customer experiences, has delighted over 1.1 million customers as it completed five years in July," Srivastava said.

In just four years and two months, the brand grossed up 1 million customers in September 2019 and by July 2020, it has crossed 1.1 million customers to take the total customer family to 1.1 million.

CILs fuel allocation under spot e-auction scheme drops by 7% in April-June

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

CILs coal allocation under spot e-auction scheme registered 7.1 per cent decline to 6.89 million tonnes in April-June this fiscal, in the wake of slump in fuel demand due to Covid-19 induced lockdowns. Coal India Ltd (CIL) had allocated 7.42 million tonnes (MT) of coal in the year-to-date period, according to Government data.

However, the coal allocated by the PSU in June increased to 3.68 MT, compared to 2.07 MT in the corresponding month of 2019-20, it said.

Coal distribution through e-auction was introduced with a view to provide access to coal for such buyers who are not able to source the dry fuel through the available institutional mechanism, as per the information available on CIL website.

The purpose of e-auction is to provide equal opportunity to all intending buyers for purchasing coal through single window service.

Coal India accounts for over 80 per cent of domestic coal output.

CILs coal allocation under spot e-auction scheme had declined to 29.83 MT in 2019-20, after 34.34 MT allocated in 2018-19.

NMDC produces 2.19 Mn tone Iron ore in July

Hyderabad: NMDC Limited produced 2.19 million tonnes and sold 2.57 million tonnes of iron ore in July. "During this period, despite the current uncertain situation due to Covid-19, NMDC has been able to achieve excellent physical performance through its continual push towards higher volumes which saw production of 2.19 MT and sales 2.57 MT that grew by 13 per cent and 7% over the corresponding period last year, respectively," a press release from the country's largest iron ore miner said.

T. Sumit Deb, Chairman-Managing Director of NMDC said the last few months have been quite challenging for the entire industry due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation impacting the performance of all major producers. "However this challenge was treated as an opportunity by NMDC to make efforts towards stabilizing the production and continuously improving our production processes. Going forward NMDC will strive to maximize cost efficiencies to improve its bottom-line," Deb said.

Q1FY21 securitisation volumes substantially down to ₹7,500 crore

IANIS ■ NEW DELHI

The coronavirus-induced economic turbulence has subdued India's Q1FY21 securitisation volumes substantially to ₹7,500 crore, said domestic credit rating agency ICRA.

On a year-on-year basis, the Q1FY21 volumes fell from ₹50,300 crore in Q1FY 2020. Such a drop in the volumes, is primarily attributable to the disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, said the rating agency.

"The nationwide lockdown severely impacted the income generation capability of large number of borrowers. This made the investors wary of investing in fresh securitisations transactions given the possible deterioration in the loan repaying capability of retail borrowers," ICRA said in a statement.

"The RBI's loan moratorium policy, though provided relief to retail borrowers, was detrimental to securitisation market as investors stayed away from pools with irregular cash flows in the initial months."

Furthermore, the rating

agency said that funding requirements for non-banking financial companies' and housing finance companies' also declined during this quarter due to lower demand from the borrowers in June 2020. Moreover, the focus of the on collections rather than disbursements.

"Though the securitisation volumes were significantly lower during Q1FY2021, the market saw an uptick in the volumes in June 2020. More than two-third of the total volumes in Q1FY2021 were completed in June 2020," Abhishek Daffria, Vice President and Head - Structured Finance Ratings at ICRA said in the statement. "We expect the overall volumes to see further increase in the coming quarters supported by the improvement in collections being seen across asset classes that would restore investor confidence. The traction will also be supported by NBFCs who have already recommended disbursements, albeit lower amounts at present, and would utilize securitisation of their pooled assets as a funding tool."

NORTHERN RAILWAY
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
30-Elect-16-T-2020-21-43
Name of Work and its location: Removing and commissioning of submersible pumps over Delhi Division.
Approx cost of the works in Rs. 31.59 lacs
Sr. Divt. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
Earnest Money: Rs. 63,000.00
Date & time of submission of tender: 31.08.2020, 12.00 hrs.
Opening of tender: 01.09.2020, 12.00 hrs.
Website & notice board: www.nwrps.gov.in & Sr. Divt. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
Serving Customers With A Smile

RAJASTHAN STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Head Office, Parkashan Marg, Chomu House, Jaipur.
Ref. No.: F3/ST/ITC/MC/2020 Date: 28/07/2020
NIT for Selection of Issuer/Acquirer Financial Institution led consortium for Digital Farm Collection using NCMC at RSRTC.
Rajasthan State Road Transport Corporation (RSRTC), Jaipur invite bids from eligible bidders who have necessary qualifications and experience to carry out the work of Selection of Issuer/Acquirer Financial Institution led consortium for Digital Farm Collection using NCMC at RSRTC. The interested bidders are requested to visit the tender notification and eligibility criteria can be found in the NIT exhibited on website <https://rajasthan.gov.in> or www.sppa.rajasthan.gov.in and our website www.rsrtc.rajasthan.gov.in from 28th July 2020 to 01st August 2020. Bidding can download the PDF from aforesaid website from 28th July 2020 onward.
UENB - RT/2020/1W/0600117
Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only) Advt. No. 63/2020-21 By General Manager (IT)

PIEONER AGRO EXTRACTS LIMITED
Regd Office: Chhoti Nehar, Malpura, Patankur 145021
Tel: 0185 2345352-53-54
Website: www.pioneeragro.co.in
Email: compliance@pioneeragro.co.in
Telephone: 91-186-2345352, 53, 54
CIN: L15319PB1999PLC012975
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosures) Regulations, 2015 that a meeting of the Board of directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, August 12, 2020, at Chhoti Nehar, Malpura, Patankur, Punjab, India, to consider the unaudited financial results of the Company for the quarter June 30, 2020.
Notice is further given that Trading Window has already been closed and shall remain closed till August 12, 2020 pursuant to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Prohibition of Insider Trading) Regulations, 2015.
The Notice of the Board meeting is also available on the website of the Company at www.pioneeragro.co.in and also on the website of BSE & LSE.
By Order of the Board
For Pioneer Agro Extracts Limited
Place: Patankur Date: 04/08/2020
Company Secretary & Compliance Officer

SEARCH FOR MISSING BOY
General public is hereby informed that one boy Name: Monty, S/o: Purnan Chandra, R/o: E-171, J.J. Colony, Shakurpur, Delhi. Age: 14 years, Height: 3'5", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Long with zig-zag teeth, Identification: Tattoo of 'Monty' and 'E-171 Shakurpur, Delhi' on right hand. Wearing: Unknown, has been missing since 02.10.2018 from the area of P.S. Subhash Place, Delhi.
In this regard a FIR No. 150/19, U/s 363 IPC dated 14.05.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Subhash Place, Delhi.
Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this boy but no clue has come to light so far.
Any person having any information or clue about this boy kindly inform to the following.
E-Mail: cic@cbi.gov.in SHO
Website: <http://cibn.in> Police Station, K.N. Katij Mark, Delhi.
Ph: 011-27356336, 27356314
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 DP/27/NW/2020

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION
General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male namely Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, was found on 28.07.2020 at Halderpur Water Treatment Plant, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 11A dated 28.07.2020 has been lodged at Police Station, K.N. Katij Marg, Delhi. Dead Body has been preserved at BSA Hospital Mortuary. Identification of unidentified dead body of male is as under:
Name: Unknown, Age: 30-35 Years, Height: 5'8", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Built: Normal, Wearing: Multi Color Check Shirt, Grey Color Pant.
If anyone have any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be inform undersigned.
SHO
Police Station, K.N. Katij Mark, Delhi
DP/27/3R/D/2020 Ph: 011-27571162, 8750870327

SEARCH FOR MISSING PERSON
General public is hereby informed that one person Name: Sunil Chawla, S/o Ram Kishan Chawla, R/o B 272 Majlis Park, Gali No. 3, Adarsh Nagar, Delhi. Age: 42 years, Height: 5'5", Face: Round, Complexion: Shallow, Built: Strong, Wearing: Black T-shirt & Pant has been missing since 27.07.2020.
In this regard a DD No. 105A dated 27.07.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Adarsh Nagar, Delhi.
Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far.
Any person having any information or clue about this person kindly inform to the following.
E-Mail: cic@cbi.gov.in SHO
Website: <http://cibn.in> Police Station, K.N. Katij Mark, Delhi.
Ph: 011-24368639, 24368641 Ph: 011-27495198, 8750870233
DP/280/NW/2020

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd. 3rd Floor, Plot No-23, Shal Tower, New Rohatkar Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005
Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(1) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules of the below-mentioned borrowers, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(1) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules of the below-mentioned borrowers. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be at the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.
Date: 05-08-2020
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/Loan Account Number	Description of Property/Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/Amount in Demand (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Bhairat Bhushan Arora/ Hans Bala Arora/ LBDE/00001902250	D-54, Entire First Floor, Saket, New Delhi, July 29, 2020	November 30, 2019/ Rs. 37,57,842/-	Delhi/ Ncr
2.	Chander Wadhwa/ Vandana Wadhwa/ LBDE/0000079874	Plot No E- 022, Second Floor, Preet Vihar, New Delhi July 29, 2020	January 30, 2020/ Rs. 13,94,722/-	Delhi/ Ncr
3.	Om Prakash Kukreja/ Pustha Rani/ LBFD000001153128	Shop No. G-19, W-2, Vasthal, Sec-1, Ghaziabad, (Adjoining Area of 624 Sq. Ft. Super Area Enclosed in Sec-1, With Additional 905 Sq Ft Super Area Open Space Surrounding This Unit.) July 29, 2020	January 30, 2020/ Rs. 12,24,774/-	Delhi/ Ncr
4.	Sandeep Bhainnagar/ Jyoti Bhainnagar/ LBND000001930242	"Apartment No. 1903, Tower - 10, "Lodha Boulevard", Situated At Plot No. Gh-003, Sector 100, Noida" July 29, 2020	July 31, 2019/ Rs. 14,26,141/-	Delhi/ Ncr
5.	Mintu Bhalla/ Aarti Bhalla/ LBND000001673477	Plot No-26 Block-A Sector-47 Gautam Budh Nagar Noida Uttar Pradesh July 30, 2020	December 31, 2019/ Rs. 84,924/-	Delhi/ Ncr
6.	K Sanjeev Kumar/ Sonia John/ LBBS000004120390	Freehold Built Up Entire Fourth Floor With Roof Rights Of Property No. B-24 With One Car Parking Space On 5th Floor, Bagdola Dwarika Sector 8, New Delhi July 30, 2020	October 31, 2019/ Rs. 70,93,088/-	Delhi/ Ncr

The above-mentioned borrower(s) guarantor(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the principal, also the share/proportion of the property to be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.
Date: 05-08-2020
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

The final dates for the Common Law Admission Test 2020 (CLAT) have been declared and will be conducted on August 22, 2020. The exam is an aptitude-based exam where the intent is to test the student's interest towards law and not their knowledge of law. A degree in law has got huge popularity since many decades, and the reason which makes it a favourable choice for students is primarily that the course is neutral to all the streams whether commerce or engineering. Further, it has huge scope in terms of career and respect in the society.

Keeping this intent in mind, the CLAT consortium has come up with a new pattern wherein they also plan to extensively test the student's reading and comprehending skills as they feel that these skills are imperative for the budding law aspirants. Hence, the approach that was best suited for the old pattern of CLAT may not be the same for CLAT 2020.

CLAT comprises five sections, namely English Language, Current Affairs, including General Knowledge, Logical Reasoning, Logical Reasoning and Quantitative Techniques, each section requiring a different approach. However, one thing that stays uniform throughout the five sections is your Reading and Comprehension skills.

Section wise strategy

It is recommended that one should develop a reading habit. Read editorials and newspapers daily and focus more on burning Socio Legal issues among other things from reputed media houses. If that is something you have not been doing already, it is recommended to create a depository of the important editorial articles from the last one year and go through them thoroughly. It will definitely help you at this stage.

There'll be a lot of passages this year, (up to 450 words each) so one must develop a habit of sitting, reading and solving problems for more than 2 hours at a stretch. Go through the sample papers and analyse the type of questions that are asked in these exams. Also don't forget to go through the previous year papers. Though there is a new pattern this year, the previous years question papers will help you to understand the basic concepts and the approach to such an exam. This has also been reiterated by the CLAT consortium in their notifications/tweets.

Current affairs is a part of the CLAT website, the passages will be derived from news, journalistic sources and other non-fiction writing. The questions may include an examination of legal information or knowledge discussed in or related to the passage,

TAKE THE LEGAL CAREER PATH

With only two weeks left for CLAT, it is time for students to pull up their socks. AMANDEEP RAJGOTRA tells students how to prepare for the new pattern and ace the exam



but would not require any additional knowledge of the law beyond the passage. To understand the topics and kinds of questions important for the exams, one should go through the previous year papers. Identify the topics on which questions are asked. Read editorials/opinions on burning socio-legal issues that took place between May 2019 to present.

■ **English language:** Practise reading comprehensions on a daily basis and make sure you are used to solving reading comprehension questions at a stretch because you'll have to do the same while appearing for the exam. Practise Reading Comprehension on screen to replicate the experience that you'll face in the exam.

■ **Quantitative techniques:** As per the official website, "Quantitative Techniques section of the UG-CLAT 2020 will include short sets of facts or propositions, graphs, or other textual, pictorial or diagrammatic representations of numerical information, followed by a series of questions." The best way to solve this section is through practise. The more

Practise reading comprehensions on a daily basis and make sure you are used to solving reading comprehension questions at a stretch because you'll have to do the same while appearing for the exam. Practise solving Reading Comprehension on screen to replicate the experience that you'll face in the exam

you practice, the better you'll get.

■ **Logical reasoning:** One should expect Verbal Reasoning questions dominating the section. As per the official website there'll be multiple short paragraphs based on which questions would be asked. If you are good at critical reasoning, you'll have a great advantage.

■ **Legal reasoning:** The passages may relate to fact situations or scenarios involving legal matters, public policy questions or moral philosophical enquiries. One will benefit from a general awareness of contemporary legal and moral issues to better apply general principles or propositions to the given fact scenarios.

The best part is that the preparation for Current Affairs and Legal Reasoning go hand in hand. Read about the socio legal issues prevalent in the country. One should also expect Principle Fact based questions in their CLAT 2020.

It is clearly mentioned on the official website that through the paragraph, one would have to identify and infer the rules and principles

set out in the passage and apply such rules and principles to various fact situations. So, make sure you are conceptually clear when it comes to Torts, Contract, Criminal Law or The Indian Constitution.

The ideal way to practice questions and assess your preparation is through the help of Mock Tests. Prepare for all these sections and attempt as many mocks as possible. One should analyse their mocks post their attempt.

One must identify the grey areas as soon as possible. Identify your strong and weak subjects. Don't categorise a subject as your strong or weak based on how much you enjoy studying it, but on the basis of how much you score in them. The sample size should be good to determine this and should not be based on just a mock or two.

Once identified, allocate more time to your weak areas without totally avoiding your strong sections. Just follow the above mentioned and stay positive. All the best!

The writer is National Product Head Law, Pratham Test Prep

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Our care of the child should be governed, not by the desire to make him learn things, but by the endeavor always to keep burning within him that light which is called intelligence.

— Maria Montessori

Drug discovery science

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The University of Sheffield, UK invites applications for MSc Drug Discovery Science course starting in September 2021. The course will help the students to find out how scientists discover chemical candidates for new pharmaceuticals. Students will learn how to meet the pharmaceutical industry's increasing demand for drugs that can treat illnesses safely and more effectively, overcome antibiotic resistance, and be produced at a lower financial and environmental cost.

This course covers the drug discovery and design techniques used in the pharmaceutical industry. Students will learn study topics such as pharmacology, toxicology and genomics as they learn how drug-like molecules to treat

specific diseases are identified, characterised and optimised for potential clinical trials.

Students' training will cover the fundamental chemistry and biology of protein interactions and their role in disease and how drugs affect the human body.

Duration: One year full-time

Eligibility: A 2:1 honours degree, or equivalent in chemistry, biology, pharmacy or another relevant subject. Applicants with relevant work experience and good academic potential are also encouraged to apply.

Overall IELTS score of 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 in each component, or equivalent.

How to apply: Log on to <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/postgraduate/taught/courses/2020/drug-discovery-science-msc>.

Free online crash course

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Edvizo, an IIT alumnus startup, has initiated a free online crash course in an attempt to serve more students amid the lockdown and ease them to deliver a final touch to their preparations for the forthcoming JEE-Advanced 2020. IIT-JEE Top rankers intend to utilize their best time by helping out the budding aspirants to crack the entrance exams for 40 days long. The last date to apply for this opportunity is August 6, 2020.

Ravi Nishant Founder Edvizo says, "The initiative will help young students who are at the crucial juncture of their lives in Class XII when regular

classes and coaching initiatives usually cater to these aspirations being put off due to the lockdown. This will help mitigate the impact that institute closures may have on students' learning process. This will also ensure that students can study from the safety of their own homes, and there is a continuity in their study schedule at the last moment."

The registered students will get 125 hours of training, spanning all the four key subjects — physics, chemistry and mathematics. The classes will be held from 5 pm to 9 pm every day except Sunday. Students will be provided recordings of all classes for better revision.

A different approach to education

In these unprecedented time, technology and digitisation will play an enormous role in making learning for the differently-abled more accessible and inclusive, says PRASHANT AGARWAL

While the world has been speaking of the sudden break and the challenges that COVID-19 has put forth for the world, one can sense a major impact of this on the education and skilling sector which had most of its functionalities congregating with face-to-face interactions. Touching is believing, what was once a necessity has slowly shifted to strictly being driven by Digitisation in the education sector.

Career choices and opportunities are now integrated through online platforms where one such example is virtual trainings and internships which are being implemented by leading companies across the globe. However, while many institutions and organisations have developed and integrated technology in their regular functionalities, what do we see as a scope for the differently abled and how do they face the bill in these challenging times within the mainstream career opportunities.

Before COVID-19 where the focus to impart education for the differently abled was through art and therapy, a lot has changed since then. There has been a shift where the differently abled were first considered to be restricted with the jobs they were recruited in and the career opportunities were also limited. However, with technology in place and post COVID-19 massive changes in the entire foundation



The demand for data science experts continues to grow and employers are investing time and money in them. Becoming one is worth the effort opening lucrative options,

says PANKAJ MUTHE



An enormous explosion of data has been generated and retained by modern businesses across the globe. With every action that is being taken, whether data is being created, shared or discarded, a massive pile of information is getting generated and accumulated every second of the day.

More and more enterprises are tapping the benefits of big data and unlocking the potential for their business. They are eagerly building their data capabilities to capture the opportunity that looms just over the horizon.

The COVID-19 outbreak is further driving an intelligent use of data that can help businesses find better solutions across sectors be it healthcare, logistics, or banking — to fight the on-going pandemic. With this, the value of the data scientist will increase as they will be the ones turning this dormant data into meaningful insights.

SCOPE Data scientists can also be referred to as modern-day superheroes, but most are still unaware of their value in an organisation. In one of the surveys last year, it was revealed that around 97,000 data analytics job posts are unoccupied in India due to a lack of skilled professionals.

The use of data analytics in almost every industry has con-

BE ANALYTICAL

tributed to a sharp increase of 45 per cent in the total jobs related to data science. Selecting data science as a career option has a lot of scope and will remain so in the near future.

Besides retail, data science has made extensive impacts on other fields like healthcare as well. Take the case where new drugs are discovered constantly and there is an opportunity to ensure better care for patients too. All these are made possible by churning out huge volumes of data through electronic medical records, billing, clinical systems, data from wearables and drawing actionable insights from aggregated patients' data.

Another field that can truly benefit from data science is education. With technology like smartphones and laptops becoming an integral part of the education system, data science can help create better opportunities to help students learn and enhance their knowledge in a constructive manner.

Banking and finance is another sector that needs data science to improve their financial products and make themselves relevant to more customers. The industry leverages data science applications

With technology becoming an integral part of the education system, data science can help create better opportunities to help students learn and enhance their knowledge in a constructive manner

to generate information about risk modelling, fraud detection, customer life-time value, customer segmentation and real-time predictive analysis, among other things.

Since data science is helping meet the trials and tribulations of the increasing demand and sustainable future, the opportunities for data scientists to come up with a wide range of solutions for meeting the challenges across multiple sectors.

SKILLS & ROLE

There are different roles for a Data Scientist this includes Data Researcher, Data Developers, Business Analyst, BI Analyst, System Administrator, Data Modeler and Data Architect. To qualify for these roles, the skills and education required are largely universal.

A master's degree in computer studies, economics, finance, business studies, statistics, and mathematics is certainly an advantage. However, new-age employers are eager to integrate such requirements with relevant skills and real-world experience.

So, those who are considering

a career as data science must be proficient in excel and have a good practical knowledge of statistics, mathematics, data mining, correlation and predictive analysis. They should also have basic knowledge of scripting languages like SQL, Python, Java, R and the confidence of working with BI tools. However, if a data scientist is familiar with other the database systems like MySQL and Hive, it can be an additional advantage.

REMUNERATION

A data scientist role is definitely lucrative in India. Glassdoor had listed the average data scientist salary between ₹10 lakh to ₹20 lakh annually.

In India, since the demand for data science expertise continues to grow and employers are investing significant time and money in data scientists, becoming one is worth every effort one makes. That said, the most important thing will be to start focusing on acquiring the right skillsets and taking into consideration the specifics of the data science landscape in India.

The writer is APAC Academic Program Manager, Qlik

'Innovations can help businesses'

Technology is a vast area and if used efficiently it can be lucrative and help in achieving the set business goals, says SANJEEV JAIN

In today's time, technology is an essential life hack for every business, big or small. Technology has become an integral part of every business and the evolution of technology significantly impacts every sector. It makes life easier and faster; the daily tasks can be accomplished in a lesser time. One of the greatest opportunities for all entrepreneurs, innovators, start-up owners, IT sectors professionals, is digital transformation. It helps in using technology to transform every aspect of your business, and this further helps in the growth of the business. Technology is a vast area and if used efficiently, it can be lucrative and help in achieving the set business goals. Here is a compilation of various aspects of a business where technology plays a vital role.



Sanjeev Jain
Founder-MD, Technology Never Sleeps
Networking Solutions Pvt Ltd

Moderates Time: One of the most important benefits of using technology is that it can reduce the time consumption for a specific task. When used efficiently, technology can simplify the complicated, abundant, and difficult work and organise the outcome effectively. In order to run smooth business operations technology plays a vital role, it can reduce the burden of an employee by contributing to petty things like setting reminders or calculations etc. This not only saves time but frees people to spend time on more creative aspects of business like strategy, product development, collaboration, marketing and sales.

Income and turnover: Technology has the ability to build and sustain engagement for any brand which can help in business growth by attracting the right customer base. It helps in reaching millions of people within a few seconds something that was never possible before. Technology can assist in multiplying the growth and turnover of the business by creating a platform through which businesses can help customers with their problems. It helps in creating new opportunities by allowing businesses to use unique ideas to add value and set a benchmark in the competitive market.

Output: With the help of technology, productivity surges and helps in getting good outcomes for business. Technology increases the productivity of a business, no matter the size. Technology helps in getting more work done without increasing manpower providing scalability. Also, technology is helpful in generating more queries for any business and thereby helping business generate more revenue.

Efficiency: Technology can be relied upon to complete the work which otherwise requires accuracy. It eases various tasks like manufacturing, marketing and finance and helps in preventing errors. Important data/information can be stored and be password protected, this information can have ease of remote access.

Insights: Technology helps in creating precise and significant insights for business. It helps in storing and calculating large amount of data which collates all the information in one place. Technology also helps people to upgrade their skills and knowledge which can be used to enhance their performance at work. It helps in gathering important insights which add value to the business.

Today's age is one of cut-throat competition and challenges lurking around every corner. In such a demanding environment, the old-school model of rote-learning that results in negligible ability to implement knowledge is widely becoming inadequate to prepare students for a 21st-century world of complex enigmas.

When it comes to creating a generation that is adaptive, innovative and future-ready, education is the primary driver. Technology is disrupting and transforming both professional and personal landscape at an unprecedented pace. Herein, the responsibility of equipping students with the tools to deal with these developments lands on the shoulders of instructors across the

educational paradigm.

Contrary to the conventional methods of teaching, project-based learning (PBL) is a collaborative and application-driven approach. It uses real-world situations as vehicles to facilitate enhanced learning and a spirit of inquiry, while also integrating academic subjects across the curriculum.

These projects are different from the regular, short-term projects that are undertaken after a course ends, for instance, as a tool to revise the course components. On the contrary, these projects drive the primary framework of curriculum and course instruction.

Within PBL, as this approach is often referred to, students can further use any medium viable for their research - field trips,

presentations, exploring various materials, creating 3D models, experiments, and many more.

Students engage in such a project for an extended period, depending on their coursework - ranging up to an entire semester - working on finding innovative solutions to a complex question around a real-world problem. Ultimately, they demonstrate the skill learning through a report, a presentation or an actual product at the end of the project cycle.

Not only does this model inculcate deep knowledge about the subject in the students,

but it also unleashes a hoard of soft skills like communication, team-building, collaboration and creativity in them.

There have been numerous researches over the years on the impact of project-based learning approach on the learning outcomes, students' and teachers' motivation, skill-building and general attitude towards learning (Strobel & van Barneveld, 2009).

The PBL encourages students to become independent workers, critical thinkers and problem-solvers. It urges students to form questions of their own, developing a sense of ownership of their learning process and

outcome. Teachers, in this ecosystem, function as facilitators rather than instructors, moving away from the overworked chalk and talk pedagogy.

Connecting real-world situations to academics is perhaps one of the biggest benefits of project-based learning, pushing students to learn from trial and error and succeed based on their interpretations and logical deductions. This equips them for the professional world since these techniques are what will eventually be used by them at their workplaces.

Also, since such projects are often large and complex, students are forced to work in groups, encouraging even the most silent of the lot to speak and work collectively with conflicting personalities to find mutual

accord, learning how to defuse tensions in a diverse team. This not only has a high impact on their interpersonal skills, but it also introduces them to specialisation, optimal allocation of resources and delegation, concepts prominent in the material world.

The market need for skilled workers necessitated the shift from classical models of blackboard teaching, and project-based learning does just that - simulating real-world problems to prepare students for progress by developing a balanced and diverse approach, as an individual as well as a team member. Project-based learning effectively bridges the gap between theoretical and practical education.

The writer is Dr Jitin Chakraborty, Director of Indian Institute of Art and Design



The new University of Adelaide Higher Education Scholarship (International) is now available on offer and provides a reduction of 25 per cent of the tuition fee. The scholarships are open to citizens of any country (except Australia and New Zealand).

Eligibility: Must: Either be an alumni (graduate) of an AQF-recognised Australian Higher Education institution or (b) have recently successfully completed an AQF-recognised Higher Education institution prior to commencing your degree at the University of Adelaide; Have a University of Adelaide offer of admission (full offer or conditional offer) as a full fee-paying, international student; Complete the acceptance process as outlined in your offer of admission.

The university's preferred accredited English language tests are: IELTS, TOEFL, Pearson Test of English. Students without the required level of English will need to satisfactorily complete an intensive programme of English language before being admitted. The university can arrange an appropriate English language programme, Academic English (PEP) pathway.

How to apply: Those meeting the criteria will auto-

matically be considered. **Application deadline:** The scholarships are open throughout the year.

Application and award: The Early Bird Discount International award for an MBA degree programme at the University of Essex in the UK. The educational award is available for students from all around the globe.

Eligibility: Students who are applying to the full-time MBA programme. It is not available to students applying to part-time or degree apprenticeship programmes. This scholarship can be held in conjunction with an Essex MBA Deans Award offered at less than 50% of the course fee-only, it cannot be held in conjunction with an Essex MBA Deans Award valued at 50% of the course fee or more. It cannot be held in conjunction with other University of Essex scholarships including the Alumni Loyalty Discount. Must accept their offer of an Award within two weeks of an offer being made.

Language Requirement: If English is not your first language, you should provide evidence of English language ability: IELTS, TOEFL, or other acceptable proof.

How to apply: Applicants taking admission in the Master degree programme at the university will be automatically considered.

Application deadline: It is October 31, 2020.

SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING AT LOTSA BUSINESS SOLUTION

Location: Lucknow
Stipend: ₹8,000 per month
Link: intershala.com/i/4685793
Application deadline: August 10, 2020

WEB DEVELOPMENT AT JERONONE TECHNOLOGIES

Location: Chandigarh, Mohali
Stipend: ₹20,000 per month
Link: intershala.com/i/4685794
Application deadline: August 10, 2020

TEACHING (ROBOTICS) AT KIDI ROBOTICS

Location: Ranchi, Dhanbad, Kolkata
Stipend: ₹8,000-₹15,000 per month
Link: intershala.com/i/4685795
Application deadline: August 15, 2020

AUTOCAD DESIGNING AT INVENT GRID INDIA

Location: Bhubaneswar
Stipend: ₹5,000 per month
Link: intershala.com/i/4685796
Application deadline: August 9, 2020

TECHNICAL SUPPORT AT RESTOLABS

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹8,000-₹12,000 per month
Link: intershala.com/i/4685782
Deadline: August 12, 2020

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (SALES) AT JINACTUS CONSULTING

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹8,000-₹13,000 per month
Link: intershala.com/i/4685783
Deadline: August 12, 2020

IOS APP DEVELOPMENT AT VAWSUM

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹7,000-₹14,000 per month
Link: intershala.com/i/4685784
Deadline: August 12, 2020

STUDY ABROAD

'Commitment to a holistic learning approach'

Studying in France offers a good return on investment for higher education making it the best destination, says ASHLEY FERNANDES

France plays an important and pivotal role in the European construct. Brexit has not

impacted France, in fact in many ways it has helped France

emerge as a coveted destination. Education is no exception. The return on investment on French higher education is one of the best in the world. As for COVID-19, although the full impact is yet to be assessed, it seems it has helped higher education transition to a more digitised proposition.

From this perspective, emlyon business school has been pioneering globalisation, digitalisation and hybrid education. COVID-19 is a black swan disruptive type of event that can crystallise innovation and help in the emergence of a new value model for the benefit of students. If you add to this, the incredible French cultural scene and art de vivre, you have the *je ne sais quoi* that makes France in general and Lyon in

particular one of the best destinations to consider today.

At emlyon business school, we were extremely swift in our response to the coronavirus pandemic, and quickly set up a crisis centre to help students, teachers, staff and other stakeholders. In the midst of the crisis, we went beyond the usual scope and released an emergency fund of 200,000 Euro (the biggest emergency fund released by a French B-School) in support of our students. We also increased the response of the wellness centre we had launched years back as part of our commitment to a holistic approach (financial, emotional, intellectual, social) and well-being of our community.

The French Ambassador has also recently emphasised the overall strong Indo-French bilateral cooperation and the French attractiveness in the fields of research and higher education. A significant testimony to this strengthening relationship is the 50 per cent increase in scholarships for the academic year which translates to ₹10 crore (₹1.3 million).

The writer is country head, India, emlyon business school, France

IN BRIEF

PARENTS INVOLVEMENT IN ACADEMICS HELPFUL

Indian parents and students are mutually helping each other with daily chores and academics during the lockdown, as revealed by the latest Brainly survey. And, the students over Brainly seem to be loving it. The responses received from 2,138 participants show exciting trends. To begin with, a whopping 87.5% of Brainly users say they help their parents in daily chores during the lockdown. Besides, 85.1% of students have learned new skills from their parents while at home. Not having to commute to school for education is definitely giving ample time to students to partake in other

activities. It is helping them learn new skills as well. The contribution of online learning platforms in enabling learning from home cannot be ignored in achieving this. The other aspect to it is that with additional time in hand, now almost 82.3% of students spend extra time with their parents.

Indian parents are increasingly getting involved in the academics of their children. 85.2% of Brainly users find their parent's involvement in their learning as helpful. Approximately three-fourth of Brainly users at 74.1% admitted enjoying learning from home with the help of their parents.

ONLINE LEARNING MODULES FOR LITTLE LEARNERS

The KinderPass is launching multiple online learning modules for kids aged between three-six years old. With an objective to make the parents understand how early stage learning lays the foundation for later learning, it has come up with its first online learning programme — KinderRead — a

carefully arranged programme in five levels. It is a methodology for teaching young children to read and spell words and develop the preschoolers into confident readers using a play-based synthetic phonics approach. Sumedha Khosche, co-founder, KinderPass said: "The recently launched

National Education Policy 2020 regarding early child care and education reinforces that young children learn best through play and activity. Taking cues from these recommendations, the online learning modules launched at KinderPass are flexible, multi-faceted, multi-level, play-based and activity-based."

SMART INDIA HACKATHON 2020

The Smart India Hackathon (SIH) is an initiative that provides students a platform to solve some of the pressing problems we face in our daily lives. It is conducted every year since 2017 in two formats — SIH Software and SIH Hardware Editions. This year, due to the

COVID-19 pandemic, the SIH software edition is being conducted online. For this purpose, SP Mandali's principal LN Weingar Institute of Management Development and Research (WeSchool) has been selected as one of the nodal centres. Total 35 teams having 210 participants will compete

against seven problem statements from three organisations — CDK Global, MathWorks and MixORg. Each problem statement has a winning amount of ₹1 lakh. WeSchool will present We-Inspiration awards each of prize money ₹ 25,000 to two teams.

PAK SET FOR ENGLISH TEST

We're very well prepared: Azhar

IN MANCHESTER

England will be wary of the unpredictable Pakistan side when the two teams clash in the first Test of the three-match series at the Old Trafford beginning Wednesday.

This will be the visitors' first appearance in an international match since coronavirus stoppage while for the hosts, they will look to bring their form and confidence over from the recently-concluded three-Test series against West Indies. In the World Test Championship (WTC) points table, England moved up to third position following a 2-1 series win over Jason Holder's troops. The hosts have a chance to leapfrog Australia to second place, while Pakistan can overtake New Zealand to fourth position.

For this series, England have named the same squad that clinched them the Wisden Trophy and it will once be interesting to see what will be their bowling combination for the first Test.

A lot has been said about veteran fast-bowlers Stuart Broad and James Anderson playing together. They started just one of three matches in the last series together and showed in the final Test why they remain England's best bet in home conditions.

"Jimmy and Broady go together like Marmite and Cheese or Bonnie and Clyde," former England spinner Graeme Swann was quoted as saying by mirror.co.uk.

"They have formed one of the most successful bowling duos of Test cricket has known. Why



PAKISTAN-ENGLAND IN TESTS				
Venue	Tests	Eng won	Pak won	Drawn
In Eng	53	23	12	18
In Pak	24	2	4	18
In UAE	6	-	5	1
Total	83	25	21	37

HIGHEST INNINGS TOTALS	
England in England: 589-8 dec in 152.2 overs at Manchester 2016	
England in Pakistan: 546-8 dec in 189. overs at Faisalabad 1983-84	
Pakistan in England: 708 in 220.3 overs at The Oval 1967	
Pakistan in Pakistan: 636-8 dec in 156.2 overs at Lahore 2005-06	

LOWEST INNINGS TOTALS:	
England in England: 130 in 59.3 overs at The Oval 1954	
England in Pakistan: 130 in 79.2 overs at Lahore 1987-88	
Pakistan in England: 72 in 39.3 overs at Birmingham 2010	
Pakistan in Pakistan: 158 in 70 overs at Karachi 2000-01	
England's lowest total against Pakistan is 72 in 36.1 overs at Abu Dhabi in 2012	

would you want to chuck it out before its sell-by date?" can understand the attraction of 90mph pace, and both Jofra and Woody are huge assets. But I'm sorry, you don't discard blokes with 500 Test wickets lightly," he added.

Not to forget talismanic all-rounder Ben Stokes, who recently displaced West Indies captain Jason Holder from the top of the ICC all-rounders' list. He will once again

have a huge say in the outcome of the series.

As for the visitors, they lack proper match practice going into the first Test but head coach Misbah-ul-Haq has stated players have done well to acclimatise themselves with the tough English conditions.

"When you play after a long gap there is bound to be some sort of nervousness but that is natural. As soon as the players step on the field, it will go away," Misbah said. "Players are fresh and anxiously waiting for the series to begin."

Pakistan will also be pinning their hopes on young fast-bowling duo Shaheen Afridi and Naseem Shah to shine in the bowler-friendly

by conditions of England. Not to forget they did so well to unleash spinners at the Old Trafford.

"We will keep an eye on the pitch and the weather conditions, today and tomorrow, before taking a decision on whether to play two spinners or not," Misbah said. "It is a possibility and an encouraging sign for us."

"The pitch and weather conditions might be favouring us at the moment but you still have to execute your plans properly to win," he added.

Pakistan will also take confidence from the fact that they have done well in the last two Test series in the England. The 2018 series ended in a 1-1 draw while the 2016 series also ended with both teams sharing spoils after the conclusion of four-Test series (2-2).

SQUADS:

England: Joe Root (C), James Anderson, Jofra Archer, Dominic Bess, Stuart Broad, Rory Burns, Jos Buttler, Zak Crawley, Sam Curran, Ollie Pope, Dom Sibley, Ben Stokes, Chris Woakes, Mark Wood, James Bracey, Ben Foakes, Jack Leach, Dan Lawrence
Pakistan: Azhar Ali (C), Babar Azam, Abid Ali, Asad Shafiq, Faheem Ashraf, Fawad Alam, Imrul ul Haq, Imran Khan, Kashif Bhatti, Mohammad Abbas, Mohammad Rizwan, Naseem Shah, Sarfaraz Ahmed, Shadab Khan, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Shan Masood, Sohail Khan, Usman Shinwari, Wahab Riaz, Yasir Shah.

IN LONDON

Pakistan Test captain Azhar Ali said that the players are raring to go after their long break enforced by the coronavirus pandemic. Pakistan take on England in a three-match Test-series starting on Wednesday. This will be followed by a three-match T20I series and the team has been in the country since late June.

"All players are excited to play the series. COVID-19 is there and about cricket, we have to carry on with it," Azhar told reporters on the eve of the first Test which will be played at Old Trafford.

"We are lucky that we will be playing cricket which is what we love the most. A lot of talk is going on about cricket happening in these tough times but I feel that the best thing is that we wanted to play and we are now getting to that. Credit to ECB (England and Wales Cricket Board) and PCB (Pakistan Cricket Board) for arranging this series."

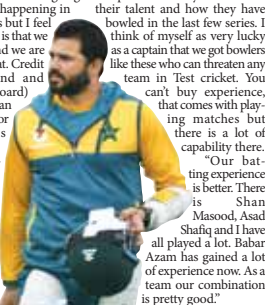
"We have prepared very well with whatever facilities we had with us and ensured that no player gets left behind and gets frustrated. We enjoyed the camp a lot."

Azhar said the team is motivated by their Test performances in recent years in England. Pakistan have not lost a Test series in England since 2010.

"Challenges is something you have to take as a cricketer and England tours are always difficult with or without Covid. But we have performed well in our last few series here and that is a big source of motivation. We will be looking to repeat and upstage that," he said.

The 35-year-old admitted that the visitors' pace battery may be inexperienced but is confident of them performing well considering the talent that they have.

"Our fast bowling attack is inexperienced but you have seen their talent and how they have bowled in the last few series. I think of myself as very lucky as a captain that we get bowlers like these who can threaten any team in Test cricket. You can't buy experience, that comes with playing matches but there is a lot of capability there. "Our batting experience is better. There is Shariq Masood, Asad Shafiq and I have all played a lot. Babar Azam has gained a lot of experience now. As a team our combination is pretty good."



Dhoni is one of a kind: Rohit

PTI NEW DELHI

India's prolific opener Rohit Sharma feels Mahendra Singh Dhoni is "one of a kind" playing under recent comparisons of his leadership style and composure with the two-time World Cup-winning former captain.

In a Super Over podcast, out-of-favour India batsman Suresh Raina called Rohit the "next MS Dhoni for the Indian cricket team".

Rohit, who is the vice-captain of India's limited overs teams and also leads Mumbai Indians in the IPL, reacted to his leadership style being likened to Dhoni.

"Yes, I heard about that comment from Suresh Raina," Rohit said in a twitter video he posted in reply to a fan question.

"MS Dhoni is one of a kind and nobody can be like him and I believe comparisons should not be made like that, every individual is different and has his strengths and weaknesses."

Raina is impressed with Rohit's record of leading Mumbai Indians to a record four IPL title triumphs, one more than Dhoni at Chennai Super Kings.

Rohit has also led India to title



wins at the Nidahas Trophy (T20I format) in Sri Lanka and the Asia Cup (50 overs) in 2018 while standing in for Virat Kohli.

Overall, he has led India in 10 ODIs and 10 T20Is, winning eight and 15 of them respectively.

"I have seen him, he is calm, he likes to listen...I have played under him when we won the Asia Cup in Bangladesh," Raina had said.

"MS Dhoni was brilliant. He (Rohit) has won more (IPL) trophies than MS, but they both are very similar. Both of them, as captains, like to listen."

"When your captain is listening, you can solve a lot of problems, you can solve the mental aspects of the players. So in my book, they both are wonderful."

Agarwal must have learnt a lot from NZ tour

IN NEW DELHI

Former Indian pacer Ashish Nehra feels opening batsman Mayank Agarwal has shown a lot of promise in the initial days of his international career and will get better and score a lot of runs in the days to come.

Agarwal has so far played 11 Tests for India in which he has scored 974 runs, including three hundreds and four half-centuries.

"He (Agarwal) has done really well in domestic games and India-A and that's how he got his chance. He is not somebody who has been playing domestic cricket for one or two years and suddenly he comes to the test."

The 29-year-old however wasn't able to perform to his potential on the New Zealand tour. In the two-Test series which India lost 0-2, he could manage scores of 34, 58, 7 and 3.

However, Nehra said New Zealand is the "most difficult" place to bat in the world and that's why after playing there, Agarwal would have gathered a lot of experience.

"It takes time and New Zealand is not an easy place. With my experience, for batters, the most difficult place on this planet when it comes to cricket-playing nations is New Zealand. New Zealand has always been tough, so Mayank Agarwal, I am sure has learnt a lot from the New Zealand tour," said the former left-arm pacer.



Starc does not regret missing IPL

PTI MELBOURNE

Left-arm Australian pacer Mitchell Starc doesn't regret giving the IPL a miss this year, saying he is comfortable training for the upcoming summer season.

Starc had pulled out of the lucrative T20 event to focus on the T20 World Cup in Australia which was postponed last month due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I know hindsight is a wonderful thing and now the IPL is on at a different time but no, I wouldn't change it," the 30-year-old, who played for Royal Challengers Bangalore for two years, was quoted as saying by Cricket.Com.Au.



"I'm happy to spend that time when the blokes are at the IPL. In September I'll be getting ready for a summer."

"The IPL will be around next year and if I feel the urge or people want me around I'll definitely consider it, but as of this year, I'm very comfortable with the decisions I've made."

Starc was bought by Kolkata Knight Riders in the 2018 IPL auction but was ruled out of the season due to an injury and was eventually released in November.

The left-arm pacer is currently training with his NSW state teammates and waiting for a confirmation for Australia's white-ball tour of the UK.

"It's still very much up in the air which is the way of the world at the moment. It's changing day by day. We're having weekly meetings about the challenges of the tour and where this all sits. We've got another one on Thursday to see if there's any progressions on that," he said.

"All the players are preparing to play and planning to go. It's now up to Cricket Australia and the government on both sides as to whether we jump on that plane. In terms of the cricket, we'll just get ready for the series."

Australia's tour of England comprising three T20s and as many ODIs is scheduled to begin on September 4, pending clearance.

Casillas ends his playing days



Casillas said announcing his retirement was one of the "hardest" and "most difficult" days of his career.

His contract with Porto ended after the team defeated Benfica last weekend to win the Portuguese Cup. He didn't play but celebrated with his teammates and lifted the trophy.

Casillas joined Porto in 2015 after helping Real Madrid win five Spanish league titles and three Champions League trophies.

Real Madrid called Casillas "one of the biggest legends of our club and of world football" and "the best goalkeeper in the history of Real Madrid and Spanish football."

"Today one of the most important footballers in our 118 years of history calls it a day as a professional player, a player we love and admire, a goalkeeper who has made the Real Madrid legacy bigger with his work and exemplary behavior both on and off the pitch," Real Madrid said in a statement.

"He was for us here and defended our shirt for 25 years, becoming one of our most emblematic captains of all time."

AP MADRID

Former Spain and Real Madrid goalkeeper Iker Casillas officially announced the end of his playing days on Tuesday, more than a year after his last match.

The 39-year-old Casillas was with Portuguese club Porto but hadn't played competitively since a heart attack in May last year.

"What is important is the path you travel and the people who accompany you, not the destination to which it takes you," Casillas said on Twitter.

"With hard work, you will always arrive where you want. I can say, without a doubt, that it has been the path and the destination that I've always dreamed about."

Government of Odisha
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Rural Works Division-II, Dhenkanal,
Kamakhyanagar

e-Procurement Notice No. 05/Road Work/2020-21

1. Name of the work : Road Work
2. Total No. of Works : 11 (Eleven) Nos.
3. Tender Cost : Rs. 4.42 to 39.82 lakh (approx.)
4. Class Contractor : "D", C & B" Class
5. Period of Completion : 2 to 4 Calendar Months
6. Availability Tender online : 06.08.2020 at 11.00 AM TO 14.08.2020 up to 5.00 P.
7. Last Date & Time of seeking : 12.08.2020 up to 4.00 PM
8. Date & Time of opening of : 17.08.2020 at 11.00 AM
Tender Bid

Other Details can be seen from the website <http://tendersorissa.gov.in>.

Executive Engineer
R.W. Division-II, Dhenkanal,
Kamakhyanagar

OIPR-25949/11/0602/2021

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Tender in plain papers are invited for sale of dry Sisal Fibre of 11.333 MTs available with Project Director, Watersheds, Koraput (6.551 MT) and Sundergarh (4.782 MT). The Tender Papers are to be received in the Directorate of Soil Conservation and Water shed Development, Odisha, Krushi Bhawan, Building, Bhubaneswar-751001 by Dt. 18.08.2020 at 2 P M and will be opened on the same day at 2.30 PM in presence of the Tenderer (s) or their authorised representatives. The price should be quoted per metric ton exclusive of taxes and other charges as applicable. The Tenderer has to quote the bid for the total stock. The tenderer should deposit the earnest money of Rs. 1 (one) Lakh in shape of Demand Draft duly pledged in favour of the ESTABLISHMENT OFFICER, DIRECTORATE OF SOIL CONSERVATION AND WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT, ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR, failing which it will not be considered as valid tender. The stock should be lifted in full from respective places by successful tenderer within 15 (fifteen) days from the date of issue of lifting order on payment of full cost with taxes and charges as applicable to the concerned Project Director, Watersheds, failing which the order will be automatically cancelled and the earnest money so deposited will be forfeited. The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders or to accept a portion thereof. Interested parties may inspect the stock in the respective offices in the office hour of any working day before taking part in the tender. The tender paper should be sent through Registered post or Speed Post only in separate covers duly captioned "TENDER PAPER FOR SISAL FIBRE". No hand delivery or courier delivery will be accepted.

Availability of Sisal Fibre stock for 2020 harvesting season.

Sl.No	Name of the Office	Availability of Sisal Fibre stock for 2020 (in MT)
1	Project Director, Watersheds, Koraput	6.551 MT
2	Project Director, Watersheds, Sundergarh	4.782 MT
	Total	11.333 MT

Director, SC & WD
Odisha, Bhubaneswar

OIPR-61039/11/0602/2021

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS DIVISION, KHARJUR

e-Procurement Notice
BID IDENTIFICATION NO.- RW/KHR-03/2020-21 (Online)

Bid document consisting of Work, Estimated Cost, EMD, Cost of tender Paper, Class of Contractor, Time of Completion and the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in Govt. website i.e. www.tendersodisha.gov.in

1. Name of the Work : Road Works
2. Total No of Works : 19 Nos.
3. Estimated Cost : Rs.5.31 to Rs.42.48 lakhs
4. Period of Completion : 03 (Three) Calendar Months
5. Other details :-

Procurement officer	Bid Identification No	Availability of Tender on line for bidding	Last date & time of seeking tender clarification	Date & time of Opening of tender
1	2	3	4	5
Executive Engineer, R.W. Division, Kharjur	RW/KHR-03/2020-21 (Online)	07.08.2020 At 10:00 AM	13.08.2020 Up to 5:00 PM	10.08.2020 Up to 5:00 PM
				14.08.2020 At 11:00 AM

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Executive Engineer
Rural Works Division, Kharjur

OIPR-25152/11/0601/2021

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
RURAL WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION ORGANISATION

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
RWS&S DIVISION, ANGUL: AT: TALCHER
At: Baghuabole, Po.- Hatatola, Talcher, Dist.- Angul, Pin- 759100
(Ph. No./ Fax - 06760-240762, E-mail : enwssang@gmail.com)

National Competitive Bidding through e-procurement
Bid Identification No. 02/EE/RWS&S/ANGUL/2020-21 Dt. 30.07.2020 (DMF)

The Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Angul: Talcher on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Item Rate/Percentage bid through e-procurement in double/single cover system according to norm of e-Procurement system in on-line mode.

Nature of Work : Rural Piped Water Supply Schemes.

No. of Tenders	Tender Paper Cost	Value of work	Class of Contractor	Date & time of availability of bid document in portal	Date & time of seeking tender clarification	Date & time of opening of tender	Time of completion
3 Nos.	Rs. 6,000.00	Rs. 12.85 Lakhs to Rs. 48.20 Lakhs	"D", "C", "B" & "A" Class	10.08.2020 at 13:00 hours	20.08.2020 upto 17:00 hours	21.08.2020 at 15:00 hours in the office of the Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Angul: Talcher	4 (Four) to 6 (Six) Calendar Months

The bidders have to participate in online bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>.

10. Contingendum if any shall be published in the above website only.

Executive Engineer,
RWS&S Division, Angul at Talcher

OIPR-25019/11/0604/2021