

**OPINION 6**  
BEING  
HUMANE

**WORLD 8**  
NEGLECTANCE OR MISSILE MAY HAVE  
CAUSED BLAST: LEBANON PRESIDENT

**SPORT 12**  
INDIA TO HOST 2021  
T20 WORLD CUP

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# The Pioneer

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2020 A  
WAKE-UP  
CALL: BHUMI  
10 VIVACITY

## 16 die as AI plane breaks into 2

Plane overshoots Kozhikode runway, plunges into valley, both pilots killed

PNS/PTI ■ KOCHI

Sixteen people — pilot, co-pilot and 14 passengers — were killed and several others injured when a Dubai-Calicut Air India Express flight with 191 passengers and crew on board overshoot the runway at Kozhikode airport and fell into a valley, breaking into two portions, on Friday around 7.41pm, police sources said. There were 184 passengers, including 10 infants, and five-member cabin crew when the flight approached the airport.

The Civil Aviation Ministry said the flight IX 1344 operated by B737 aircraft from Dubai overshoot runway at Kozhikode at 7.41 PM on Friday. "No fire reported at the time of landing," it noted.

"As per the initial reports rescue operations are in and passengers are being taken to hospital for medical care. We will soon share the update in this regard," it stated.

While the aircraft broke into two, nearly 50 ambulances were seen coming out of the airport with the injured persons. Kozhikode airport is designated as a table top aircraft (airport atop a hill). Capt Sathe was a wing commander in the Indian Air Force before he switched over to Air India.

"AI Exp flight overshoot Kozhikode runway in rainy conditions, went down 35 ft into slope, split into 2... Formal enquiry will be conducted by Aircraft Accident Investigation



Rescue work in progress as an Air India Express flight with passengers on board en route from Dubai skidded off the runway while landing in Kozhikode on Friday. PTI

Bureau," said Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri.

The injured include one of the cabin crew members. Sources in Kozhikode airport said at least 40 passengers have been admitted to various hospitals in and around

Kozhikode. The front portion of the aircraft had to be cut open to take the body of the pilot from the cockpit.

According to information coming out of the airport, the aircraft crash landed on the runway from where it skidded

off. The first visuals shown by local TV channels were that of a totally damaged aircraft, the front side of which has been damaged totally. It was raining heavily when the aircraft touched the ground. Most of the passengers were heard cry-

ing in pain.

The co-pilot has been injured seriously while some of the passengers in the aircraft suffered injuries. The flight was part of the Vande Bharat Repatriation Mission operated by the Government of India.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Bollywood actor Rhea Chakraborty was on Friday questioned by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in Mumbai in connection with a money laundering case relating to film star Sushant Singh Rajput's alleged suicide. Her request to put it off the interrogation was rejected by the agency.

Chakraborty arrived at the agency's office minutes after the 11.30 am deadline. Rhea Chakraborty left the ED office after 8 hours of interrogation. Her father Indrajit Chakraborty and brother Shovik, both accused in the abetment to suicide case lodged by Patna Police, were also seen with her.

Chakraborty's statement was recorded under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

Rajput's father Krishna Kumar Singh had in his complaint before Patna Police alleged financial irregularities in the late actor's bank accounts.

In the complaint, Singh alleged ₹15 crore was siphoned off from Rajput's bank account in one year to accounts of persons not known or connected to the late film star.

Two companies linked to Rajput and some financial deals involving Chakraborty, her father and Shovik who are stated to be directors in these companies, are under the scanner of the ED, officials said.



Bollywood actress Rhea Chakraborty arrives at Enforcement Directorate office for questioning in connection with a money laundering case in Mumbai on Friday. PTI

## Bihar seeks in SC dismissal of plea to transfer case

PN RAGHUNATH ■ MUMBAI

New Delhi: The Bihar Government on Friday sought in the Supreme Court dismissal of Bollywood actress Rhea Chakraborty's plea for transfer of the Patna FIR against her to Mumbai in actor Sushant Singh Rajput death case, terming it 'premature, misconceived and non-maintainable'. The 28-page affidavit of Patna SP Upendra Sharma, filed through Bihar's advocate Keshav Mohan, said the state police has the jurisdiction in the case as the consequences of the offence are in Patna as well.

The 28-page affidavit of Patna SP Upendra Sharma, filed through Bihar's advocate Keshav Mohan, said the state police has the jurisdiction in the case as the consequences of the offence are in Patna as well. The old father of the deceased actor resides. PTI

## Rhea's call details spark up debate

PN RAGHUNATH ■ MUMBAI

Coming ahead of and during her questioning by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) team in the Sushant Singh Rajput suicide case in Mumbai, Rhea Chakraborty's call record details — with the late actor, Bollywood personalities, a senior Mumbai police official and her own family members — on Friday sparked a new debate in the media in connection with the probe into Rajput's death.

She spoke 287 times with the late actor's domestic help Samuel Miranda during a year time. PTI

## Covid fear: Man cremated after 15 hrs

BHUBANESWAR: A body of a 25-year old man lay at his home in a village at Konark for more than 15 hours as relatives and villagers stayed away suspecting that he had been infected with Covid-19.

The man had died on Wednesday at Mankaragoradi village and his family was forced to arrange for PPE kits and other protective gears before the body could be taken to the cremation ground of the village. But none was ready to carry his body. The body was, instead, carried in a cycle cart next day.

Vichitra Rout, a tractor driver, had been suffering from high fever and was taken with typhoid. He was asked by the Community Health Centre, where he was being treated to undergo the Covid-19 test. He was referred to the District Headquarters Hospital at Puri for test but when he was taken there on August 4, its OPD had been shut as some staffs had contracted coronavirus.

Rout was then referred to a Bhubaneswar hospital but died on Wednesday before being taken there. Meanwhile, rumour spread that he had fallen prey to Covid-19. PNS

## No online booking for Puri temple entry

PNS ■ PURI

The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) on Friday said that no such decision has yet been taken for online booking to enter the shrine.

SJTA Niti Administrator Jitendra Sahu said no such proposal has come for discussion; and the statement made by an SJTA member on Thursday is confusing and is his personal opinion.

Sahu said the SJTA is following the Covid guidelines; and it is the State

Government to take a decision on entry of devotees to the Shreemandir.

Following the SJTA member's statement, a lot of people began searching the website for booking ticket to enter the temple but failed in their bid. The Jagannath Temple has remained shut for devotees since March 20 due to the Covid pandemic.

## 101 new +ve cases in BBSR; total now 3,573

52 from quarantine, 49 local contacts  
81 infected in Cuttack city; total 1,473

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR/CUTTACK

As many as 101 new Covid positive cases were detected under the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) jurisdiction on Friday, pushing the total tally to 3,573.

Of the new cases, 52 were from quarantine and 49 local contact cases, the BMC said.

The quarantine cases included five of Salia Sahi linked with an earlier positive case; three of Patia linked with an earlier positive case; three of Dumunda; two of Unit-6 Tala Basti; two, both police staffs, linked with an earlier case; two of Samtrapur linked with an earlier case; two Health Department employees linked

with an earlier case; two women employees of a Central Government hospital; a woman employee of a private hospital; a 34-year-old man of Kharavel Nagar with travel history to Bangalore; and an employee of a Government hospital.

The local contacts included two cases of Badagada Nageshwar Colony, two of Badagada Brit Colony, two of Unit-1, two of Barumunda, two of Old Town, one of Bhimatangi, one of Dumunda, one of CRPF campus, one of Ganganagar and one of OUAU Colony.

However, another 106 patients recovered from the disease in the city on the day, taking the total recoveries to 2,257.

In Cuttack, 81 new positive cases were detected on Friday, taking the city's total tally to 1,470.

Of the new cases, 38 were from the Malgudown Behera Sahi containment zone, five from institutional quarantine, 26 from home quarantine and 12 local contacts, the Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) said.

## State allows Covid treatment at pvt hospitals

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

In a major decision, the State Government on Friday allowed treatment of Covid-19 patients at private hospitals.

"It is observed that the private hospitals are treating the non-Covid cases, but when they find such patients to be Covid-19 positive during the process of treatment, they immediately request the Government machinery to shift the case to a Covid facility set up by the Government. It eventually caused a large surge of patients in such Covid facilities," the Health Department said in a notification.

The Government formulated guidelines for the treatment of Covid-19 patients at private hospitals. The guidelines included sending of all asymptomatic or mild cases to institutional quarantine/home isolation or any paid CCC run by the private hospital. Interested private hospitals shall designate a minimum of 10% of all beds for Covid patients with an option to convert the entire hospital as a Covid Hospital.

## Delhi unveils EV policy to boost economy, fight vehicular pollution

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government on Friday launched the Electric Vehicle Policy aiming to boost economy and help fight vehicular pollution in the capital.

Claiming the policy is for pollution-free and sustainable development, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said it will also generate job opportunities in transportation sector mainly.

Kejriwal said electric vehicles to contribute 25 per cent of all new vehicle registrations by 2024. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) supreme said the EV Policy will make Delhi a world leader in the field of electric vehicles in the next five years and this is one of the most progressive EV policies in the world.

In winter, the Capital faces tough time due to high concentration of noxious particles in air while with the induction of e-vehicles will lead to less emission.

Under the EV Policy, the Delhi Government is providing a subsidy of up to ₹30,000 on the purchase of two-wheelers,



auto-rickshaws, e-rickshaws, freight vehicles each, and ₹1.5 lakh incentives on cars.

To encourage masses to buy e-vehicle, the Government is also providing scrapping incentives. "Many people have polluting vehicles at their homes, which are petrol and diesel vehicles. In this case, the old vehicle can be exchanged while purchasing the new vehicle so that it reduces the cost of the new vehicle further. This scrapping incentive is being given for the first time in the entire country," Kejriwal said.

"After working hard in the last 2-3 years and holding discussions with consumers and experts, we have prepared the Electric Vehicle policy in Delhi. The policy has been notified today in the morning," said the CM.

## Poster drive in Capital as job offers exceed job demands

CHANDAN PRAKASH ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government will launch a poster drive from next week to apprise people about job portal as the number of job seekers is lesser than the number of jobs available on the portal.

Employment Minister Gopal Rai said more than nine lakh jobs are available at the job portal and the number of applicants is just 8.64 lakh. "More than nine lakh jobs are available at the job portal and the number of applicants is 8.64 lakh. Till date, 22 lakh job posts were made by different employers at the job portal," he said.

Rai said 3.5 lakh job posts were cancelled due to duplication and some posts were fake. He also said till Friday, 10 lakh vacancies were made by the employers as they have received the required number of people and till date, there are 8.64 lakh job applicants who are still looking for jobs. "Delhi is going through the Covid-19 pandemic and this has hit the employment sector and this is opportunity for job seekers," he said.

## In BBSR mall

## Asked to pay bill, woman threatens rape case

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A woman allegedly threatened to file a rape complaint against the staff of a shopping mall here when they asked her to pay the bill.

On Thursday evening, the woman, who was accompanied by her male companion and a child, shopped at the mall at Patrapada. She purchased apparels worth over ₹50,000 and proceeded towards the billing counter where she told the staff that she is a family friend of one of the partners of the shop and the bill has already been paid.

The staff refused to oblige her, for which an altercation ensued between them. The woman threatened the employees to file a rape complaint against them if they insisted

further on paying the bill, the employees said.

"When she entered the shop, she enquired about Ajay Satpathy Sir, who was a former business partner of our owner. She then picked four sarees, a purse and a ladies' dress. At the billing counter, she asked for the bill. Our staff said they couldn't produce the bill without it being paid. She then said she has already paid it to Ajay Sir and asked us to take it to him. When we expressed our inability to generate the bill under the circumstances, she snatched the bags and threatened to file a rape complaint against our staff," an employee of the store said.

After a commotion, she left the store hastily and rushed out in an SUV. By the time, the store staff had jotted down her



vehicle number and contact number.

Soon after, a complaint was lodged at the Tamanda police station. Police are investigating the matter.

Sources said the accused is a habitual offender and was in news earlier for same reasons.

## State reports record deaths, +ve cases, recoveries

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A record number of 12 patients undergoing treatment in various hospitals succumbed to Covid-19 on Friday, increasing the State's total death toll to 247.

Three persons died in Sundargarh district, three in Ganjam, one each in Mayurbhanj, Kendrapada, Sambalpur, Bhadrak, Dhenkanal and Gajapati.

The Ganjam deceased included a 52-year-old man, a 50-year-old man and a 62-year-old man. The casualties were of a 77-year-old man, a 66-year-old man and a 77-year-old man.

The other deceased were a 55-year-old man from Mayurbhanj, a 36-year-old man of Kendrapada, a 78-year-old woman of Sambalpur, a 55-year-old man of Bhadrak, a 61-

year-old man of Dhenkanal and a 34-year-old man of Gajapati.

On the day, the State also registered the highest single-day surge of 1,833 positive cases, pushing the total tally to 42,550.

Of the new cases, 1,118 were detected from quarantine centres and 715 were local contact cases.

The maximum 298 cases were reported from Khordha district followed by Ganjam with 279 cases. This was the first time that Khordha overtook Ganjam in the daily count.

Next to Ganjam was Rayagada with 152 cases, Cuttack 124, Sundargarh 110, Kalahandi 84, Balasore 69, Puri 67, Nayagarh 61, Jajpur 60, Bhadrak 50, Koraput 47, Dhenkanal 45, Sambalpur 39, Balangir 37, Malkangiri 36, Gajapati 35, Boudh,

12 die; toll rises to 27  
Single-day surge of 1,833 cases  
Day's maximum 298 cases in Khordha  
1,810 recover; total recoveries 28,697

Kendrapada and Mayurbhanj 34 each, Subarnapur 33, Jharsuguda 30, Jagatsinghpur, Kandhamal and Keonjhar 16 each, and Nabarangpur 11.

The maximum 700 recovered in Ganjam followed by 202 in Khordha, 147 in

Cuttack, 136 in Gajapati, 116 in Dhenkanal, 106 in Sundargarh, 62 in Sambalpur, 55 in Rayagada, 37 in Keonjhar, 34 in Angul and 24 in Kalahandi, 22 in Koraput, 20 in Jajpur, 19 in Bargarh, 17 in Baleswar, 15 each in Balangir and Mayurbhanj, 14 in Kendrapada, 13 in Bhadrak, 11 each in Deogarh and Nabarangpur, eight each in Jagatsinghpur and Jharsuguda, six in Puri, five in Boudh, four in Subarnapur and three in



## Finance, sports, science & tech services made online

### Space data utilisation stressed

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Public services rendered by Finance, Odia Language and Culture, Sports and Youth Services and Science and Technology Departments have been made online while the Government has set October 2 as the timeline for availing all Government services online.

This was revealed at a review meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy on digital mode on Friday.

Tripathy directed all

departments to make use of the 'bulk disbursement platform' of Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS) for benefit transfer under various schemes.

Review showed that four services like pension to indigent sports persons, facility booking, issue of ID card and weight and age certificate to sports persons have already been put online. Similarly, booking of Mandaps under the Odia Language and Literature and Culture Department has been made online. The department is now developing online data base of artists, singers, writers and poets.

Public services like 'online processing of pension application', 'online creation of permanent retirement

account number (PRAN)', 'bulk disbursement platform for benefit transfer', 'online payment of taxes and dues', 'e-GPF', 'online submission of year end surrender' under the Finance department have also been rolled out.

The Science and Technology Department has already developed online model for ORSAC Map services, which includes online delivery of administrative and thematic maps.

The Chief Secretary directed the department to explore various possibilities for utilisation of various space data already generated by Odisha Space Application Center, The Handicrafts, Textiles and Handicrafts Department would issue training certificates through online by August 15, 2020.

## Loan scam in Keonjhar Andhra Bank alleged

### ₹10 lakh withdrawn fraudulently

MALAY MOHAPATRA ■ KEONJHAR

Loan frauds have been alleged in the Andhra Bank, Keonjhar Branch with cash having been withdrawn from many customers without their knowledge.

The matter had come to the fore on November 5, 2018 when Monika Singh of Rasiklal Colony received a bank account asking her to repay a loan amounting Rs 25,73,860.

According to Monika, she had applied for a housing loan of Rs 30 lakh to buy a patch of land and construct a building

on it. After loan approval, she spent Rs 9 lakh for buying a plot and Rs 2 lakh for laying the foundation of the house. After bank notice, she found that Rs 10,70,154 had been debited from her account without her knowledge. Documents obtained from the bank through RTI revealed that Rs 5,13,168 was withdrawn by unsigned loose withdrawal cheque no. 315500 and Rs 5,56,986 vide cheque no. 315499. Monika claims that she never issued these cheques to anyone.

"It is a clear case of fraud since the cash has been withdrawn from my account through withdrawal slips without my signature and handwritten cheque number," said, adding that the fraud is not possible without the involvement of bank staffs.

The cheque leafs were not sent to Monika. According to bank rules, a bank releases housing loan in phased manner depending on the progress of house construction. But in this case, it is suspicious how the manager disbursed so much amount without verifying the progress of construction of the house and allowed withdrawal of cash through unsigned cheques.

"We are aware of such a complaint and a high-level inquiry is going on," said Branch Manager Sunam Naik.

## 27% quota for OBCs in jobs, admissions sought

### SP stages demo, sends memo to CM

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Samajwadi Party, Odisha State Committee organised a demonstration here on Friday demanding 27 per cent reservation for Other Backward Class (OBC) candidates in admission to higher education courses and also in State Government jobs.

Party's State president Rabi Behera said, "The Central and many State Governments have been implementing 27% reservation in both Government jobs and admissions to universities, IITs and IIMs. But it

is disappointing that the Odisha Government is only providing 11.25% of its jobs to Backward Classes candidates. There is no reservation for OBC students in admissions to colleges and universities here," lamented Behera.

Besides placing 27% reservation in jobs and admissions in a memorandum to the Chief Minister, Behera too demanded a time-bound caste census of Backward Classes and low-interest loans to them and inclusion of Odisha OBC Reservation Act- 2008 in the 9th Schedule of the Constitution.

Among others, Sudarshan Pradhan, Sanjaya Nayak, Debasis Mohapatra, Desapriya Das, Atanu Mohanty and Rita Pattnaik were present.

## Ayodhya Bhoomi Pujan protested in city

BHUBANESWAR: Various organisations like Mahila Samiti, Rastriya Dalita Sabha and Republican Party of India staged a protest wearing black badges against Bhoomi Pujan of Ram Temple at Ayodhya and sent a memorandum to President Ram Nath Kovind urging for 'preservation of the basic features of the Constitution.'

"As of today, the country has reported more than 20 lakh covid cases. Now each day more than 50 thousand positive cases are added while more than 800 people are losing their lives per day. It seems by the end of August 2020 our active cases will be more than Brazil and in death it will be in 3rd position in the world. In such a difficult time, the Central Government's decision to have a grand foundation stone-laying ceremony at Ayodhya for Lord Ram's temple

is against the values and culture," read the memorandum. The memorandum further read the Prime Minister's involvement has demolished the basic characters of the country's Constitution.

"We are registering our protest and praying you to instruct the Government to respect the feelings of the citizen not only a particular community and respect, preserve the basic features of our Constitution which enabled the present Government to govern," added while more than 800 people are losing their lives per day. It seems by the end of August 2020 our active cases will be more than Brazil and in death it will be in 3rd position in the world. In such a difficult time, the Central Government's decision to have a grand foundation stone-laying ceremony at Ayodhya for Lord Ram's temple

Among others Shaikh Abdul Wali, Kailash Mishra, Ashok Kumar Mallick, Chandrakanti Boudh, Prallahad Sabar, Bijay Kumar Sethi, Seba Swain, Muralidhar Nayak, Benudhar Nayak and Sudarshan Das participated in the dharna. **PNS**

## CM okays rationalisation of 905 PSs

### Also creation of 6 new police stations

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

In a bid to strengthen policing for better crime control and efficient delivery of citizen-centric services, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Friday approved rationalisation of 905 posts in 220 police stations, strengthening of six police outposts and creation of six new police stations.

The existing police stations which would be bifurcated into six new police stations are Khandagiri police station in Bhubaneswar, Angul Town police station, Jhasuguda Town police station, Bhanjanagar police station in Ganjam district, Bhadrak (Rural) police station and Tihidi police station in Bhadrak



district. "The rationalisation will help strengthen 220 police stations and six outposts in 21 police districts of the State," said a release issued by the Chief Minister's Office (CMO).

Earlier, the Chief Minister had directed the DG of Police (DGP) to make more person-

nel available in police stations by way of rationalisation.

"Significant decline in Maoist menace due to strong security response and development activities has enabled the State to rationalise its manpower in police," the CMO communicated said.

## Young woman held for duping doc of ₹4.5L

PNS ■ TALCHER

A 28-year-old woman was arrested and produced before court by police for allegedly duping a retired doctor of over Rs 4.5 lakh. Further investigation was underway in this connection.

As per the complaint lodged by Dr Bijay Kumar Pradhan, a resident of Baghuaboli here, Supriya Swain alias Deepa of Mahika village under the Colliery police limits had met him in disguise of a finance company agent. With her tricks, she won his faith and managed a good rapport with him. Later, she managed to get his ATM card and bank details and withdrew a whopping of Rs 4,57,385 in instalments.

Dr Pradhan got to know about the fraud when he updated his State Bank of India passbook and immediately lodged a complaint with the Talcher police. Acting on the FIR, police began an investigation and arrested Supriya under Section 420 of IPC.

"Two cases have been lodged against the woman at the Talcher and Colliery police sta-



tions. The case registered at Talcher PS claims cheating of Rs 4.57 lakh while the case lodged at Colliery PS claims cheating of Rs 1.05 lakh. The woman was arrested on August 4 and is in judicial custody now. Investigation is underway in connection with both the cases," said Angul SP Jagmohan Meena.

## Aditya's wife, 2 aides may undergo polygraph test

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

In the ongoing probe into the death of social activist and motivational speaker Aditya Dash, the Crime Branch police are likely to conduct polygraph test on three persons, including his wife Bidyashree to crack the mystery.

Police source said Aditya's two associates Papu and Bikash would also undergo the lie detector test. The probe team decided to conduct the test due to mismatch in statements of the trio, Bidyashree, Papu and Bikash, during a series of interrogations a month after Aditya's death.

Following direction of DGP Abhay, the Crime Branch is now investigating into 'mysterious' death case of Aditya.

Earlier, the case was being probed by the Government Railway Police (GRP). However, the People for Seva, an NGO, which was headed by Aditya, has demanded a CBI inquiry into the case.

Aditya had been found dead on a railway track near the Lingaraj Temple Road station in Bhubaneswar on July 7. Initial reports said a 'mentally disturbed' Aditya was hit by a train on the track.

Aditya was a popular face on social media platform. He had 81,000 followers on Facebook. He was running an old-age home at Sunderpada on the city's outskirts. He had married his wife Bidyashree on June 9. Less than a month of their wedlock, he was found dead under mysterious circumstances.



Aditya's last Facebook post was regarding a quote over his late death indicated that he was ending his life out of depression.

Besides, police seized a handwritten diary of Aditya, in which it was mentioned on a page that no one was responsible for his death. The foren-

sic report on the alleged 'suicide note' confirmed that it was written by him.

Meanwhile, the post-mortem report received by the GRP showed that Aditya died due to grievous injuries on his head, which was severely damaged.

## Rape accused held after 11 years in Baleswar

### Fugitive murder accused tracked after 5 years

UBACHAK MOHANTY ■ BALESWAR

The Chandipur police in Baleswar district arrested a rape accused and forwarded him to court. He had been on the run for 11 long years after committing the crime.

Manoran Behera of vil-

lage Ranasahi had in 2009 allegedly kidnapped a minor girl of Nuasahi and raped her. Later, the victim's parents had lodged an FIR following which a police team managed to rescue the girl after a few days but failed to nab the accused.

In another development, the Soro police arrested a murder accused who was absconding for five years. The fugitive was identified as Sanjib Mohanty of village Routnagar under the Soro Municipality in the district.

In 2015 the dead body of Sanjib's elder brother, Sudipta Mohanty was found in an

abandoned well. Though the police began investigation by lodging an UD case yet later they ascertained that it was a murder. Although they tried to apprehend the accused yet he went underground.

Soro PS IIC Madhumita Mohanty after tracking the movement of the accused nabbed him.

In another case, the Town police arrested a 34-year-old man who was forcing a woman to keep physical relations with him threatening the victim to post her private movements on social media. The accused was identified as Sk Zakir.

## Ranpise appointed CRPF IG

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Odisha-cadre IPS officer PS Ranpise has been appointed as the IG of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) on Central deputation basis, a letter of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs addressed to the State Chief Secretary said.

Ranpise will hold the post for a period of five years from the date of joining or until further orders, whichever is earlier, the letter said.

The Chief Secretary has been requested to relieve the officer immediately for joining his new assignment at the Centre.

## CONTEMPORARIES

# Overhaul in criminal justice system welcoming move



S JYOTIRANJANA

The justice delivery system is experiencing a new phase, i.e., its enhanced brush with technology, mainly due to the coronavirus pandemic. The resultant necessity is to adhere to social distancing, which calls for resorting to remote production of accused. However, many are skeptical about the new experience, especially those within the criminal justice system, which includes the police, courts, advocates and the under-trials.

The experiences that we have gained over the past few months will definitely help us to augment the system and mitigate the factors creating bottleneck for the change towards making the justice delivery system more efficient and technology friendly.

The reasons for the resistance to change is quite obvious and is part of human nature to oppose the unknown or the little known, for the fear of it, but the inevitable cannot be resisted. During this pandemic time the form of technology which seems to be in much use within the judiciary is 'video conferencing' or 'telepresence', which is both effective and dependable. The use of technology cannot be averse to the idea of justice or the procedure established by law.

In the words of the Delhi High Court, "The use of video conferencing in any particular case must be consistent with furthering the interests of jus-

tice and should cause minimal disadvantage to the parties" and further went on to add that, "all statutory provisions applicable to such proceedings including that of Information Technology Act 2000 and Indian Evidence Act 1872 shall be applicable at par in such videoconference."

But for optimum utilisation of technology, i.e., videoconferencing in the instant case, it is necessary to understand the issues that are pivotal for implementation of video conferencing protocols. One of the major concerns of the parties subject to the rigours of law is the absence of satisfaction while talking over camera, as it is far from the notion of a personal hearing and might potentially push into a state of paranoia, mainly because of the testing time one faces and also due to the difficulty in comprehending the onscreen discussion, which is multiplied owing to the often poor quality of video communication, slow speed internet

the witness making deposition.

Apart from what is discussed, we cannot ignore the abysmally poor infrastructure in terms of availability of adequate videoconferencing rooms, that is, at the disposal of the judiciary and correctional homes or jails to cater to a plethora of litigations conducted simultaneously every day, far from aiding the process of justice this might as well delay the processes.

Besides, the social media activism possesses a threat to fair trial over videoconferencing as there might be unauthorised recording of conversations and proceedings which may be circulated in social media and said definitely lead to an aggravated and ugly media trial, which shall be repugnant to the harmonious balancing of 'free press, fair trial and judicial integrity'. In this connection the guidelines framed by the Delhi High

Court are dependable and exhaustive in addressing many aspects elaborated above, like it has taken care of, application for appearance, evidence and submission by videoconferencing, exhaustive details of preparatory arrangement for video conferencing, service of summons, examination of witnesses, ensuring of seamless video conferencing, judicial remand, framing of charges, the examination of accused, etc., but it has denied the proceedings under Section 164 CrPc, to be made through videoconferencing.

Many technical issues relating to identification, internet speed, confidentiality and document presentation can be tied over by learning from the experience we have gained from education sector in terms of conducting online exams during the pandemic. The pattern of similar technologies can be adopted and designed to fulfil the necessities of the

judicial institutions. Videoconferencing is the appropriate step towards modernising the justice delivery system, precision optimality, efficiency and faster than before to meet the ends of justice, however not without addressing the concerns of the judges, under-trials and police.

The propriety and legality of recording of deposition through video conferencing by a trial court in Maharashtra has now been long upheld by the Supreme Court, way back in 2003. Besides, the Policy and Action Plan Document of the e-courts project has envisaged video conferencing and recording infrastructure for courts, correctional homes/jails. The Objectives Accomplishment Report, 2019 of the e-courts Project, has stated that, videoconferencing gadgets and utilities have been provided to 3,240 court complexes and 1,272 jails in India. This development speaks the mind of the policy

makers and the incumbent regime to include video conferencing as an integral part of the justice delivery mechanism.

It is true that, the pandemic situation has made us to think fast and vigorously about adoption of video conferencing inside the Indian courtrooms but the deliberation, discourse over the issue has been long running. If we analyse the virtues of video conferencing, what comes out is, it is an efficient alternative to the existing cumbersome judicial processes and a blessing to the judiciary which is already facing a heavy backlog of cases by avoiding unnecessary travel, speeding up processes, by saving fuel and expenditure in manpower used in transportation and security of under-trials and thereby protecting the exchequer.

(The writer is a lawyer and a public policy expert. He can be reached at sjyotiranjana@gmail.com)

## Covid-cured woman denied entry to village

PNS ■ KENDRAPADA

In another case, a woman, who has recovered from Covid-19 infection, was denied entry to her Cherantapada village under Rajkanika block in Kendrapada district on Thursday.

Sources said that the woman along with her two children was staying in a rented house at Cherantapada as her husband was working outside. In July last week, the woman was detected Covid-positive and shifted to the Chhatta Covid Hospital. On Thursday, she returned as she tested negative. But the villagers didn't allow her to enter the village.

Attempts made by Tehsil Bikan Parida and local police too proved futile. As a result, the woman went to her father's house at Kalikapur.

According to locals, about nine persons, including her father and mother, were detected Covid positive after they came in contact with the woman.

On Friday, Covid cases in the district rose 635 with 34 new cases. While 453 have recovered, 179 are now undergoing treatment.

Senior IAS officer Hemant Sharma visited the district to monitor the Covid-19 situation on Friday.

## In Badamba

## Girl hospitalised even after corona -ve report

DINESH DAS ■ ATHAGARH

Krushna Chandra Singh, an employee of Badamba UCO Bank, on July 10 had been declared corona-positive and shifted to the KIMS Covid Hospital, Bhubaneswar by the local administration. As per the guidelines, his wife and only 10-year-old daughter gave swab sample test on July 14 at the Mohan Subudhi High School centre, the report of which reached the local administration on July 16 and both of them declared positive.

Accordingly, Maniabandha CHC Covid management staffers picked up both mother and daughter

for the SUM Covid Hospital, Bhubaneswar from their home in the absence of Singh, who was at the KIMS earlier. However, Singh was discharged from the KIMS on July 21 while his wife and daughter were discharged on July 25.

After completion of another 14 days' home quarantine, Singh came out of his house. Suspecting the positive report of his daughter, he wanted to tally with the report of the SCB Hospital from which he found a great blunder of the administration that even the report of serial number 27 NCOV86124 dated 15.07.2020 was negative. The Maniabandha CHC,

which is in charge of Covid management of the block, was given positive report by the district administration, for which, health workers picked up the girl.

Singh and his wife now demand justice from the appropriate authorities for the wrong entry of their daughter in a Covid Hospital as she has a negative report. They also seek the administration's intervention in their matters that after being discharged from the Covid Hospital, they are not being accepted in the locality. The Bank Manager also doesn't allow Singh to the bank, the reason of which is best known to him.

## 2 die in road mishaps in JSpur

PNS ■ JAGATSINGHPUR

In two road mishaps at different locations in Jagatsinghpur district, two youths were killed on Wednesday.

One Sangram Ray from Banikunda village in the Kujang area was returning home by his bike when a heavy vehicle hit him from behind at Jagannathpur on the Cuttack-Paradip road. He was taken to the SCB Medical College Hospital, Cuttack, where he succumbed to his injuries.

In the other accident on the outskirts of Paradip, a 40-year-old man, Ajay Das, a resident of Pokharipada in the Erasama area, was mowed down by an oil tanker at Terminal Chhak. He was working as a watchman in Paradip and returning home by a bike.

## INBRIEF

### SANKET CELEBRATES 30TH FOUNDATION DAY

Bhubaneswar: Sanket Communications, one of the leading advertising and PR agencies of eastern India, celebrated its 30th foundation day on August 7. Employees and associates of all its branches, including Bhubaneswar, Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Dehradun, Rajahmundry and Vadodra, participated in the event. MD Subhashish Tripathy congratulated them for their dedication which has helped Sanket establish itself as a leading name in the communication industry. Director Prakash Sahu also congratulated Team Sanket.



### DHARAMSALA MLA REVIEWS GOVT WORKS

Jaipur: Dharamsala MLA Pranab Kumar Balabantary held discussion



with Jaipur Additional District Magistrate (Revenue) Akshay Kumar Mallick, Sub-Collector Narayan Chandra Dhal, Tehsildar Saroj Kumar Panda and other officials as to how to increase revenue. He also reviewed Government works at the Dharamsala tehsil office.

## Man dies falling into drain in Brahmapur

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

A 35-year-old man died when he fell into an under-construction drain under a flyover at Ankoli here on Thursday night.



The deceased was identified as Purnachandra Samantray of Tota Sahi in the Lanjipalli area here.

Samantray was returning home by his scooter at around 11 pm when he accidentally fell into the drain due to darkness. Iron rods inside the drain pierced through his body, killing him on the spot.

On Friday morning, locals spotted the body and informed his family and the local Brahmapur police station along with traffic cops reached the spot. The body was recovered after cutting of the iron

rods. Locals have expressed strong discontentment alleging callousness of the authorities concerned for not demarcating the construction site that led to the mishap.

"After completion of the flyover, construction work of the drain is underway since last couple of days. Thousands of people commute through the road daily but there is no streetlight in the area. Besides, the contractor has not built any guard wall at the construction site, for which the mishap occurred," rued a local.

## Gas agency owner looted of ₹1.32L

PNS ■ BALANGIR

In a broad daylight heist, five armed miscreants looted cash of Rs 1.32 lakh from the owner of a gas agency near the Turekela-Kantabani road in Balangir district on Thursday.

Though victim Khirodh Meher lodged a complaint with the Turekela police later in the day, no arrest was made till the last report was filed.

As per the complaint, when Meher was going to a bank by his motorcycle to deposit the cash in the afternoon, the looter came by two motorbikes and intercepted him. Brandishing guns and sharp weapons, they decamped with the cash. They also broke his mobile phone during the confrontation.

An investigation has already begun from different angles. The culprits would be nabbed soon, said police sources.

## 3 of family die as car hits stationary truck

### Identities yet to be ascertained

PNS ■ JAIPUR

As many as three members of a family were killed and two others suffered grievous injuries when a car by which they were travelling hit a stationary truck near Rathia village under the Dharmasala police station in Jaipur district on Friday.

Police said five members of a family were on their way to Medinipur district in West Bengal by a car from Bhubaneswar. But the vehicle rumbled into the rear of a truck parked on roadside near Rathia village.

"While three of them died on the spot, two others including a woman were critically injured following the mishap," said Dharmasala PS IIC Saroj Kumar Sahu.

The intensity of the collision was so loud that hearing



the sound of it locals rushed to the spot and informed police and Chandikhole Fire Services personnel about the incident.

Later, police and Fire Brigade personnel reached the spot and rescued the occupants from the mangled car and shifted them to the Dharmasala Community Health Centre where doctors declared three of them brought dead.

The seriously injured were referred them to the SCB Medical College Hospital in Cuttack after their condition deteriorated.

The identity of the deceased was yet to be ascertained.

Police have registered a case and seized both the vehicles in connection with the incident.

## Vedanta students schemes script success

PNS ■ JHARSUGUDA

Vedanta's education interventions in the region are executed in a two-pronged approach.

The first intervention offers financial assistance to meritorious students in the periphery through the Vedanta-DAV Academic Support Programme. The second provides remedial classes to high school students under the Vedanta Vidhyarthi Vikash Yojana. The company also runs Vedanta Computer Literacy Programme helping students learn 21st-century skills and bridge the digital divide.

In partnership with DAV Public School, Jharsuguda, the Academic Support Programme aims at giving children from peripheral villages access to quality education in a premier institution. Till date, the programme has benefited over 200 children, making them the first generation in their families to avail education in an English medium school. It started with two students, who successfully graduated matriculation in 2018-2019. This year, 22 children emerged meritorious, securing their place among the



UMANG DEB CHANDINI KAULDI

nation's best emerging talents.

The Vidhyarthi Vikash Yojana aims to improve quality of education in secondary school. Students are provided with supplementary and remedial tutorial assistance for greater proficiency in critical subjects like Math, Science and English through innovative teaching methods. Seven study centres are operational under the project running in Government high schools. Till date, over 4,600 students have enrolled in the project.

## 30 budding hockey players to train at HPC



PNS ■ Bhubaneswar

After a good start with the inaugural girls' programme of 30 trainee cadets capacity, the Naval Tata Hockey Academy, Odisha (NTHAO), the State's Hockey High Performance Centre (HPC) that was launched a year ago at the Kalinga Stadium here, is all set to induct 30 boys in the coming months.

This is expected to strengthen its programme across its elite pathway to bridge the gap between grassroots to an elite HPC and provide more oppor-

tunities to young and promising hockey players from the State and country who can then pursue their dream sport, excel at their game and bring laurels for the nation.

"The HPC has an ambitious programme to take Hockey skills from its existing 10 grassroots centres and three Regional Development Centres (Bhubaneswar, Panposh and Sundargarh) to elite level over the next 3-5 years. The boys' programme will have 30 resident cadets from U-17," said Sports Minister Tusharkanti Behera.

## 2 'Tsunami-Ready' Odisha villages on UNESCO list

PNS ■ Bhubaneswar

For the first time, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO has recognised two villages of Odisha as "Tsunami-Ready Communities".

With this recognition, India is the first country to implement "Tsunami-Ready" programme in the Indian Ocean Region; and Odisha is the first State.

The villages are Venkataipur in Ganjam district and Nollasahi in Jagatsinghpur, where the Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) has now implemented the 'Tsunami-Ready' programme.

The National Board, after the verification of implementation of the indicators at these villages as per guidelines,



decided to recognise them nationally and recommended to the IOC of UNESCO for the recognition.

To confer the UNESCO-IOC's Certificate of Recognition and Certificate of Appreciation to Venkataipur and Nollasahi communities, a virtual event was organised on Friday. State Disaster Management ACS Pradeep Jena along with Venkataipur and Nollasahi communities' officials attended the event.

It has been observed that when people at tsunami risk take adequate warnings in a timely manner, they can take lifesaving actions, reduce losses and speed up response.

Tsunami-Ready is a community performance-based programme initiated by the IOC of UNESCO to promote tsunami preparedness through active collaboration of public, community leaders and national and local emergency management agencies.

## WBW from Aug 1 to 7

## Breastfeeding assumes significance in Covid pandemic

MOSHARAF HOSSAIN / SOMYAKANT JOSHI

Globally, August 1-7 is celebrated as the World Breastfeeding Week (WBW). This is to renew our collective allegiance and spread awareness about the essence of breastfeeding. The campaign dates back to 1992 and since 2016, the WBW is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In 2018, a World Health Assembly resolution recognised WBW as an important breastfeeding promotion event. This year the campaign is themed "Support breastfeeding for healthier planet". But why the breastfeeding campaign is so essential for India?

food for infants as it provides essential nutrients, critically important for optimum growth of the children. The importance of breastfeeding is further amplified in the time of prevailing Covid-19 pandemic as children need a strong immunity to keep the virus at bay.

Incidence of diarrhoea and pneumonia—the two major causes of child mortality—is significantly mitigated when a child is fed with breastmilk according to the norms. The UNICEF and the WHO have recommended to feed mother's breast milk to infants within one hour of birth to ensure that the infant receives the colostrum, or "first milk", which is rich in protective constituents. Exclusive breastfeeding until six months of a child creates a positive multiplier effect on child and mother's health, human resources development, and growth of the economy.

A mother when breastfeeding her child gains health benefits of faster maternal recovery, natural birth spacing, lower risk of breast and ovarian cancer.

Latest National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-4 (2015-16) revealed only 41.6% of children received "First milk" i.e. mother's milk within one hour of birth which is up from 23.4% in NFHS-3 (2005-06) and merely 54.9% children got prescriptive exclusive breastfed till six months.

According to UNICEF, 22% of neonatal death (children die within one-month birth) can be prevented if we ensure "first milk" to all new-born babies. The neonatal death rate today stands at abysmal 23 per 1,000 live birth. Stunted growth (38%) and underweight (36%) of children are also evidently linked to non-practice of breastfeeding.

The Government with a

slew of public health measures has improved institutional birth rate to 78.9% (NFHS-4) but failed to ensure "first milk" to all children appropriately. The reasons are many—often deep-seated socio-cultural practices and apathy of the Government to respond to the health crisis.

To promote the practice of breastfeeding, a mother needs to be adequately counselled and skilled; this is more so for first-time pregnant ladies. Only 51.2% received prescribed four antenatal care visits by frontline health workers. The absence of proper capacity development of health workers poses a barrier to realising all the good effects of breastfeeding. High-burden States like Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Rajasthan, and Punjab cut a sorry figure on this front.

Owing to widespread misconception and superstition,

women in many parts of the country feed just-born babies honey, jaggery, etc which put a child's health at a greater risk. Extensive social awareness drives round the year in targeted areas must be strategised and rolled out by the Government apparatus in close association with civil society organizations (CBOs) which have good community connections.

Frontline health professionals under ICDS and NRHM programmes are often underpaid and not fittingly skilled for capacity development in many States. Resultantly, they are neither adequately motivated, nor scientifically trained to closely work with high-risk communities to promote breastfeeding. This area calls for intensive efforts to ameliorate the scenario.

Post-delivery visit by health workers is very essential for lactating mothers and caregivers at home to continue practice breastfeeding properly, but due to fragile health service delivery and monitoring system, the required number of visits by health workers is not often conducted and thus the essence of breastfeeding is further diluted. Block and district health administration need to galvanise action on measures to better this situation.

The Maternity (Amendment) Act 2017 has extended the earlier 12 weeks' leave to 26 weeks (6 months). But this law applies to the only formal sector that absorbs merely 4% of women workforce. Therefore, for 96% per cent of women workforce employed in the unorganised sector, this law doesn't bring many benefits.

Even informal sector, due to unfavourable work culture and lack of private space at the workplace for breastfeeding, working mothers fail to ensure breastfeeding optimally. A policy-level arrangement must be drawn up so that women from the informal sector can avail of these benefits.

Exclusive breastfeeding assumes much more significance during this pandemic. While the States celebrate this campaign fervently, they also need to step up all possible efforts and give the much-needed impetus to increase breastfeeding practices because when a child is healthy and secure, the future of the nation is on strong footing!

(The authors are development communication specialists; views are personal)

# Congress, BJP slug it out over 'you love China'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress and the BJP on Friday continued to spar publicly levelling 'you love China' allegations against each other.

The Congress on Friday maintained its pressure on Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the 'Chinese incursion' by directly attacking him besides the BJP for just crafting an image and spending millions of rupees to win elections. The party also questioned the influence China wields on Indian establishments and why the BJP took Beijing's help in the Lok Sabha elections by shoring up votes of Indian citizens with it.

The Congress said Modi's love for China is now visible to the world and this dates back to his tenure as the Gujarat Chief Minister in Gujarat. The party also quipped that foreign policy does not mean that the Prime Minister is constantly on aeroplane mode.

Why did you compromise the data security and privacy of crores of Indians by involving Chinese companies linked to the PLA, Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera said at the AICC press conference.

The party shared documents about BJP having partnered with those Chinese com-

panies who have now been banned by the Government for their links with the Chinese establishment.

"UC Web Mobile got banned in July this year. In 2019, according to the expenditure report submitted by the BJP to the Election Commission, they hired this very company to run their campaign. It is the same Alibaba-owned company - UC Web Browser - which was also red-flagged by the Modi gov't in 2017 for sending crucial data of Indians to China. What was the compulsion of involving the same company for elections which you had red-flagged two years ago," Khera questioned.

There is another company called Gamma Gaana Limited (incorporated in China). Po Seng Yung, one of the directors of this company is also the director in 10c India Pvt Ltd. Gamma Gaana Ltd is funded by Tencent. Last month, the government banned it saying it was a threat to national security.

According to the Congress, the third company called ShareIT Technology has been called ShareIT. It was banned by the Government last month for being a threat to the 'sovereignty and integrity' of India.

## Cong had MoU with China in 2008, BJP hits back, asks Sonia to explain



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With the Congress attacking the Prime Minister, BJP president J P Nadda on Friday took to the field again to direct his volleys at his Congress counterpart Sonia Gandhi and her predecessor Rahul Gandhi. Nadda sought an explanation from her about their party's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with China in 2008 saying even the Supreme Court has expressed surprise at the MoU.

The BJP's attacks on the Congress have heightened with Rahul's continued questioning of Chinese "incursions" on

the Line of Actual Control in East Ladakh.

Nadda in a tweet cited the observations of the Supreme Court on a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) and sought an explanation from Sonia and Rahul.

"Even the SC is surprised at the MoU signed by the Congress party with the Chinese Gov., Mrs Gandhi & her son, who led the signing, must explain. Does this explain donations to RGF and opening Indian market for the Chinese in 2008, which affected Indian businesses?" he tweeted.

Nadda's remark came after the Supreme Court refused to entertain a PIL seeking NIA probe into the alleged 2008 agreement between the Congress and the Communist Party of China.

The apex court asked the petitioner to file his plea before Congress charged.

Our Prime Minister crafted an image for himself - an image of a leader who before

the High Court, but expressed surprise how a political party could enter into an agreement with China.

BJP's national spokesman Sambit Patra who referred to his party president's tweet also asked Congress leaders to explain the nature of the MoU and the alleged dealings with China.

He alleged that even during the Doklam border standoff with China, Congress leaders' conduct was suspect. In line with Nadda's assertions, Patra said the Congress was not ready to clarify their dealings with Beijing.

He also wondered whether a national party could sign an MoU with a political party of a foreign nation.

The BJP spokesman said according to the MoU, both the parties were to exchange information on all regional and international issues.

2014, roared on issues of border security. Several companies were lined up, spending crores of rupees to create this image

## SC refuses to hear PIL for probe against Congress over China pact

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Friday refused to entertain a PIL seeking NIA probe into the alleged 2008 agreement between the Indian National Congress and the Communist Party of China.

A bench, headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde, asked senior lawyer Mahesh Jethmalani appearing for PIL petitioners Shashank Shekhar Jha and journalist Savio Rodrigues, to withdraw the plea and approach the high court.

"Every relief which you are seeking can be granted by the high court. Secondly, high court is a proper court. Thirdly, we will have the advantage of high court order also," said the bench, which also comprised Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian.

The top court, in the hearing conducted through video conferencing, allowed the petitioners to "withdraw the petition with liberty to approach the high court."



At the outset, Jethmalani alleged that it was an "agreement between a political party of this country with the only political party in that country (China)" and the issue pertained to national security.

"We find that there is something which appears to be, what might be called, unheard of and absurd in law. You are saying that China has entered into an agreement with a political party and not

the Government. How can a political party enter into an agreement with China," the bench observed.

On being stressed by the lawyer that this was the case, the bench said, "We will allow you to withdraw this and file a fresh petition. We will examine what you say in the petition and if we find any false statement, we may prosecute you."

PTI

## Modi: NEP has potential to transform entire nation



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Outlining that there has not been any allegation of bias against the New Education Policy (NEP) unveiled by his Government, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that it has the potential to not only change the education system but to also transform the entire nation. He said the NEP will be the foundation of the 'New India, one that focuses on "how to think" rather than "what to think" that was being stressed upon till now.

Addressing a conclave on "Transformational Reforms in Higher Education under National Education Policy", Modi also spoke on the contentious issue of mother tongue as the mode of teaching in the initial years. Justifying it, the PM said, "We need to make our students global citizens and yet be rooted in their culture. The learning power of students will

improve if the language they speak in and the language in which lessons are taught in school is the same. That is why we have recommended teaching in the mother tongue as far as possible - at least class 5. This will strengthen their foundations."

Lauding the NEP, he said the fact that there was no allegation from any region or segment that it had any kind of bias or inclination is an indicator that the "changes people wanted to see for years in the education system, they have got to see".

Asking all stakeholders to discuss the ways to implement the new policy, the PM said: "In recent years, there have not been major changes in education and thus the values of curiosity and imagination were not given the thrust. Instead, we moved towards a herd community. The mapping of interest, ability, and demand were allowed. We tried to do such on critical thinking and innovative thinking abilities in our youths. It will be possible if we have purpose, philosophy, and passion of education."

The PM said students should get a chance to follow their passion. "We are also try-

ing to ensure that the talent of India stays in India and works for the development of generations to come, said PM.

"With changing time, a new global system has risen. Thus, it was essential for India to change its education system accordingly. Creating a 5+3+3+4 curriculum, and replacing the 10+2 structure was a step in this direction."

"Often students find that what they have learned is not in line with their job. Thus, to give flexibility to students we have given multiple entries and exit points."

We have also freed education from the stream system. Students will have the flexibility to change their course if they do not like it. It is right for us. We are moving from thinking when a person is not glued to one profession for the entire lifetime and hence s/he needs to skill, re-skill and up-skill. These issues are part of NEP. The PM said about the main features of the NEP. He added that NEP shifts focus from what to think to how to think.

"Till now, we have focussed on what to think but NEP 2020 focuses on how to think," he pointed out.

## LoR launched to benefit street vendors

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a move to give access to street vendors who do not have Identity Card (ID) and Certificate of Vending (CoV), the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on Friday launched a Letter of Recommendation (LoR) module to provide benefit to street vendors under the PM SVANidhi scheme. Those who are not included in any survey list also get benefitted from the LoR module.

The module provides for an end-to-end digitally-enabled process wherein an eligible vendor can request for a Letter of Recommendation from the Urban Local Body and on receipt of the same he/she can apply for a loan under PM SVANidhi. Durga Shanker Mishra, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, launched the module.

According to the ministry, for applying for the LoR from ULB through the online module on PM SVANidhi portal, a vendor needs to possess any one of the documents: Proof of availing one-time assistance, provided by certain States/UTs, during the period of lockdown; or the membership details with the vendors' asso-

ciations; and any other documents to prove that he is a vendor. Further, a vendor can also request ULB through a simple application on white paper to conduct local enquiry to ascertain the genuineness of the claim as vendor. ULBs will have to dispose of the request for issue of LoR within a period of 15 days.

The vendors possessing LoR will be issued Certificate of Vending / ID Card within a period of 30 days. This provision will help in extending problems with concentration and memory - and a general decline in quality of life.

Since commencement of online submission of loan applications on PM SVANidhi portal, more than 4.45 lakh requests for loan under PM SVANidhi, Durga Shanker Mishra, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, launched the module.

This scheme targets to benefit over 50 lakh Street Vendors who had been vending in the period 24 March, 2020, in urban areas including those from surrounding peri-urban/ rural areas. Under the Scheme, the vendors can avail a working capital loan of up to Rs 10,000, which is repayable in monthly instalments in the tenure of one year.

## Do not let your guard down: Researchers warn Covid patients who have recovered

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Do not let your guard down, is what researchers have warned patients who have recovered from the coronavirus infection. For, they said, the road to recovery for infection-recovered patients may take months and need vital specialist rehabilitation to ensure quality life.

The researchers found that infection-free patients faced one or many health issues like fatigue, breathlessness, psychological distress - including problems with concentration and memory - and a general decline in quality of life.

The research team - involving multidisciplinary specialists from the University of Leeds, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust and Leeds Beckett University - had followed 100 Covid-recovered patients four-to-eight weeks after being discharged from hospital.

The findings, "Post-discharge symptoms and rehabilitation needs in survivors of COVID-19 infection: a cross-sectional evaluation," have been published in the Journal of Medical Virology.

It holds importance also for India where the



Government has been maintaining that the recovery rate is on the high side after focussing on life after Covid-19 that is not the same for infection-free patients.

The researchers identified a pattern of longer-term symptoms likely to be experienced by people who were hospitalised with the Covid-19 infection.

Some patients, particularly those who had been in intensive care, had symptoms associated with cases of PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder). PTSD symptoms are a well-recognised component of post-intensive care unit syndrome caused by a variety of factors including fear of dying, invasive treatment, pain, delirium, inability to communicate, weakness,

immobility, and sensory problems and sleep deprivation.

Dr Manoj Sivan, Associate Clinical Professor at the University of Leeds and a Consultant in Rehabilitation Medicine at Leeds General Infirmary, who supervised the research project, said: "The emerging evidence is that for some, the road to recovery may take months and it is vital that specialist rehabilitation is on hand to support them. This research gives an important insight into patient needs, and what we can help shape services in the community."

More than two-thirds (68.8 percent) of patients in the intensive care group and just under half (45.6 percent) of the other group said their overall quality of life had deteriorated.

## India opens to and fro travel with 4 countries

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India on Friday opened international travel to and from the USA, the UK, Germany and France.

The Union Home Ministry said that Indians can also go to these countries and foreigners including OCI holders with valid visa can now travel to these nations and come to India. India's Civil Aviation Ministry has entered into an "air bubble agreement" with the USA, the UK, Germany and France. The Ministry said that soon more countries will be in this bilateral agreement of air travel known as 'air bubble agreement' in the wake of Covid-19 situation.

In the order, Union Home Ministry said that allowing travel will be subject to health checks and only applicable to those who are not having Covid-19 and other norms stipulated by the Civil Aviation Ministry. The MHA also said that the travellers must have valid visa. "Ministry of Home Affairs has permitted OCI cardholders to enter India who belong to countries with which "air bubble" arrangements have



been finalised by the Ministry of Civil Aviation. Other foreigners from these countries have also been allowed to avail Indian visa facility for business, medical & employment purposes. Indian citizens have also been allowed. We need to such countries on any type of visa," said MHA in a statement.

The Civil Aviation Ministry, for its part, said that Delhi Airport has developed new features in their portal for international travellers for "contact-less declarations". The Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) announced that it has developed a first-of-its-kind portal where India-bound international arriving flyers can fill the mandatory self-declaration form and also apply online for exemption from mandatory institution quarantine process.

## EC settles matter over Baldev Singh appointment as SEC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Disposing of a complaint of Maharashtra Congress leader Sachin Sawant questioning procedures for appointment of State Chief Electoral Officer Baldev Singh in 2019, the Election Commission on Friday said no action is needed in the matter as the appointment was done after consultation with the State Government. "Singh had been rated outstanding in his performance appraisal records during the five years of his service prior to his appointment," the EC said.

"The Commission having duly considered the matter, does not find any reason for taking any action in the matter. The CEO's appointment is done in consultation with the concerned state government/union territory wherein a panel of officers is furnished to the poll body," the EC said in a letter addressed to Sawant.

The EC further said that Baldev Singh, a 1989 batch IAS officer of Maharashtra cadre was appointed by the



Commission following due procedure wherein the State Government had clarified that he was clear from the vigilance angle and as per records, he had been rated outstanding in his performance appraisal records during the five years of his service prior to his appointment as CEO, Maharashtra.

Sawant alleged that Singh was facing an inquiry initiated by CVC and the ministry of industry and commerce in an alleged irregularity in SEEPZ SEZ. Sawant questioned why the credentials of the CEO were not cross-checked while appointing him to the post and whether the Election Commission of India was working under pressure of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

## J&K Bank loan fraud case: ED raids 17 locations

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday conducted searches at 17 locations in Delhi, Ludhiana, Jammu and Srinagar in connection with the J&K Bank loan fraud case involving Hilal Ahmed Rather in a money laundering case worth Rs 177.68 crore. Hilal is son of former Minister Abdul Rahim Rather, who served as Finance, Agriculture, Rural Development, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister under the National Conference-led government in the erstwhile State.

The investigation under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act was initiated on the basis of an FIR registered by the Anti-Corruption Bureau, Jammu.

Investigation conducted by ED revealed that a loan of Rs 177.68 crores was sanctioned by the J&K Bank, without verifying documents and in violation of guidelines of RBI, to Paradise Avenue for construction of a residential housing project in Jammu. The agency said in a statement.

A substantial part of the loan was siphoned off by Hilal Rather by transferring the



funds from the loan account of Paradise Avenue to various entities and rerouting the funds back to the firms controlled by Rather from where it was further withdrawn and transferred for purchase of movable/immovable assets in India, Dubai and USA, the ED said.

The residences of Abdul Rahim Rather in Srinagar and Hilal Rather in Jammu were among the premises searched by the ED. Several incriminating documents and digital evidence have been seized during the search operations, the agency added.

## Purchase of 75 Pilatus basic trainer aircraft for IAF: ED raids multiple locations

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday conducted searches at multiple locations in various cities in connection with a money laundering case relating to alleged corruption in the purchase of 75 Pilatus basic trainer aircraft for the Indian Air Force (IAF) in 2009.

The searches were conducted at 14 premises including a dozen in the national capital and one each in Gurgaon and Surat, officials said.

The ED had initiated a money laundering case to probe the deal and is carrying out the search operation to gather evidence under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), they said.

The case involves absconding arms dealer and alleged middleman Sanjay Bhandari, who is already facing a money laundering case for probes for corruption and alleged possession of undeclared assets in the country and abroad.

Bhandari is suspected to be staying in the UK at present and the ED is in the process of initiating extradition proceedings against him.

The PMLA case was lodged by the ED after taking cognizance of the CBI FIR to probe the money laundering angle in the case and alleged creation and generation of illegal assets by the accused.

The CBI had named Bhandari as an accused in the case along with unidentified officials of the Indian Air Force, the Defence Ministry and Switzerland-based Pilatus Aircraft Limited in the case. The Swiss company was one of the bidders for the contract floated in 2009.

The CBI had alleged that Pilatus had entered into a criminal conspiracy with Bhandari and Bimal Sareen, both directors of Offset India Solutions Pvt Ltd, and dishonestly and fraudulently signed a Service Provider Agreement with Bhandari in June 2010 in violation of the Defence Procurement Procedure, 2008.

The deal was allegedly done to get the contract for supply of 75 basic Trainer Aircraft to the IAF.

The agency had alleged that the company made a payment of CHF 1,000,000 in the account of Offset India Solution Private Limited with the Standard Chartered Bank, New Delhi in two tranches in August and October, 2010.



**WESTERN RAILWAY**  
**PROCUREMENT OF HYDRAULIC  
AND PNEUMATIC HOSES**  
Chief Engineer (T-EC), Western  
Railway, Mumbai-400 020. Invites e-Tender as  
per the details given below: e-Tender  
No.: W64/12/22/02. Name of the  
Work: Procurement of Hydraulic  
and Pneumatic Hoses and hose  
assemblies. E-Procurement  
Supersal/ Aeroquip/ Sni  
Approximate Cost: Rs.  
29,26,667.26. ESR: Rs. 58,54,00.  
Tender Closing Date: 08.09.2020 at  
11.00 hrs. Tender Opening Date: 08.09.2020 at 11.15 hrs. Regarding  
detailed notice containing cost of  
tender document (non refundable),  
EMD, eligibility criteria, similar nature  
of work, detailed tender conditions,  
specifications, etc. please refer to the  
Manual offers will not be considered.  
**Note:** The complete information along  
with tender document of above e-  
Procurement Tender is available in  
website on [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in) upto  
11.00 hrs on the due date of tender  
opening.

DP/292/NW/2020  
Sd/- SHO  
P.S. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi  
Tel : 011-27654675

## Big win for Mahinda

With the pro-China Rajapaksa clan in full control, India has to work on strategic engagement and economic alliances



The Sri Lankans have chosen stability over liberalism, performance over democracy in returning the Rajapaksa clan to power with a massive mandate in the nation's parliamentary elections. President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's ruling party, the Sri Lanka People's Party (SLPP), won 145 of the 150 seats, that would now allow him to amend the Constitution, expand his executive powers and ensure that his elder brother, Mahinda, continues as Prime Minister. In short, the dynastic hold on Sri Lanka's politics is now absolute. And the brothers could overturn any reformatory attempts that have been made by previous Governments to consolidate their

position. Sri Lankans, much like other nations around the world, including India, have voted for nationalist pride and muscular leadership in tough times. The Government's smart COVID-19 management has scored big with the voter, the island nation reporting just 11 deaths and managing the elections without any cluster outbreaks during the polling process. The Rajapaksa brothers are seen as strongmen and deliverers and seem to have consolidated their hold among the Sinhalese Buddhist majority in the aftermath of the Easter bombings, which showed how scattered IS modules were choosing virgin targets. And no matter how militarist Gotabaya may seem, the Sinhalese trust him to tackle terrorism as he cleaned up the Tamil movement ruthlessly, an operation that had earned him the moniker of the "terminator." For India, though, the return of Mahinda Rajapaksa is worrying as he has a harder approach to Tamils and has welcomed Chinese strategic interests and investment at our expense. In the past, he accused New Delhi of intervening in the internal affairs of Sri Lanka, propping up his own protégé Maithripala Sirisena against him and ensuring he lost the elections. Sirisena's SLFP and ally UNP, whose leader Ranil Wickremesinghe became Prime Minister, formed a coalition Government which was pro-India. The Indian establishment was also too overt rather than being covert about its interventions. So a hurt Mahinda never settled down, his party scoring on local elections till he forced a coup, subduing Sirisena, getting him to sack Wickremesinghe and becoming Prime Minister for 51 days. Gotabaya took charge of Defence and Security, kept the Tamil-majority areas under strict military vigil and put Indian diplomats under surveillance. It is this distrust that needs to be healed now for geo-strategic reasons if we don't want China to run ahead.

Little wonder then that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was one of the first dignitaries to wish Mahinda, with whom he has been in touch over regional COVID-19 management. India's diplomacy in the neighbourhood has to factor in the pragmatism by lesser neighbours, who have successfully played on its anxieties with China and are negotiating the best of both worlds given the competitive muscle-flexing by two Asian majors. Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka are all happily walking the trajectory of "trade ties" with China and "historical linkage" with India to buttonhole both nations into giving concessions. Mahinda, too, seized the moment by calling India a "friend" with whom he had a "long-standing cooperation." The Modi Government is pushing proactive participation over historical assumptions in its Lanka policy. Yet, the Chinese are way ahead in Lanka. They have a 99-year lease on the Hambantota port after Sri Lanka's failure to repay loans and are using it to enhance their military arc in the Indian Ocean region for the way to east Africa. The Chinese have even created an island off Colombo, a new financial hotspot and a key conduit to East Africa, besides controlling the island nation's infrastructure sector, hospitality and supply chains. And while we may have halted Huawei's 5G technology, Sri Lanka has no security fears about the new-generation mobile telephony technology. India has, therefore, to do a very tightrope act with Sri Lanka if it wants to protect its strategic interests amid a Chinese swamp. That, too, without compromising too much on Tamil interests. We need to work on investment and project partnerships, encourage soft diplomacy via people-to-people contacts and strengthen an institution like BIMSTEC to ensure continuous communication. And we must take care to not appear exploitative or patronising.

## COVID spiral

As the virus spreads, India must ramp up its testing capacity, focus on the hinterland and come up with a standard protocol



The dreaded community spread has India well and truly in its grip because, from the time the pandemic began in the country, we had recorded 1.5 million cases till July 28 but have added a whopping 5,00,000 infections in just nine days. This is an average of 50,000 fresh cases recorded each day. India has breached the 20-lakh barrier and fatalities have touched the 41,000 mark. The country that has been fighting to rapidly ramp up its poor healthcare infrastructure is now snapping at the heels of Brazil, which has more than 2.8 million cases, and the US, which is leading the list of worst-hit countries with five million cases. And if the

experts are to be believed, the community spread has only just begun and the next million cases may take just a little over two weeks if infections continue to spread at the same rate at which they are now. Expert opinion has it that the country needs to shift its focus on the war against the pandemic to rural India, which has multiple challenges of a high population density, patchy administration and a tottering healthcare infrastructure.

Another area where the country needs to improve its performance is testing that has been dismally slow. Till August 5, the country had just tested 16,617 people per million, which is a paltry 1.66 per cent of the population. Compare this to other nations like the US, which has tested 18.8 per cent of its population, Russia 20 per cent, South Africa five per cent and the UK 25 per cent. The Government's excuses of overpopulation and being a poor country hold no water as even a country like Brazil, which has a much lesser GDP than ours, has tested 6.3 per cent of its population. Moreover, a small country like Iran has tested three per cent. If we are to beat the pandemic, we have to ramp up our testing and take it up to five per cent at least, which is around 32 million more people. Testing also helps us map the trajectory of the disease and prepare containment strategies or it would look like we are just flying blind as some Western experts are suggesting. Right now, while the urban centres are bending the curve, unexpected hotspots are emerging, which need to be contained lest they set off a ripple effect that can lead to a "viral" blast. Also, what is needed is a national protocol for a standardised response, better guidance and a balanced allocation of resources. The silver lining in the dark cloud is that the recovery rate in the country is continuously rising and the fatality rate has remained much below the global average. If the figures being bandied about by the Health Ministry are anything to go by, the recovery rate has risen from 51.08 per cent on June 15 to a record high of 67.98 per cent on August 7, while the fatality rate has gone down to 2.05 per cent. These two in tandem have enabled a higher and rising difference of more than 7.7 lakh between the number of recovered patients and active cases in the country, claims the Ministry. Of course, there is still a problem of unaccounted deaths and cases that may completely change the picture. Plus, we have come a long way from the time we faced a shortage of simple things like hand sanitiser to the more complex PPEs and ventilators. Now, after four months, we are actually exporting these to other nations. The two indigenous vaccines are showing promise and developers are preparing to begin simultaneous phase 2 trials that study immune response and additional safety in a large population. In some more good news, pharma major Lupin has launched its Favipiravir drug at a very reasonable price. So, while we may not yet be winning the COVID war, all is still not lost. India can live to fight another day. But we must stick to a mapping and tracking plan and not get complacent. More importantly, not let up. Given our population, we will have recurring waves.

Following the pandemic, there has been a resurgence of hatred against stray dogs who are left to fend for themselves. Not many understand how their lives have turned upside down



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected human behaviour throughout the world, causing new, either by choice or compulsion, created by lockdowns. Moods marked by irritation and anger intensify old animosities and create new ones. An example is the resurgence of hatred towards stray dogs, who have been an integral part of India's urban local point of view, ever since the time of the *Ramayana* and the *Mahabharata*, if not earlier.

Directly or indirectly, animals and creatures that live in water or the sky feature prominently in the philosophy of the *Upanishads* and the narratives of the *Vedas*, *Brahma Sutra*, the *Puranas* and the epics, *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata*. Examples are many, but two well-known ones merit a mention. In *Mahabharata's Mahaprasthanika Parva* (The Chapter of the Great Departure), a small brown dog began to follow the five Pandavas and Draupadi as they began their final journey out of this world. One by one, Draupadi and four Pandavas fell dead as they climbed Mount Meru. Yudhishthira, the eldest Pandava, and the dog marched on. The king of the gods, appeared in his flying chariot and said that he had come to take Yudhishthira to heaven in his mortal body. Assured that Draupadi and his four brothers were already there and well, he asked whether the dog could come with him. On being told that heaven had no place for a dog, he refused to go without the latter. It was then that the dog appeared in his true self as Dharma, the God of Virtue, and said this was Yudhishthira's final test. He would not have been able to enter heaven alive if he had agreed to abandon the dog.

This account is widely known and cited. Another incident is found in the Bengali translation of the *Saptakanda Ramayana* (The *Ramayana* in Seven Parts) by Krittibhava Ojha. It happened when Ram, after defeating Ravana and sending Sita to save Valmiki's hermitage, was holding court in Ayodhya with Lakshman guarding the entrance. A white dog with red eyes, lame in one leg and limping, with thick patches of congealed



blood on his head, indicating that it has hit with a stick, came and touched Lakshman's feet. Asked why he had come, he said he would relate the cause of his sorrow to Ram if the latter granted him an audience.

Told of the dog's request by Lakshman, Ram asked for the dog to be brought before him forthwith. Arriving in Ram's presence, he began to sing the former's praise with folded hands and head bowed. Asked about the reason for his coming, he said, "A *sanyasi* (a mendicant ascetic who has renounced the world) has hit me for no fault of mine. Distressed and hurt after being hit, I have come to your court after starving for three days. The court should please ask the *sanyasi* what was my fault that he should have hit me with a stick?" Ram said that the *sanyasi* should be brought immediately before him so that the court could judge. How could a *sanyasi* be cruel to an animal? (All quotations are from *Saptakanda Ramayana* translated from Bengali to English by this author).

The dog, who accompanied Ram's messenger, identified the *sanyasi* as he was brought before Ram, who asked, "Why have you abandoned your *dharma* and are cruel to animals? One who perpetrates *adharma* has to live in hell. What kind of renunciation is yours when your body is so full of anger? Castigation of others and malevolence towards others are grave sins. A terrible hell is the punishment for a cruel and malevolent *sanyasi*. A sage who has

given up greed, illusion and desire, is respected in this world. And, though a *sanyasi*, you suddenly burst into anger! What was the fault of the dog that you hit him with a stick?"

The ascetic replied, "I went to the town for alms after reciting prayers on the banks of the Ganga during the whole day. Begging for alms, the whole body burning with hunger, I found the dog lying in front occupying the whole road. I loudly asked him to give way but he pretended not to hear. He was asleep with one eye closed and looked at me with the other. I became angry and hit him on the head with a stick. Now that I have said all this before the court, you decide what punishment to give me."

On being asked by Ram about the punishment, the courtiers said that the *sanyasi* should be buried from bathing in the Ganges. At this, the dog said that he should not be punished but made the ruler of the kingdom of Kalinjar. The courtiers laughed as Ram made the *sanyasi* the king of Kalinjar. Climbing onto the back of an elephant, his splendour enhanced by the royal sceptre, the *sanyasi* began travelling happily towards Kalinjar as people laughed at his attire — a loin cloth — with the royal umbrella over his head.

Asked by the courtiers as to why was the kingdom given to the *sanyasi* when the idea was to punish him, Ram directed them to the dog, who said, "Under a curse by Lord Shiva, death does not alter the king's destiny to be

reborn as a dog...I was the king in the previous birth and now I have been reborn as a dog and suffered much. But having seen you, I will now escape from my torment." While everybody said that the *sanyasi's* worldly possessions have now increased, the dog said, "Have no doubt, whoever becomes the king of Kalinjar becomes a dog in his next birth." He then did *namaskar* to Ram and walked slowly to Varanasi where he fasted to death and attained heaven because he had seen Ram.

Ram's statement that a "terrible hell is the punishment for a cruel and malevolent *sanyasi*" has an echo in a passage in Skanda V, chapter 26 of *Srimad Bhagavata: The Holy Book of God*. It reads, "God has given different forms of livelihood to creatures. Some of these may go against the interests of man. But man should not retaliate against these creatures for two reasons. They are not endowed with the capacity to know that they are doing injury to man; and next, man knows that they will be injured if he retaliates. A person who injures lower creatures for selfish purposes goes to a purgatory called *Andhakupa* and there he will have to live in a low type of body, attacked by the creatures he had injured. In darkness, without sleep, and restless, he will have to drag on a wretched existence." (Translated by Swami Tapasyananda).

The passage quoted from *The Srimad Bhagavata: The Holy Book of God* applies especially to those who inveigh ceaselessly

about the "menace" posed by stray dogs. They can neither see the role the latter play as sentinels, whose barking alerts people against the arrival of thieves, robbers and terrorists/insurgents. Precisely for this reason, terrorists in some areas of Jammu & Kashmir and Maoists in parts of central India have asked villagers to kill all dogs in their areas.

In the present situation, how many of India's stray dog haters have tried to understand how the COVID-19 pandemic has turned the lives of these canines completely upside down? It has been said often enough to become common place knowledge that the closure of hotels, *dhabas* and restaurants have deprived vast numbers of them of their food. It is not just the left-overs thrown into garbage bins that they miss. Many of them, who had been fed regularly by the staff and owners of these eating places, have now to fend for themselves — something to which they have grown unused.

Finally, how many haters of stray dogs have any idea of the love and loyalty that most dogs unconditionally lavish on people? Not surprisingly, Konrad Lorenz writes in *Man Meets Dog*, "The whole charm of the dog lies in the depth of friendship and the strength of spiritual ties with which he has tied himself to man." Author of the landmark book *On Aggression* and perhaps the best-known authority on animal behaviour, he should know.

(The writer is Consultant Editor, The Pioneer, and author)

## SOUNDBITE

I would have wanted more opportunities to play Test cricket. In those days, it was difficult to get a spot among star players like Sachin and Rahul who started opening.

Former cricketer  
—Yuvraj Singh

From what I can tell you is that the equation of the industry has not changed. It's an equal playing field. You've to have a huge amount of luck and then things will fall in place.

Actor  
—Chunky Panday

What China did is a terrible thing. Whether it was incompetence or on purpose, it was a terrible thing that they did... not only to the US, but to the world.

US President  
—Donald Trump

PM Modi congratulated 130 crore Indians during the *bhoos m puja* but India's population is over 138 crore. The omission of 8 crore people is wrong after CAA/NRC.

Congress leader  
—Shashi Tharoor

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Stand firm

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Now Pak in map war" (August 6). Close on the heels of Nepal's issuance of a map showing Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura under its territory, Pakistan has released a territorial map of its own, which includes the former princely State of Junagadh (Gujarat) and Kashmir. This prompted a quick response from India's Ministry of External Affairs, which termed it an "exercise in political absurdity."

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan claimed that the map represented the aspirations of the whole nation and all its political parties. It is likely that Pakistan has China's blessings in producing the map given similar border claims by Nepal recently. Pakistan has expressed its frustration through a series of steps that coincided with the first anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370. It had announced that August 5 would be observed as "day of exploitation" even as the Khan Government again failed to persuade the UN Security Council to come up

### Gold smuggling gets murkier

It is common knowledge that gold is smuggled into the country by land, sea and air. The Department of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) seized 4,000 kilograms of gold worth ₹1,300 crore that was illegally brought into Gujarat. In February, DRI officials found about 15 kg of gold valued at over ₹6 crore on the sea bed at Mandapam off the Tamil Nadu coast. There are unspoken such instances. More recently, an influential gang smuggled nearly 230 kg of gold into Kerala, tucked stealthily in the diplomatic parcel bags couriered from Dubai to the Consulate General of the UAE in Thiruvananthapuram. On July 5, Customs officials intercepted the passage of a diplomatic bag, stated to be the 21st in line, which led to the seizure of 30 kg gold. The probe was assigned to the NIA as suspicion of illegal money being used for nefarious activities gained strength. However, the Opposition chose to focus on the association of M Sivasankar (IAS), the Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister of Kerala, with the accused, Swapna Suresh, and underplayed the issue through the diplomatic channel. In fact, it chose to harm the Chief Minister. Even after days of interrogation by both the Customs officials and the NIA, it remains unclear if the officer was a victim of misjudgment or had even the remotest role in the murky affair.



ment or had even the remotest role in the murky affair.

And the role of the consulate in the gold smuggling, particularly the attaché, is still shrouded in mystery. An argument doing the rounds is that the attaché is not bound to reveal his travel itinerary to the Government, he being a diplomat. The question here is: Can a diplomat aid terrorism and still leave the country quietly under the cover of diplomatic immunity from prosecution? Politically, the Opposition efforts to besmirch Vijayan's reputation have not registered much success. Meanwhile, the sleuths are preparing to travel abroad for investigations.

Haridasan Rajan  
Kozhikode

### Tough questions

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "After Ayodhya" (August 6). The pomp and show displayed at a simple event such as the *bhoos*

*m puja* at Ayodhya was avoidable. The event has raised several questions. Was it correct for the PM to lay the foundation of the temple, one which remained embroiled in a long history of disputes? In a secular democracy, the PM is not expected to represent any particular religion or organisation. For a head of the state, religious affiliations should remain confined within the four walls of his home.

Sritama  
Via email

### Crisis within crisis

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Monumental apathy" (August 7). The massive explosion in Beirut, Lebanon could not have come at a worse time for Lebanon when the country has been battling one crisis after another. Nations across the world as well as international institutions must offer help to Lebanon so that it can overcome the catastrophe.

Prathna  
Via email

Send your feedback to: [letterstopioneer@gmail.com](mailto:letterstopioneer@gmail.com)



## FIRST COLUMN

### Transparency is long overdue

The Centre has rolled out a robust and much-desired architecture for the online audit of Panchayati Raj Institutions



DEVENDER SINGH ASWAL

**T**ransparency and accountability in the functioning of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) have been hanging fire for long. After much reflection, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) has launched an AuditOnline application for scrutinising the accounts of over 2.50 lakh gram panchayats (GPs). To begin with, the accounts of at least 20 per cent or 50,000 GPs would be audited online for 2019-20. This was long overdue as the GPs have been endowed with substantial powers, authority and responsibilities with the enactment of the 73rd Constitution Amendment Act. Following the recommendation of the 14th Finance Commission (FC), ₹2,00,292 crore was transferred to the PRIs during 2015-16 to 2019-20. The 14th FC, and many others before it, had underlined the need for auditing panchayat accounts as the wisdom, faithfulness and propriety of expenditure were a matter of nagging concern. Guidelines were issued by the Finance Minister in 2015 to the effect that the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) would examine the release and transfer of the grants-in-aid and expenditure in Panchayats and municipalities.

The 15th FC, while recommending allocation of ₹60,750 crore for 2020-21 to the three tiers of the PRIs, comprising the district panchayats, block panchayats and GPs, laid emphasis on ensuring timely availability of audited accounts online so as to strengthen their financial management. Hence, AuditOnline facilitates online and offline checking of accounts of the PRIs with a view to improving transparency and accountability in the utilisation of public money. The accounts of 20 per cent GPs would be audited on a pilot basis and scaled up to 100 per cent in the financial year 2021-22. Owing to the online digital payment mechanism, now integrated with eGramSwara, the GPs were able to make online payments out of the 14th FC grants. In fact, 1.52 lakh GPs were on the platform and 1.04 lakh GPs made online payments during 2019-20.

Notably, AuditOnline will ease up access to records which can be monitored at the district, State and Union level. It can enable uploading of photos of the work done and geo-tagging of projects to facilitate physical inspection and remote verification of the assets. This will help reduce costs, ensure quicker reviews and sound documentation and enhance environmental sustainability. The timely availability of records was a major issue in the offline system but in the online audit system, the auditors will be able to see all documents related to work approval and payments.

AuditOnline also facilitates online and offline scrutiny of accounts and maintains the past records of the auditee. Plus, the information would be available in public domain. Fully configurable, it is capable of depicting any type of workflow and mapping seamlessly the auditor/auditee engagement and interaction and audit observation tags. Further, its Dynamic Form Designer allows drawing of the forms for case record and fact sheet easily and generation and download of various graphical reports for analysis and monitoring, based on customisable report templates. Another and yet more significant advantage is the fact that the monitoring authorities would get notified instantaneously via e-mail/SMS/System-based alerts at various trigger points, enabling concurrent analysis, mid-course correction and better monitoring. A greater responsibility has been given to the State Accountant General (AG) under AuditOnline rules. The AG, representative of the CAG, shall identify the District Local Fund Auditor (DLFO) for each area. The entire audit process — starting with the identification of the DLFO, audit planning, recording of entry and exit meetings by the auditor, concurrence and approval of the meetings, communication of the draft audit to the auditee, generation of audit report, review of the response and action taken there on, by the auditee with clear timelines — are all unambiguously outlined. The audit report shall be provided to the GP by December 31 every year for consideration and corrective action.

Despite numerous accruable benefits, there are apparent hurdles and technical glitches. How will the online audit take off if the books of accounts are not complete, leaving aside the issue of high-speed internet and uninterrupted connectivity? It's only when the money is spent, brought on account and the accounts closed, a prerequisite for any audit, that the online audit can be undertaken. However, the Union Government has rolled out a robust and much-desired architecture for the audit of PRIs. In fact, 11 States (Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Telangana, Tripura, and Uttarakhand) have already provided their configuration details and others will follow suit. Extensive online training and hands-on sessions are being carried out with the States. With the successful operation of AuditOnline, hopefully, the image of PRIs will improve with the expanded reach of accountability, encompassing all the three tiers of India's multi-layered and now expanding digital democracy.

(The writer is former Additional Secretary Lok Sabha and an author)

MOBILE APPLICATIONS DEVELOPED AND OWNED BY COMPANIES IN CHINA CONTINUE TO THREATEN OUR NATIONAL SECURITY, FOREIGN POLICY AND ECONOMY.  
 —US PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP

## POINT COUNTERPOINT



CHINA URGES THE US TO CORRECT ITS WRONGDOINGS, STOP POLITICISING ECONOMIC ISSUES AND CRACKING DOWN ON RELATED FIRMS.  
 —CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON WANG WENBIN

# Embrace the circular economy

As nations move towards a post-pandemic fiscal recovery, they must adopt strategies for long-term sustainable development and create resilient economies



SHILPI KAPUR BAKSHI PRAHLAD TEWARI

**T**he pandemic and the response to it by various governments around the world have posed unprecedented challenges, the effect of which would be felt for decades to come. People and economies are suffering not only due to the huge loss of lives but also from the slowdown of economic activities during the lockdown. According to the Union Minister of Road Transport Nitin Gadkari, the contagion is expected to cause a loss of over ₹10 lakh crore to India's economy. The World Bank, too, estimates that 12 million people in India could be pushed into poverty. While initially, the most visible impact of the crisis was on the healthcare sector due to shortages of personal protective equipment (PPE), ventilators, critical medical supplies and healthcare professionals trained in the handling of a contagion, its impact is now being felt on the free movement of people, goods and services, too.

A circular economy is based on the principles of reducing our waste and pollution throughout the lifecycle stages, keeping products and materials in use for long and regenerating natural systems. Circular economy-based concepts, such as cascaded reuse of resources to design reusable masks to substitute single-use masks, supported by Government-formulated guidelines and awareness about the same, are steps in the right direction.

The global market for refurbished medical devices is also predicted to witness significant growth. Recently, fuel cell manufacturer Bloom Energy started to refurbish ventilators to meet the supply gap in hospitals in the US. Due to COVID-19, organisations preferred work from home (WFH) and educational institutes preferred to learn from home using virtual platforms for meetings and online classes, which led to an unprecedented surge in demand for refurbished laptops. This cascaded reuse of resources would also be critical in filling the void that has emerged in supporting online education to rural and urban poor students. Measures like these will create new market opportunities, increase the use of existing assets and reduce the pressure on the environment created by the demand for virgin raw materials.

Integrating circularity in various governments' recovery agenda and strategies thus assumes importance. In April, the City of Amsterdam launched its Circular 2020-2025 strategy, which outlines the actions it would take to cut down the use of new raw materials to half by 2030. The local government also considers this strategy to be the basis for scaling recovery from the effects of COVID-19. Similarly, the European Union (EU) and South Korea have both adopted 'Green Deals' as central pillars to their economic recoveries, both leveraging regenerative models and circular economy principles. The deployment of idle railway coaches by Indian Railways as isolation wards during the surge of Coronavirus infection is adapting the approach to use existing infrastructure to an extent possible. This provides an opportunity for other governments to integrate resilience, low carbon and sustainable growth thinking into their recoveries by avoiding short-term emission-intensive projects.

Rebuilding the moribund global supply chain systems by adopting a circular economy as a mode of production can help economies withstand supply disruptions like those experienced in the current pandemic. This was particularly visible in the case of stressed food production and distribution, which was experienced during the hastily-implemented lockdowns. By creating new and shorter supply chain connections between producers and con-

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THE TIME IS RIFE FOR US TO RETHINK OUR CONSUMPTION PATTERNS, TO BUILD IN RESILIENCE, CIRCULARITY AND AN EFFICIENT RURAL-URBAN CONNECTION TO REDUCE THE VULNERABILITY OF OUR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SYSTEMS AND MOVE TOWARDS AN ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT

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sumers, we can ensure a continuous supply of essential goods in vital sectors and help improve resilience through stock availability and competitiveness without giving up the commitment to achieving the UN-set Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In order to support the *Atmanirbhar Bharat* Abhiyan, newer ecosystems need to be envisaged that are based on local, shorter and more distributed supply chains via localised material sourcing. At the start of the pandemic in India, the availability of PPEs was critically low, owing to non-availability of local manufacturers, long gestation period to import their machines and the high cost. In line with the spirit of 'Vocal for Local' and with various Government initiatives, India is today the second-largest manufacturer of PPE body overalls within a short span of four months. There is also a need to engage in collaborative consumption to share resources by replacing traditional ownership of products with lending, borrowing and the availability of repair services to facilitate reuse. This would help reduce panic buying. For instance, the assurance of the Delhi Government to provide 'Pulse Oximeters' for monitoring oxygen levels of patients undergoing home isolation is a positive step in this direction. Acceptance of such 'pay for services' rather than 'owning facility options' would gain momentum if hygiene is ensured. Local waste sites can be turned into resource centres that undertake recovery and recycling of plastics.

Circular innovations can address manufacturing and supply chain shortages with the healthcare sector. Two examples are: circular knitted fabric (washable and reusable) can be used to produce non-medical protective face masks. The need for investment in technology for designing responsible packaging solutions that maintain food safety and quality standards and prevent contamination can enhance the sustainability of the home delivery ser-

vices that people are increasingly relying upon. Such solutions could also help continue efforts to reduce the usage of plastics and styrofoam. Several initiatives by various Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) companies and collaborations involving various stakeholders have been done across the globe to minimise single-use plastics.

In addition, enhancing material productivity also plays a significant role in addressing the diminishing cost competitiveness of industries (such as the Indian automobile sector in comparison to China, Singapore, Indonesia, and Bangladesh) due to high material cost. The circular economy emphasises reuse, and through this has the potential to generate not only environmental benefits but cost benefits, too, and create new revenue opportunities. For example, the focus on manufacturing durable goods would help them to generate income from rentals, repairs and refurbishment while reducing the environmental footprint.

In the COVID-19 crisis, digital solutions have promoted virtual workplaces, a mobile Government and a multitude of platforms to monitor and trace infections. Digitalisation has not only been limited to medical solutions or WFH set-ups but has been an instrument in supporting online education modes, too. Digital technology can play a role in creating city and village systems that are regenerative and restorative by offering dematerialisation opportunities, increasing our knowledge and understanding of data on the lifecycle of materials, people and external conditions, allowing for more informed decisions based on accurate data. This would help close the loop of material cycles and contribute to keeping products/materials in use for a longer period of time.

For example, digital technology can help aggregate local marketplaces dealing in secondary and alternative materials and formalise the informal sector waste-pick-

ers. Real-time tracking technologies provide information on where a product ends up and how it will be reused or recycled.

However, despite the many opportunities that circular thinking presents, ongoing efforts in this direction have been hit due to the pandemic. For example, in the waste management sector where significant work was done to manage plastic waste, many efforts have been halted during the lockdown, particularly in the private recycling space.

Recycling plants are mostly shut or are operating at limited capacity with a lot of the informal sector workers, who played the role of aggregators (such as the junk collectors) leaving urban centres for their native places. Procurement of recyclable waste has also become a challenge. Among plastics, virgin plastic may be the even cheaper than secondary raw material plastic due to falling prices of hydrocarbon fuels resulting from the current low demand. This will also affect the economic viability of many plastic recyclers. Efforts would be required to stimulate the demand for recycled materials and close the price gap between virgin and recycled plastics.

As countries step towards economic recovery after COVID-19, they should undertake circular economy strategies for long-term sustainable development and for creating resilient economies. The BRICS nations recently acknowledged the heightening of social vulnerabilities and job losses due to the pandemic and have emphasised on the need for improving the environment and promoting the circular economy in national plans as steps towards recovery. The time is ripe for us to rethink our consumption patterns, to build in resilience, circularity and an efficient rural-urban connection to reduce the vulnerability of our economic and social systems and move towards an *Atmanirbhar Bharat*.

(Bakshi is Senior Fellow and Tewari is Fellow and Area Convener, TERI)

# Maintain a healthy digital diet

During this period of social distancing, we should use technology to increase our independence and harness our inner potential



PRAKRITI PODDAR

**T**he Coronavirus pandemic has made social distancing the new normal and the majority of us are becoming increasingly dependent on digital technology. Pushed into an uncertain future, we are spending more time to digitally connect with people, work, shop, keep ourselves informed and even entertained.

While a digitally-mediated daily life can keep us safe from the risk of infection, too much exposure to it can harm our mental health. There has been a lot of awareness raised about the impact of exposing oneself to negative influences on social media and the news. The more information we receive

the more insufferable the pandemic becomes. We have seen people feel hopeless and helpless as a result of all the information they absorb and unfortunately, sink into deeper mental health issues.

Fake news and conspiracy theories can induce fear and lead us to either fight, freeze or fold up. If you are one of the fighters, the information on digital feeds will help you take action in serving others, hence, limiting your online time.

You may also minimise the understanding of the situation and label all those people, who err at the side of precaution, as hysterical and not abiding by the safety rules. Thus, putting yourself and others in danger. If you freeze, then you will lock yourself down and if you fold, you will need support to uplift your mental health.

At all costs, people must keep their digital activity healthy during the outbreak. Let us take a look at three evidence-based tips for a healthy digital diet during the outbreak.

**Take control:** It is natural to feel

powerless and scared in the face of a pandemic but people can use digital technology to regain control and give themselves a degree of autonomy over their life.

This is critical as having control promotes emotional well-being. So, people must think about ways in which they can use digital technology to help them do it. It can be something as simple as using the technology at their disposal to make plans, manage their schedule, organise activities with others and even do online shopping at websites where they get to exert greater choice.

The key is to use digital technology actively instead of letting themselves get passively guided by algorithms. People must think of digital technology as a tool that allows them to extend their autonomy and makes it possible for them to develop strategies to cope better. For instance, people can consider limiting passive screen time and balance passive viewing with more interactive screen time — playing educational games, making

YouTube videos, coding a website — where they are in control.

**Nurture relationships:** While social distancing is good for our physical health, isolation is not good for our mental health. So, we must use this opportunity to digitally connect with old friends, family members or acquaintances that we somehow lost touch with. We must also nurture our existing relationships by scheduling regular chats online and using digital devices to spread positive news, express gratitude to the people serving us and helping others.

For instance, people can order food and groceries online for friends, family members and neighbours who are not digitally-enabled. Helping others can give life more purpose and allay anxieties. Organise group chats and regular virtual meet-ups — seeing a familiar face, even on a phone screen, can be reassuring. People must use this time as an opportunity to rebuild affiliations with those who matter.

**Be smarter:** Our well-being is also influenced by our competence, ability

to rise above challenges, take smart decisions and experience a sense of accomplishment and success.

Hence, people must use this opportunity to take online courses, learn new skills and do things that engage them. People must consider using digital technology to look after their body and mind during this period of confinement. They may not be able to hit the gym but they can use digital reminders and prompts to move and exercise more — even if they are confined inside a restricted environment. People can consider downloading a nutrition app, exercise, mindfulness or relaxation app. They must think about how they can use digital technology to improve exercise, sleep and diet regimes.

People can use digital technology to be smarter about their information diet, too. Use fact-checking services to counter conspiracy theories, unfounded rumours, urban legends and misinformation. Reduce information intake to one or two trustworthy sources. Most importantly, get infor-

mation from reputable sources instead of regurgitating what they read on social media.

**The way towards digital well-being:** Our increased digital dependency can be of benefit to our well-being instead of a hazard. We need to use our screens positively and promote greater autonomy, relatedness and competence. To be balanced, people must schedule their downtime, off-screen time, exercise time and fun time. This will form the core of their emotional well-being and hold them in good stead.

People must remember not to reach for their phone as soon as they wake up. They must give themselves the time to get ready, eat and then get to their device. We should use technology to increase our independence, further our well-being and harness our inner potential. Doing so will not only help us get through the pandemic but will also ensure that we emerge stronger from it.

(The writer is Director of a Wellness company and heads a foundation)



## FOREIGN EYE



### YETI A BOON TO TOURISM

Taunting anthropologists and researchers, the elusive Yeti continues to confound science. Ecologist Daniel Taylor found a trail of footprints during a 1983 search of the Barun but eventually concluded that it was more likely to be a bear. Yetis still court controversy as we saw recently with the aborted Visit Nepal Year 2020 sculptures, but they also boost tourism. (Nepali Times editorial)

## LANKA PARLIAMENTARY POLLS

# Rajapaksa registers landslide victory

Gets two-thirds majority

**Colombo:** Mahinda Rajapaksa will be sworn in as Sri Lanka's Prime Minister for the fourth time on Sunday after his party registered a landslide victory in the general election, securing two-thirds majority in Parliament needed to amend the Constitution to further consolidate the powerful Rajapaksa family's grip on power.

The Sri Lanka People's Party (SLPP), led by prime minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, won in 145 constituencies, bagging a total of 150 seats with its allies, a two-thirds majority in the 225-member Parliament, according to the results announced by the election commission on Friday.

It won all but four of the 22 electoral districts on offer, polling 6.8 million votes (59.9 per cent).

The 74-year-old Prime Minister Mahinda thanked the Sri Lankan people for putting their faith in the SLPP and said that the country will not stand disappointed during its tenure.

"Heartfelt gratitude to all



Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa greets Buddhist monks following his election victory in the general election at his residence in Tangalle Sri Lanka on Friday

Sri Lankans for placing their trust in President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, myself and the Podajana Party and voting for the 'Saubhagya Dakkama' election manifesto in overwhelming numbers. We will ensure Sri Lanka will not stand disappointed during our tenure," he said.

Mahinda will be sworn in as the new prime minister for the fourth time on Sunday at a ceremony at the historic Buddhist temple of Kelaniya, a north Colombo suburb, according to an official statement.

He created a record in polling over 500,000 individual

preference votes, the highest ever recorded by a candidate in the history of elections.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was among the first world leaders to congratulate Mahinda on the outcome of the elections and said the two sides will work together to further advance all areas of bilateral

cooperation and to take their special ties to ever newer heights.

"Thank you PM @narendramodi for your congratulatory phone call. With the strong support of the people of #SriLanka, I look forward to working with you closely to further enhance the long-standing cooperation between our two countries. Sri Lanka & India are friends & relations," Mahinda tweeted.

The Rajapaksa family has dominated Sri Lankan politics for two decades. Mahinda was previously president, from 2005 to 2015. President Gotabaya Rajapaksa had won the November presidential election on the SLPP ticket.

In the parliamentary election, he was seeking 150 seats mandatory to execute constitutional changes, including to repeal the 19th Amendment to the Constitution which had curbed the presidential powers while strengthening the role of Parliament.

Activists, already alarmed by the diminishing space for dissent and criticism in the island nation, fear such a move could lead to authoritarianism. PTI

## POWER TUSSELE WITH OLI INTENSIFIES

# Nepal: Prachanda tells party workers to prepare for worst

**Kathmandu:** Nepal Communist Party's executive chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' has asked the party workers to prepare for the "worst" as the ongoing power tussle between him and Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli has intensified with no solution in sight.

Oli and Prachanda have held at least ten meetings in recent weeks to sort out the differences between them. But, as the Prime Minister did not accept the condition of a one-man-one-post, the talks failed. Oli has refused to give up his post as prime minister as well as chairman of the Nepal Communist Party (NCP).

A bitter internal feud has been brewing in the ruling NCP since the last few weeks after top party leaders, including Prachanda, demanded Oli's resignation, saying his anti-India remarks were "neither politically correct nor diplomatically appropriate." The opponents of Oli are also against his autocratic style of functioning.

"Our main concern is not about gaining power, what we want is to follow the proper procedure while running the NCP. We are not focusing on gaining any position, but our fight is against the wrong trend developing in the party," Prachanda told a select group of journalists during a special briefing on Wednesday.

He held the press conference along with three senior party leaders Madhav Nepal, Jhalanath Khanal and party spokesperson Narayan Kaji Shrestha, according to Nagarkir daily.

The dissident group accused Oli of trying to damage the image of other senior leaders of the party, the daily reported.

Prachanda and Nepal have claimed that the majority of the powerful Central Working Committee members have supported them while raising voice against Oli.

Prachanda also alleged that while the Standing Committee meeting was in progress, at the initiative of Prime Minister

Oli a new party was registered under the name of a lesser-known person at the Election Commission with the intention to split the ruling party.

If such a move (PM Oli) does not follow the proper procedure of the party then how can the unity of the party remain intact," he wondered.

Prachanda claimed that he and other senior leaders of the party were trying to save the party by creating a favourable situation.

"We are trying for the best outcome but the communists of this country should also be prepared for the worst thing that happens," Prachanda told media persons, indicating a possible split in the ruling party.

"I had agreed to make Oli Prime Minister for a full 5 years term and enjoy the executive chairman's position in the party for a better environment within the party," said Prachanda.

Oli has dragged the party towards anarchy by calling separate gatherings," Prachanda said. PTI

## TikTok threatens legal action in US over Trump order



**Washington:** Video-sharing app TikTok on Friday threatened to take legal action in US courts against Donald Trump's executive order banning anyone under US jurisdiction from doing business with the company's parent ByteDance.

"We will pursue all remedies available to us in order to ensure that the rule of law is not discarded and that our company and our users are treated fairly — if not by the Administration, then by the US courts," TikTok said in a statement. AFP

## Negligence or missile may have caused blast: Lebanon President

**Beirut:** Lebanese President Michel Aoun says there are two possibilities behind Tuesday's blast — either negligence or "external intervention" by a missile or a bomb.

Aoun said on Friday that he asked France for satellite images to see if there were warplanes or missiles in the air at the time of the blast.

The blast is believed to have been caused when a fire touched off 2,750 tons of ammonium nitrate that had been stored at the port since it was taken from an impounded ship in 2013. The cause of the initial fire is not known.

Aoun told journalists that he received information on July 20 about the stored material and "immediately ordered"

military and security officials to do what was necessary. He did not elaborate. He said several governments in charge since 2013 received warnings about the material.

He said the investigation is concentrating on 20 persons. He rejected an international investigation into the blast, saying that it will make us "lose the truth."

AP

## Leader denies Hezbollah role in Beirut blast

**Beirut:** Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah says the explosion at the Beirut port reveals nepotism and corruption that can't be ignored in Lebanon and that those responsible should be brought to justice.

Nasrallah denied in a speech on Friday that his group was responsible for Tuesday's blast or exercised any power at the port.

He said the investigation is concentrating on 20 persons. He rejected an international investigation into the blast, saying that it will make us "lose the truth."

He said the investigation is concentrating on 20 persons. He rejected an international investigation into the blast, saying that it will make us "lose the truth."

AP

## Belgian court rejects move to extradite ex-Catalan Minister

AP ■ BRUSSELS

A Belgian court on Friday rejected Spain's demand to have a former high-ranking politician from the region of Catalonia extradited, in yet another setback for the country's efforts to try several officials in exile over their alleged roles in an independence referendum that Madrid regarded as illegal.

The Brussels prosecutor's office said the court had decided not to enforce the European arrest warrant for former Catalan culture minister Lluís Puig on the grounds that "the Spanish authorities who issued the warrant are not competent to do so."

## Kabul opens traditional council on release of 400 Taliban

**Kabul:** A traditional council met on Friday in Afghanistan's capital to decide whether to release a final 400 Taliban prisoners after the last hurdle to negotiations between Kabul's political leadership and the Taliban under a peace deal with the US.

The negotiations are a critical step toward lasting peace in Afghanistan.

The talks will decide what a peaceful Afghanistan might look like, what constitutional changes will be made, how the rights of women and minorities will be protected and the fate of the tens of thousands of heavily armed men on both sides of the conflict. Besides Taliban fighters, warlords in Kabul

maintain thousands of armed militias loyal to them.

The Taliban in a statement on Friday rejected the Kabul proposal, saying it had no legal status. A statement by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo issued late Thursday made it clear that the 400 prisoners had to be released if peace talks with the Taliban were to move forward.

"We acknowledge that the release of these prisoners is unpopular," Pompeo said. "But this difficult action will lead to an important result long sought by Afghans and Afghans' friends: the reduction of violence and direct talks resulting in a peace agreement and an end to the war." AP

## China sentences 4th Canadian to death on drug charges

**Beijing:** China has sentenced a fourth Canadian citizen to death on drug charges in less than two years following a sharp downturn in ties over the arrest of an executive of Chinese tech giant Huawei.

Ye Jianhui was sentenced on Friday by the Foshan Municipal Intermediate Court in the southern province of Guangdong.

Ye had been found guilty of

manufacturing and transporting drugs, the court said in a brief statement. Another suspect in the case was also given the death penalty and four others sentenced to between seven years and life in prison. Death sentences are automatically referred to China's highest court for review. Ties between Canada and China have nosedived over Canada's

late 2018 arrest of Meng Wanzhou, a company executive and the daughter of Huawei's founder, at Vancouver's airport in at the request of the US, which wants her extradited to face fraud charges over the company's dealings with Iran. Her arrest enraged Beijing, which calls it a political move aimed at constraining China's power. AP

## Malaysia's Mahathir forms new party in fightback attempt

**Putrajaya (Malaysia):** Two-time former Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad announced on Friday that he is forming a new ethnic Malay party after two months at the helm of a coalition, which he was sacked from his previous party during a political struggle with his successor.

Mahathir, 95, quit as prime minister in protest in late February after fellow party member Muhyiddin Yassin withdrew their Bersatu party from the ruling coalition, triggering its collapse less than two years after a historic victory in 2018 national polls.

Muhyiddin was sworn in as

new prime minister in March with a new government supported by ex-Prime Minister Najib Razak's corruption-tainted party that was ousted in 2018.

Mahathir, who was sacked from Bersatu last month, said he and three other senior members, said Muhyiddin had hijacked the party and helped revive what he called a kleptocratic government.

He accused Muhyiddin of using money to buy support in Bersatu, causing it to stray from its goal of fighting graft. Mahathir said he believes many grassroots members are unhappy and still support him. AP

## 'Malaysia wants to send Zakir Naik to other place, but not many countries willing to accept him'

**Kuala Lumpur:** Malaysia was looking for a country except India to send Zakir Naik, but not many countries are willing to accept the controversial preacher, former prime minister Mahathir Mohamad has said.

Naik, a 54-year-old radical Islamic preacher, wanted by the Indian authorities for alleged money laundering and inciting extremism through hate speeches, left India in 2016 and subsequently moved to the largely Muslim Malaysia, where he was granted permanent residency when Mahathir

was the prime minister.

Claiming that the fugitive Islamic preacher "would not be safe from the Indian public," the 95-year-old politician, who is eyeing a comeback, said he would like to send Naik to some country "where we feel he will be safe."

"For the time being he (Naik) can stay here but we would like to send him to some other country where he would be safe. Unfortunately, not many countries are willing to accept him," Mahathir was quoted as saying by the WION news channel.

When asked whether he would extradite Naik if he became the Prime Minister of Malaysia again, Mahathir said, "Well, we would like to send him to some country where we feel he will be safe."

He once again refused to send Naik to India, saying "at this moment we feel that he would not be safe from the Indian public."

Naik has been banned from any public activities in the multi-ethnic country after his controversial remarks against Malaysian Hindus and Chinese last year. PTI

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9428	10347	9889	10430	9014	10373	9994	9991	9342	10302	9120	10425
10215	9264	10428	10427	4356	9987	9934	10402	9758	10223	9976	10422
9677	9905	9307	10096	9431	9021	9288	9887	9850	9539	9925	9430
10348	10401	10094	9249	10420	10391	9726	10394	9996	10386	10429	10310
9507	11022	9299	9643	9019	9651	9568	9747	9261	10000	10052	9788

**TYPE-3 2BHK 488.30 Sq.ft**

9039	9845	9600	4921	9955	10080	9633	9537	9147	10212	10125	9757	10305
9341	10194	10074	9631	9824	9725	9995	3592	9834	10309	10426	9900	2439
9870	9839	10168	9310	10167	10077	9660	9665	10311	10403	10308	9838	9598
10342	10083	9871	9682	9996	10351	9997	10145	4219	10164	9321	9350	10146
9594	9860	10330	9835	9028	9806	3077	10328	10286	10289	10149	10419	9751
10053	9911	4355	10389	9683	3585	9408	9005	9728	9442	9656	4439	9409
9444	10237	10005	9841	9043	9484	9263	9849	9494	4250	10331	9632	10382
10174	9804	4925	9595	10173	9489	10072	10366	9693	9732	10400	4607	10180
10436	2438	9859	10340	9684	9567	9731	10192	10051	9803	9209	10073	9485
9579	4924	4684	9842	4682	9589	10205	3076	10417	9088	9036	9357	10218
9564	10327	9550	9086	9813	9301	9571	10216	9661	9490	10160	9789	10062
9978	10181	9105	9756	4116	9584	10124	9441	9616	10370	9676	9214	9366
10079	9471	9447	9736	9213	9455	9596	11001	10138	9886	10203	9332	3696
2017	10083	9483	9423	10304	10211	10236	10172	9781	9909	9569	9069	4369
10317	9802	9800	10219	10122	9197	2552	10396	9397	10202	9491	10115	9689
10334	4115	9440	10071	9133	10275	10199	9100	9959	9487	10176	9345	9698
9582	10117	10229	9136	9320	10185	10078	9465	9586	9211	10375	10228	9426
10382	10116	10113	9072	9482	9780	10096	10091	3900	9799	9030	9691	9615
10423	10390	9637	10301	9787	10132	10189	4282	9892	10121	10050	10054	9844
10055	10333	10131	10158	10263	9339	9798	9134	9042	9082	9585	9622	9769
10301	10066	9958	10179	9829	9380	10434	10315	10084				

**TYPE-3 2BHK 488.30 Sq.ft**

9498	9973	10182	4663	9919	3470	9435	3547	10320	9660
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**Website:** <http://cbl.nic.in>  
**E-mail id:** [cic@cbl.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbl.gov.in)  
**Ph:** 011-24368638, 24368641  
**Fax No:** 011-24368639  
**DP/251/CD/2020**

**SHO**  
**P.S. Patel Nagar, Delhi**  
**Tel.No. 011-25872637, 8750870434**

**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED**

General Public is hereby informed that one person **Name: Hemchand, So: Sh. Lal Chand, R/o: H.No. T-452A, Street No. 21, Baljeet Nagar, Delhi** has been missing since **08.11.2019** at 11:00 am, from the area of P.S. Patel Nagar, Delhi. In this regard a case **DD No. 50A** dated **29.07.2020** has been registered at P.S. Patel Nagar, Delhi. The description of the missing person is as under:

**Age:** 37 years, **Height:** 5'6", **Complexion:** Shallow Face, **Build:** Strong, **Wearing:** Blue colour shirt and black colour pant. Since efforts have been made by local police to trace out the 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:

**Website:** <http://cbl.nic.in>  
**E-mail id:** [cic@cbl.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbl.gov.in)  
**Ph:** 011-24368638, 24368641  
**Fax No:** 011-24368639  
**DP/251/CD/2020**

**SHO**  
**P.S. Patel Nagar, Delhi**  
**Tel.No. 011-25872637, 8750870434**

**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED**

General public is hereby informed that one girl named **Suneha D/o Late Nandu R/o Jhuggi No. 320, J.J. Camp, Ayurvidya Hospital, Haiderpur, Delhi** has been missing since **20.07.2020** at 11:00 am, from the area of P.S. Shalimar Bagh, Delhi. In this regard, a case vide **FIR No. 0478/2020 U/s 363 IPC** dated **28.07.2020** has been registered at P.S. Shalimar Bagh, Delhi. The description of the missing/kidnapped girl is as under:

**Age:** 14 Years, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Height:** 5', **Face:** Round, **Built:** Normal, **Wearing:** Pink colour suit & salwar and black colour chappal in feet. Since efforts have been made by the local police to trace out her but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing girl then please inform P.S. Shalimar Bagh, Delhi at following Tel No. / e-mail: [cic@cbl.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbl.gov.in) and Website: <http://cbl.nic.in>

**Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641**  
**Fax No: 011-24368639**  
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**NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 47 read with Regulation 29 & Regulation 33 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Listing Obligations & Disclosures Requirements Regulations, 2015, that a Meeting of the Board of Directors of Superior Finlease Limited ("the Company") will be held on Thursday, August 13, 2020 at the Registered Office of the Company at 1:00 PM, inter-alia, to consider and approve Unaudited Financial Results (Standalone & Consolidated) of the Company for the First Quarter ended June 30, 2020. The notice is also available on the website of the Company at [www.superiorfinlease.com](http://www.superiorfinlease.com) and also on the website of BSE Limited at <http://www.bseindia.com> and Metropolitan Stock Exchange of India Limited at <http://www.mseil.co.in> where the shares of the Company are listed.

**For Superior Finlease Limited**  
Sd/-  
Disha Rani  
(Company Secretary)  
Date: August 06, 2020  
Place: New Delhi



# Sensex, Nifty end flat on negative global cues

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Domestic equity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty ended flat on Friday as negative cues from global markets and spiking COVID-19 cases in the country kept investors on the edge.

After touching a low of 37,787.58 during the day, the 30-share BSE Sensex clawed back loss to end up at 15,12 points or 0.04 per cent higher at 38,040.57.

Similarly, the NSE Nifty rose 13.90 points or 0.12 per cent to finish at 11,214.05. During the week, the Sensex advanced 433.68 points or 1.15 per cent, while the Nifty rose 140.60 points or 1.26 per cent.

Asian Paints was the top gainer in the Sensex pack on Friday, upping 14 per cent, followed by Bajaj Finance, IndusInd Bank, Bajaj Finserv and Maruti.

On the other hand, Titan, HCL Tech, Infosys, M&M and Sun Pharma were among the laggards, skidding up to 2.65 per cent.

Mahindra & Mahindra on Friday reported a 94 per cent decline in consolidated profit at Rs 54.64 crore for the June quarter, adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Global markets tumbled

after US President Donald Trump signed an order prohibiting American residents from transacting with Chinese apps WeChat and TikTok, ratcheting up US-China tensions.

China has vowed to retaliate against the executive order, which comes into force in 45 days.

According to traders, negative overseas cues and mounting COVID-19 cases in the country kept investors jittery.

Registering over 60,000 cases in 24 hours for the first time, India's COVID-19 tally galloped past 20 lakh on Friday while the number of recoveries surged to 13.78 lakh, according to Union Health Ministry data.

The number of cases around the world linked to the disease has crossed 19 crore.

"The unrelenting pace of virus infections and other uncertainties led to the benchmark indices ending flat today with volatile trades. Global cues were also mostly negative, with a sharp drop in the US market following US actions on popular Chinese apps, and anticipating retaliatory action from China."

"However on a weekly basis, Indian benchmark indices ended up by around 1 per cent, following gains in the

## Wall Street stalls; S&P 500 dips after 5-day winning streak

AP ■ NEW YORK

Wall Street is stalling on Friday, as a whirlwind of worries about rising US-China tensions and whether Congress can deliver more aid for the economy threaten to halt its big run.

The S&P 500 was edging 0.1% lower in early trading after a five-day winning streak had brought it back within 1.1% of its record for the first time since February. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 73 points, or 0.3%, at 27,317.45, as of 9:30 a.m. Eastern time, and the Nasdaq composite pulled 0.1% back from its record.

Markets around the world

got a small boost before trading began on US. Stock markets when a report showed that the US job market strengthened more last month than economists expected. But the bump for U.S. Treasury yields and European stocks proved short-lived.

It's a busy day for markets, with investors also focused on Capitol Hill, where Congress and White House officials have been negotiating on a hoped-for deal on more aid for the economy. A marathon meeting Thursday left both sides still far apart on key issues, and they both said the future of talks is uncertain.

Investors say it's crucial that Washington pump more

money into the economy, which has shown signs of improvements since the spring but is still hobbling amid worries about a resurgence in coronavirus cases.

Even though Friday's jobs report was healthier than the market expected, it also showed that hiring is already slowing, and the momentum of acceleration and remains far below where it was before the pandemic.

Trump is considering executive orders to address some of the issues if Congress does not pass legislation on evictions and unemployment insurance, but they appear unlikely to have much impact.

Stock exchanges in Europe were trading on a negative note in early days.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 0.86 per cent lower at USD 44.70 per barrel. On the currency front, the rupee ended almost flat at 74.93 against the US dollar.

## Increase in gold loan LTV will heighten credit risks for banks: Report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The increase in loan-to-value (LTV) ratio for gold loans, or the quantum of borrowing against a given quantity of the precious metal, will heighten credit risks for banks, a ratings agency said on Friday.

The RBI had on Thursday increased the LTV ratio for gold loans by banks to 90 per cent from the earlier 75 per cent, in a bid to make loans available to people affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

"An increase in the LTV ratio to 90 per cent increases the credit risk for banks as the collateral available in the form of gold ornaments or jewellery may not be sufficient to fully cover both principal and interest components on these loans," Brickworks Ratings said.

Its Director for Ratings, Vydhyanth Ramaswamy, said, in a "negative carry" for banks as the total exposure will exceed the value of the pledged gold.

"It could adversely impact the recoverability and asset quality of banks in the case of a weakening in the borrower

credit risk profile and/or sharp decline in gold prices, which have seen a strong rally over the last few months," he added.

However, given that the higher LTV is only till March 31 next year, the risk on the portfolio is for a limited period, the agency said in a note.

Also, gold loans are mostly short-term loans of anywhere between 3 to 24 months, it said.

The agency said given that the RBI's announcement on higher LTV gold loans is limited to the banking sector, banks are bound to garner a larger market share vis-a-vis their non-bank peers in loans against the pledge of gold in fiscal 2021.

At present, non-bank financiers and unorganised lenders like local pawn brokers with a wider network enjoy a large market share in loans against gold ornaments and jewellery.

They also charge high rates on these loans, which can range anywhere between 20 per cent to 50 per cent, whereas banks charge much lower interest rates, it said.

## Gold, silver prices continue to climb; touch record levels

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices surged for the 16th straight session on Friday and touched an all-time high of ₹576 compared to ₹570 in the national capital, according to HDFC Securities.

Silver too continued its upward movement, with the price touching a record-high of ₹77,840 per kilogram. Silver for the 16th consecutive day jumped by ₹576 compared to the closing level of ₹77,264 per kg on Thursday.

In the previous trade, gold had closed at ₹57,002 per 10 grams. On Friday, the price increased by ₹6 to ₹57,008 per 10 grams. Due to both the metals recorded all-time high prices, HDFC Securities said.

"Spot Gold prices for 24 carat in Delhi continued to scale new highs by gaining ₹6. Gold prices are trading higher for the 16th consecutive day. India's HDFC Securities Senior Analyst (Commodities) Tapan Patel said. In the international market, both gold and silver were trading marginally lower at USD 2,061 per ounce and USD 28.36 per ounce, respectively."

## Sebi revises eligibility, shareholding limit for clearing corp at IFSC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi on Friday amended international financial services centre (IFSC) guidelines pertaining to eligibility criteria and shareholding limit for clearing corporations that wish to operate in such centres.

The decision, aimed at streamlining the operations of IFSC, has been taken after consultation with stakeholders, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in a circular.

Under the norms, any Indian recognised stock exchange or clearing corporation, or any recognised stock exchange or clearing corporation of a foreign jurisdiction, will form a subsidiary to provide the services of clearing corporation in IFSC wherein at least 51 per cent stake is held by such exchange or clearing corporation, Sebi said.

Among others, public financial institutions of Indian jurisdiction, foreign commodity derivatives exchange and bilateral multilateral financial institutions approved by central government "may acquire or hold, either directly or indirectly, either individually or together with persons acting in concert, up to 15 per cent of the paid up equity capital of any clearing corporation with prior approval of the board."

To give effect to this, Sebi has amended IFSC guidelines. Last month, the regulator had revised eligibility criteria for clearing corporations in IFSC, subject to applicable laws.

Sebi further said any other stock exchange, depository, bank, insurance company of Indian or foreign jurisdiction have been allowed to acquire 15 per cent stake in such clearing corporation operating in an IFSC.

Sebi said that any other stock exchange, depository, bank, insurance company of Indian or foreign jurisdiction have been allowed to acquire 15 per cent stake in such clearing corporation operating in an IFSC.

## India's power transmission segment may attract ₹1.8 lakh cr investment by FY25: Report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The domestic power transmission segment is expected to attract investments worth ₹1.8 lakh crore in the next five years, according to a report by rating agency ICRA.

It said evacuation infrastructure for renewable energy (RE) projects will drive investments in the power transmission segment. The report also said that the evacuation infrastructure for RE projects, the rating agency said on Friday in the line with

a shift in policy focus from conventional sources (coal and gas) to renewable power sources (wind and solar), the focus of the transmission segment is towards augmenting infrastructure for evacuation of power generated by RE projects.

Sabyasachi Majumdar, group head and senior vice-president (corporate ratings) of ICRA, said that utilities are lined up 14 transmission projects under the tariff-based competitive bidding (RBCB) route for evacuating power from 25-gigawatt RE projects.

The Government has also lined up to maintain the pace of the intra-state segment, providing healthy pipeline for private sector players, he added. There is likely to be

a slowdown in electricity demand and investments in the sector in 2020-21 amid the Covid-19-induced disruption but recovery is expected from 2022 onwards, he said. ICRA said the private sector's share is expected to witness a healthy growth over the next four-five years, while Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (PGCIL) and other state transmission utilities are likely to remain major players in the power transmission segment.

On the issues in the segment, the agency said, "The key challenge for the winning bidder under the TBCB route has been in maintaining the pace of the intra-state segment, providing healthy pipeline for private sector players, he added. There is likely to be

## Govt aims to develop 10 Craft and Handloom Villages in India: Irani

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister Smriti Irani on Friday said the government is aiming to develop ten Craft and Handloom Villages in the country to promote tourism from across the globe can visit them and learn the rich legacy of Indian weavers and lend support to the Make in India initiative.

Irani shared the Textiles Ministry's vision while addressing a function through video conferencing to mark the National Handloom Day. Almost 95 per cent of the handwoven fabrics used globally are produced in India. The Minister said that the National Handloom Awards, which are presented on the occasion of the Handloom Day, are being deferred upon the request of weavers who wish to celebrate the honour instead of receiving it digitally due to the prevailing circumstances posed by COVID-19. "It is our goal to develop ten Craft and Handloom Villages across the country so that our Handloom products are not limited to clothes or home furnishing alone."

We want that tourists from India and across the world visit these special Craft and Handloom Villages to not only learn about the weavers but also contribute to our pledge of Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self Reliant nation)," said the minister for Textiles and Women and Child Development.

Irani shared that students from the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) are contributing to the upgradation of 9 out of 28 Weavers' Service Centres across the country in terms of design, marketing and research.

These centres are located in Delhi, Srinagar, Jaipur, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Varanasi, Guwahati, Kanchipuram and

Bhubaneswar.

She said it is the government's endeavour to ensure upgradation of all weavers' service centres through NIFT students to strengthen the rich legacy of handloom in India. Irani said the "My Handloom" portal launched on the occasion will help in connecting state government undertakings, agencies and cooperative societies with the Centre's schemes for weavers to know about their status and benefits.

Highlighting the importance of the country's handloom, Textiles Secretary Ravi Capoor said 95 per cent of the handwoven fabrics used globally are produced in India. Observing that weavers do not get remunerative prices for their products, he said plans are afoot to ensure they get high returns by eliminating middlemen and linking them directly to the market.

After deducting the marketing fee from the amount received towards the sale of a product, the remaining amount can be transferred to the weaver's bank account as a direct benefit transfer, Capoor suggested. Irani also launched a mobile app and backend website for Handloom Mark Scheme. The minister said the Handloom Mark is being promoted to provide collective identity to the authentic handloom products. Textiles Committee Mumbai has developed the mobile app with a backend web portal to completely digitise the process of registration. The app is in English and 10 Indian languages and will enable the weavers of the country to apply for Handloom Mark registration from the comfort of their homes.

It helps ascertain the genuineness and originality of the product through unique and dynamic QR code labels affixed on each handloom product.

## RAJ CM TAKES IMPORTANT DECISIONS

### Tax exemption for vehicles deprived of permits during lockdown

**Jaipur:** The State Government has decided to exempt the motor vehicle tax (motor vehicle tax payable) for the Omni Bus category of spared transport vehicles sold during the period of nationwide lockdown in the event of COVID-19 epidemic. The CM has taken this sensitive decision after approving the proposal received from Finance Dept and Transport Dept. According to the proposal, in the motor vehicle tax payable for the period of April 1 to June 30, 2020, for Omni Bus category vehicles of 8 and above seating capacity not listed in any permit category due to non-issuance of permits during lockdown in the state. Full exemption will be given. Also, 75 per cent exemption will be given to these vehicles on the tax payable for July 2020. It is known that in the context, such tax exemption was given on 24 June 2020 in the past for permit-free buses.

### CM approves 400 more in new veterinary sub-centres

**588 new posts will be created in subdivision offices**  
**Jaipur:** Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has approved the creation of a total of 400 new posts of 200 livestock assistants and 200 jaladhari in 200 new veterinary sub-centers to be opened in 2020-21. Each veterinary sub-center will get the post of a livestock assistant and a water holder.

Gehlot has also approved an additional budget provision of ₹20.72 crore by creating a total of 588 new posts for strengthening 294 subdivision veterinary sub-centers. Each subdivision office will get an information assistant and a junior assistant.

Approval to fill 83 vacant posts. The Chief Minister has approved to fill 83 vacant posts in Agriculture University, Jodhpur and its constituent colleges.

These include 65 academic, 15 non-academic and 3 deputation posts.

## Vodafone Idea bounces back; shares close 7 pc higher after initial loss

**New Delhi:** Shares of Vodafone Idea bounced back from early losses to close 7 per cent higher on Friday. On the BSE, the stock had plunged 7.39 per cent to ₹76.41 in early trade. Later, it erased the losses as the trade progressed. It finally closed at ₹83.8, a gain of 7.03 per cent.

On the NSE, it settled the day 6.66 per cent higher at ₹8.80. During the morning trade, it had cracked 7.87 per cent to ₹76.60. Value-buying at lower levels may have led to

PTI

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Tender No.488 Date: 07.08.2020

**TENDER NOTICE**  
Office of the Executive Engineer (Maint.), Chhro Power Station, Dakpatthar (Dehradun), invites sealed tenders for following works:  
Tender No. CH(Maint.): 11/2020-21 Cleaning of pits, clean water tank, and miscellaneous work.  
Tender No. CH(Maint.): 12/2020-21 Annual up-keeping and maint. of Chhro field hostel  
Estimated cost: (1) ₹2,45,590/- GST extra (2) ₹7,96,048/- GST extra  
Date of availability of bid on website: 08.08.2020, 11:00 hrs.  
Last date for submission of tender: 31.08.2020 upto 13:00 hrs.  
For further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "www.ujvn.com".  
(Executive Engineer, Maint., Chhro)  
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified deadbody of male Age : 40-45 years, Height: 5'2", Build: Thin, Complexion : Sallow, Face : Oval, was found on 03.08.2020 at Ahinsa Dairy, Infront of back diwar, Fatehpur, Delhi-06. In this regard a DD No. 23-A dated 03.08.2020 u/s 174 Cr.P.C. has been lodged at P.S. Lahori Gate, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved for identification for 72 hours in the mortuary of Subzi Mandi, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this found person may kindly inform to the following:-

**SHO : P.S. Lahori Gate, Delhi**  
Tel. No. 011-23953776

**SEARCH FOR MISSING**



General public is hereby informed that a lady namely **Kamlesh, W/o: Shree Chotu Ram, R/o: H. No. A-9 in front of Dispensary missing since 01.08.2020 from H. No. A-9 in front of Dispensary. In this regard DD No. 52A, dated 01.08.2020 has been registered at P.S. Mahendra Park, Delhi.** The description of missing lady is as under:

**Name:** Kamlesh, Age: 55 Years, Height: 5'3", Face: Round, Complexion: Wheatish, Build: Medium, Wearing: Blue suit, red salwar and slipper in feet.

If anyone have any information about this missing lady please inform P.S. Mahendra Park, Delhi.

Web: http://cbl.nic.in, Email: cbl@cbl.gov.in  
Ph: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639  
Police Station, Mahendra Park, Delhi  
Ph: 011-27632501, 27632501, 8750879227

**SHORT CIRCUITS**



**BHUMI PEDNEKAR**

What Mumbai saw in the last two days was devastating amount of rain. There were some places that were badly affected. The videos and articles are so scary and heart-breaking. This year has been a wake-up call. Development is important but there has to be a balance. Small changes make a huge difference.



**MAHESH BABU**

A kind request to my dear fans. I feel blessed and thankful to have all of you. I truly appreciate all the good deeds you do to make my special day worth remembering. Since we are battling a global pandemic this year, safety is indispensable. I request all my fans to avoid any social gatherings on my birthday. Please stay safe.



**SHALMALI KHOLGADE**

I keep away from controversy because I am rather focussed on making music, writing songs, finding various avenues to channelise my creativity. What else should I do? Pointing fingers on people will not do any good to music. I am not just here for making music in Bollywood. I look beyond that.



**RAJA KUMARI**

We shot *Peace's* video in the middle of quarantine. Although I'm used to having a big crew on set to handle everything from location scouting to glam and make-up, all I had in LA was me and Shawn Thomas (long-time director and collaborator) and the help of my manager and assistant. It definitely was a challenge.

**VAAANI KAPOOR**

Ayushmann is one of the most talented actors of our generation and I am only thrilled about our first film together to be this beautiful love story. I have always wanted to work with Abhishek Kapoor, being so inspired by his films. This feels like an amazing opportunity to be part of his vision.



**CONVERSATION 45 MINUTES**



# BEYOND THE DARK WHIMS

Pakistani filmmaker ASIM ABBASI talks to SAKSHI SHARMA about how his leading women have given a positive spin to the term 'churail' in his eponymous web series and the need to share stories about the under-represented

The term 'Churail' has been used to refer to witches or to a woman who practises dark magic. You might have heard women being called as *churail*, *dayan*, *bhootni*, spellcaster and other such names for their "wrong" actions. But how often have you heard them being used to question the patriarchal status quo and represent strong-willed women? Pakistani filmmaker Asim Abbasi, who is now foraying into the web series space with his series *Churails*, believes that the term rightly represents his lead protagonists as it has nothing to do with dark magic. Says he, "The term has historically been used to label women negatively for their courage, aggression, ambition — all the qualities that I associate with a strong woman, were deemed negative. She is the uncanny outsider who comes to shake up the patriarchy. And it is the fear that she elicits in the guardians of the status quo

(often men), that drives men to label them in a derogatory way. So our characters are taking this term, ripe with symbolic value, to give it a positive spin. Every woman, according to me, should aspire to be a *churail*." Set in Karachi, it is a story of four women from different walks of life who come together to open a covert detective agency to expose cheating husbands amongst the city's elite. These self-proclaimed women run their operations under the guise of a fashion store named 'Halal Designs' that specialise in conservative women's attire. As their operations expand, they come to be the saviours of abused, mistreated and harassed women, and their search for a missing girl brings them face to face with the exploitative world of talent agencies, escort services, and cosmetic companies. It features Pakistani actors Sarwat Gilani, Nimra



Bucha, Yasra Rizvi and Mehar Bano. Excerpts:

□ The series stars four women reeling from personal miseries who further

open a detective agency under the pretext of a burqa shop. How did you conceptualise it? The themes of gender politics, particularly power dynamics, between a man and



a woman, and the resultant misogyny are topics that I wanted to address in my writing for a while. But I did not want the starting point of the series to be heavy-handed. I wanted the darkness to slowly creep in. So my natural, perhaps humorous inclination, was to first make my characters colourful spies, who gradually turn vigilantes. I was interested in talking about the lack of autonomy that a woman has over her body. Often in patriarchal societies, women are dressed and undressed at the whims of the society, and are being told what is appropriate and what is not. Hence, the store specialises in modest-wear for women to showcase this irony.

□ The poster of the project has a caption: 'Hojayen tayaan, khwateen aur hazrat. Especially hazrat, Jald urahi hain kuch rangeen churailain, apki deep-rooted misogyny ki band bajanay.' Another scene showed a sign at a store: 'Pets and men not allowed.' How do such strong statements establish the idea of the series? The store titled 'Halal Designs' is a safe space that women have created for other women. The clients need to feel protected, hence, the idea of it not being open to men. The sign for the store is a replay of boards saying 'women and dogs not allowed' that actually existed in prestigious members clubs in the subcontinent before the Partition, under the British Raj.

□ Your narratives have usually centred around strong female characters. Are there any personal instances that have shaped your choices? I have grown up in a household of a lot of women and have been surrounded by them all my life. So I tend to gravitate towards their experiences. As a filmmaker, it is my duty to tell stories about those who are under-represented or the ones I believe are not represented fairly in the mainstream media. Female-centric stories Pakistani television has mostly regurgitated the same trope about a damsel in distress who needs rescuing by a prince. Those stories are not a representative of the women I know. And those are not the stories I believe our daughters should grow up with.

□ In one of your interviews you mentioned, "It's not message per se, I prefer to raise questions." What do you aim to achieve through your work? Well, apart from entertaining audience by providing a thrilling, edge-of-your-seat experience, I hope that the show stays with them long after the 10 hours of viewing experience is over. They should be able to reflect on the questions the series raises. I wish them, particularly men, to become

more open to working towards a more equitable society, where women are respected and treated fairly.

□ There has been a surge of grey roles in online content now. Filmmakers and actors don't like putting characters in a box. Do you think the same can be said about your four leads? Absolutely. I deliberately set out to tell a tale of four very flawed individuals. They are not always going to do the right thing. They are going to make mistakes and may not even apologise for them but these traits are all very human to have. All good content, which seeks to create empathetic characters that the audience can root for, should be moving away from the binaries of black and white.

□ You had earlier said, "It's very difficult to put *Churails* into a genre. It's discussing serious issues, but the show itself doesn't take itself too seriously." What did you mean? In terms of genres, I would say the series has elements of drama and thriller but I tend to find the whimsy in the darkest of moments, and I feel my work reflects that. The themes that the series addresses are posed as questions rather than preachy messages. My characters find something to smile about even when everything around them is falling apart.

□ On the artistic front, are we ready to nurture cross-boundary collaborations, irrespective of the political environment? Yes, because art has nothing to do with institutional politics. Its sole purpose is to provide a cathartic experience for the public by emphasising our shared humanity and it aims to do that by bridging the differences.

□ Do you think the audience for the series might get affected from the Pak-India rivalry? I don't think so. People on both sides of the border are well aware that they have similar life realities and are eager to have a dialogue and cultural exchange.

□ Can we call this an opportunity for the country to attract other global platforms and entertain the idea of producing Pakistani content? Absolutely. We have not had web content come out of Pakistan that could compete in the global market before. This is a small but important step in getting our stories out to the world. I am hopeful that it will attract more investment into Pakistani talent and filmmakers. (The series will stream from August 11 on Zee5.)

**STUDIO CHAT 15 MINUTES**

## Celebs go vocal for local

On the occasion of day, Bollywood actresses including Priyanka Chopra Jonas, Kangana Ranaut, Vidya Balan, Dia Mirza, Taapsee Pannu and Janhvi Kapoor urge people to support Indian weavers and Indian organic fabric industries. The handloom sector is one of the major symbols of the cultural heritage of India. "Most of us have more than we can consume. Fashion industry has become one of the most damaging industries for our environment. New challenges call for new resolves. Let's promote our own Indian organic fabric industries and preserve the planet. When we choose hand-

loom, we choose to elevate our poor weavers out of poverty, we choose vocal for local, we choose our mother earth, we choose love for every single being on this planet," said Kangana via a tweet. Vidya posted a few pictures in mustard silk saree on Instagram and wrote, "Let us all resolve to support our weavers across the country in these difficult times by buying and wearing their beautiful creations in our everyday life and also help keep #IndiasHandloomLegacy alive. Appreciate the labour of love." Priyanka posted a picture in a green saree and wrote on Instagram stories, "Indian handlooms are known to be

unique and a work of art. Let's support our support to the weavers and artisans of the textile industry." Janhvi shared an image of her most favourite handloom saree. "The weavers and artisans in our country are truly unmatched in skill and creativity. The best in the world," she wrote. Dia Mirza said she is proud of Indian heritage. "Our weavers need all our support and love. This National Handloom Day, let's celebrate the rich legacy of our Indian weaves and textiles. There is nothing like a handloom saree," she wrote along with an image. —With inputs from agencies



## Open to new ideas: Anushka

Actor Anushka Sharma became the youngest female producer in Bollywood at the age of 25 with the clutter-breaking revenge thriller *NH10* and she has since then only shown her passion to tell remarkably new stories. From experimenting with genres to backing fellow outsiders to shine bright in Bollywood, Anushka, through Clean Slate Filmz, has been an entrepreneur who at her core is a diverse storyteller. Anushka feels her Army background has shaped her content choices majorly. "Being Army kids, we are always open to new ideas and all that travelling really helped us understand local stories. Such experiences has not only helped us in storytelling, but it also makes you look at things in different ways than a set societal perspective," says Anushka, who runs the business with her brother Karanesh. She adds, "Watching films doesn't always help you understand movies better. Our life experiences have helped us in this business. We have approached everything with a fresh mind. If we have taken the less travelled path, it is because we have followed our instincts." Anushka is riding on back to back suc-



cesses as a producer with both *Paatal Lok* and *Bulbul* doing incredibly well. She reveals that there is no formula for success when it comes to content production. "The business of production is very tricky and even the most experienced can't say that they have figured it out. You just learn from your mistakes. Even when things don't work the way you wanted, they give us learnings," says she.



**ARTWALK 60 MINUTES**

Artist Devidas Agase has got quite a following on his Instagram account. And why not? His works seem to be extremely intriguing. They take us back to the imagery from the medieval age in India, which had an integral role in both mythical as well as cultural domain. His series of eight works, *Pawn of an Unknown World*, and a series on migrant labour, *Way To Home*, are both evocative renderings of everyday symbolism.

"I come from the Beed district situated in the Marathwada region of Maharashtra. Beed is a historic place of medieval origin," explains Devidas who has just received the prestigious *Khoj Grant*. "Coming from a family of sugarcane farmers and farm hands, I have been a close witness to farmers' struggles and that of the working class on the farm and off it. I have realised that the needs of food, shelter, clothes, however basic, are an uphill journey for a farmer and the working class. They play different roles by taking up menial jobs to merely survive in society," adds he.

When you look at his polymorphic beings, the imagery represents a deeper tenet of *Bhakti* — one of devotion and the other, of inspiration. Devidas is deeply influenced by mythic legends, especially the three-faced deities in stories — Trimurti, Datta Digambar, Vishnu Dashavartas, and Krishna Vishwaroopa. He says, "My works explore these realities of the world and are strongly influenced by my own childhood memories and experiences. Coming from such a background, the significant role of history, mythology, gods and goddesses, turn up in my works."

His multi-dimensional work, *Pawn of an Unknown World*, created with dry pigments and water colour on paper, have been set on a nocturnal background to create a narrative born of surreal splendour.

He develops a style characterised by bright colours and symmetrical geometries rooted in the definitive domain of a post-Cubist aesthetic. We can glimpse his evolution in these eight small works that set out to uncover new dimensions with a larger quest to produce a radical visual language. For Devidas, anything he creates is born of his realisation of years of artistic experimentation and intuitive innovation. The polymorphic beings are a historical inheritance.

All the eight works have been brought forward in composition. They represent the decomposition of journeys and struggles into a series of chromatic narratives. Here, the being is portrayed as natural, which, how-



# Lockdown realisations

Artist DEVIDAS AGASE's works showcase how the quest for basic needs is an uphill journey for a farmer and the working and the migrant classes. By UMA NAIR



ever, is far beyond like a human figure. These beings are graceful and full of an ethos of elegance and balance. The idea of creating still lives becomes a contemporary take on the character of a scion cultural fabric.

The pair of shoes in the last image has about it a hint of a memoir tumbling with nostalgia and metaphors of travel. "My childhood narratives from various sources trigger my thought processes about the multi-faceted existences with the contemporary context," says Devidas. "I try to recreate this idea of polymorphic reality as is seen in mythology as a reflection in today's human being. My works borrow the concept from the scientific term, Polymorphism, meaning a person at a time can have multiple layers of characteristics invisible to the society. These layered human beings are adapting to their surroundings and situations of surviving trials and tribulations of life. I consider the essence of the experience always helps to shape the core of any artwork."

In his second work that exempli-

fies migrant labour, we see a recreation of the travel and the tribulations faced by India's migrant community during the lockdown amid COVID-19 pandemic. In this work, the act of succession is clearly evident in his precious prudent finishes, which become a facet of many modes of transition in travel.

Devidas has explained his sensibility born of everyday idioms and struggles that he read about during the lockdown. "I have tried to explore the co-relation between society and human nature as well as the ideologies that govern the social norms like the morality, materialism and politics of the human mind. I believe that there are other silent individuals within an individual who battle for survival at a basic level, irrespective and because of, social, political, religious, and personal conditioning. As an artist, my attempt is to become a narrative voice of those who have been silenced. I believe it only enhances my work giving it a new perspective and a fresher voice."

**CELEB TALK 30 MINUTES**

## Notes from 1930

Actor JULIA BROWN, while working on the series, *World On Fire*, could relate to the real life stories of loss and conflict from World War II, recalling her grandparents' experiences. By TEAM VIVA



**Who is Lois?**

Lois, the character that I am playing, is a 21-year-old working-class girl from Manchester, who lives with her father, Douglas and her brother, Tom. She works in a factory during the day but is passionate about singing and has another night job as a singer in a band. She works in two shifts in order to keep paying bills for the family. She's an everyday working class girl who wants to pursue her passion.

**What's Lois like as a performer and a singer?**

Lois is a jazz singer and sings with her best friend Connie in a band called the Victors Vs. It is her one passion in life that she allows herself to indulge in because it's a form of escapism for her. She's always keen to put on the role of mother. She likes connecting with people through her songs.

**How would you describe Lois' relationship with her family?**

Lois' relationship with Tom is quite difficult at times because they lost their mother at a young age. Lois was 14, prior to that they were best friends and inseparable but with their mother's death, Lois had to take on the role of mother in the house because of which their relationship suffered. Her dad, Douglas, suffers from PTSD and he struggles

when the war begins, coping with memories coming back to him. She is trying to keep the ship afloat for the family, but also misses that sibling relationship she used to have with her brother when they were younger.

**What made you select the script?**

What's so lovely about Peter's (Bowker) writing is it's not overstated. It's about the themes of family and love, and watching how people's lives can change so dramatically due to various circumstances. There is something so beautiful in that because his writing is through humour, which illustrates the fragility of some of the relationships. I think that's a lot more relatable for today's audience because they can just observe these characters as normal people with normal relationships.

**Peter described it as honouring ordinary people who did quite remarkable things at an extraordinary time in the history. Is that something that**

**resonates with you?**

The characters don't seem to be complicated. They don't notice their own resilience because they're in the circumstances and they have to get on with things. Individually, they all do their bit in a different way and don't consider themselves to be heroes. For people of my generation, it would be quite easy to separate ourselves from that time, however, when you watch Peter's characters come to life, you can actually recognise yourself in them because they're just everyday people living their lives. They confront adversity with grit, humour and that sense of having to work through things to get to the other side. Just like we do today.

**Tell us a bit about Lois and Harry's relationship and where they are when the story begins?**

When the story starts, Lois and Harry are in this fiery, passionate and innocent relationship. Peter explained to Jonah and I that the pre-context to the story is that they have maybe



met at a political rally. They come from drastically different backgrounds. However, they share this passion for politics that draws them to each other and Lois encourages his rebellious streak.

**How was it working with Jonah Hauer-King?**

It was such an amazing experience. He is a really warm and kind person. When we sat down for our first rehearsals together, he came to the table with so many ideas and we were able to create a backstory together. Peter (Bowker) was quite open with us and allowed us to almost create our own love story. It was so important getting that rehearsal time beforehand to build the right chemistry.

**What is Lois's relationship like with Harry's mother, Robina (played by Lesley Manville)?**

Lois' relationship with Robina is not an easy one because they come from such different walks of life. Robina looks down on Lois and doesn't think she is an appropriate match for her son. Whereas, Lois always sticks up for herself and doesn't really care what Robina thinks because she knows her own worth. She knows that the bond she has with Harry is a special one. So she doesn't let Robina take her down.

**Harry has obviously kept his two worlds apart until Jan turns up. What happens at that point?**

For Lois, the first few months of the war are obviously nerve-wracking. All of the characters are desperately trying to figure out what their life

is going to look like. Lois gets separated from Harry so she's lost. When Harry brings Jan back to Manchester, Lois starts to wonder why he has a small child in tow. There are little clues before, Matt was trying to teach her how to free up my voice and use decorations. Then we started tackling the songs and it has opened up a whole repertoire of music for me, which was really fun.

**Did you have to learn many songs for filming?**

I was so excited as I used to sing when I was younger. The songs are beautiful and I recognise them from my grandparents and the modern takes of them over the years. I started with a month of rehearsals working with the brilliant musical director, Matt Smith. To begin with, we spent time focussing on finding Lois' style and because I'd never sung jazz before, Matt was trying to teach me how to free up my voice and use decorations. Then we started tackling the songs and it has opened up a whole repertoire of music for me, which was really fun.

**What was your favourite song?**

My favourite song is *Dream A Little Dream*. The funny thing about that was when I auditioned, they asked me to sing a snippet of a song that I liked and I sang that one because my granny used to sing it to me when I was younger. She sang during the Second World War as a young girl and it was crazy and lovely that when I finally got the part and the script, in which I got to perform it.

**Were any of your family a part of the Second World**

**War in any way?**

Both sets of my grandparents were present during the World War II. On my mother's side, my grandfather was in the Home Guard and he lived on a farm while my father's side, my grandfather was in Ireland. It has been incredible to get this job and have all these stories coming through from my grandparents from both sides. When I met Peter (Bowker) after I got the role, he showed me photographs of his family and the real life people that some of the characters are based on. It was such a wonderful feeling to think that some of these stories were coming to life. There will be so many people around the country who will be able to relate to the characters and remember stories from their families too.

**Can you tell me a bit about Lois and Connie's friendship?**

Peter told me that Lois and Connie are loosely based on his grandma and her best friend. It was really special to understand that this was a real friendship at the time, especially between a White woman and a Black woman. They're both so bubbly and a great support system to each other. Lois doesn't have many friends and Connie is the one person that can see right through her, she knows everything that's going through her head in the choices and it was so important that they were working together in the factory, and then at night, transform and sing on stage, is very exciting. Yrsa Daley-Ward, who plays Connie, is just a wonderful person. I could really find a great friend in her.

**What sort of conversations did you have about creating the look for Lois and what's it like wearing these beautiful costumes?**

Our costume designer, Nic said all along that he wanted me to be comfortable in what I was wearing and to feel like I am the character. Adam Smith, our director, was also involved in the choices and it was so important that she had her two looks. It's simple and understated. At the time, fashion wasn't disposable and it wasn't cheap.

Women probably couldn't afford to have very many outfits. They'd maybe had three dresses and a few cardigans in their wardrobes. When she goes to see Robina and is trying to impress her, Lois wears a spotty two-piece. It's as if she's trying to fit in with Robina's surroundings and background. Her performance dress is the most beautiful emerald green tight bodice and a chance for Lois to be sexy and embrace her elegance. She uses that as a tool on stage, especially when she's feeling more vulnerable. Nic made sure that we wore pieces from the 1930s, and they were all originals sourced from Paris. It was wonderful to wear real pieces from that time.

The show streams on SonyLIV from August 14.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**CANCELLATION OF AGREEMENT**  
This Deed of Cancellation of Agreement is executed at New Delhi on this 27<sup>th</sup> day of July 2020, by Mr. Gaurav Singh Bhat (S/o Late Shri Kumar Singh Bhat) H.No. 1110, Sector-7, R.K. Puram, New Delhi at Present H.No. 5-18/14, Shyam Vihar, Phase-II, Dindarpur, New Delhi-110043. (Hereinafter called the ascendants/first party)  
Whereas I had executed an Agreement in respect of Ground Floor of Built up Property Bearing Plot No. S-18/14 & 50% Road Rights of Second Floor Land Measuring 84 Sq.Yds. out of Khata No. 1042, Situated in The Revenue Estate of Village Dindarpur Delhi State Delhi Area Known as A-Block, Shyam Vihar, Phase II, Dindarpur, New Delhi-110043, with free hold rights of the land under the said property and which is bounded as under:  
East: Other's Plot West: Road 18/15 North: Plot No. S-18/13 South: Plot No. S-18/15  
In favour of Mr. Anurag Rawat W/o Shri. Narinder Singh Rawat (S/o Shri. Gaurav Singh Bhat) R/o S-18/14, Shyam Vihar, Phase II, Dindarpur, New Delhi-110043. duly attested by Notary Public, Delhi on 27.7.2020.  
And whereas now I want to cancel and revoke the said Agreement executed by me in respect of the above said property in favour of the said beneficiary absolutely and forever.  
B.R. Arya (Advocate) Reg. No. 17652, Delhi

**North Eastern Railway**

Notification Notice, C/434/JTBS/PTFACHARIZN/2017  
(This Notification is not for employment)  
Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, N.E. Railway Itanagar Bareilly on behalf of President of India invites application for the selection and appointment of 1389 Nos. Jan Sadharan Ticket Booking Sevaks (JTBS) location of 38 important serving stations over Itanagar Division to issue computerized unreserved tickets only through UTS (Unreserved Ticketing System). Interested persons fulfilling the stipulated conditions may apply in the prescribed form. The Reservation criteria will be applicable as per existing rule. Name of Work : Allotment of JTBS at Railway stations. Name of Stations (JTBS) for which Applications are invited:- 1. Faridkot 2. Kasimpur 3. Pilibhit 4. Budan 5. Kannauj 6. Kichha 7. Rudain 8. Bazar 9. Sikandra Rao 10. Kathgodam 11. Khatima 12. Rudraipur City 13. Fatehgarh 14. Ujhani 15. Haldwani 16. Itanagar 17. Ramnagar 18. Baheri 19. Bhojipura 20. Soron 21. Chhabra 22. Daryaganj 23. Kalyanpur 23. Barrajpur 24. Hathras City 25. Mathura Cant. 26. Kanpur 27. Kanung 28. Patiyali 29. Lucknow 30. Ganj Dundwara 31. Bilhaur 32. Kamalganj 33. Bareilly City 34. Gursahaiganj 35. Rohanpur 36. Tanakpur 37. Saharua Town 38. Rawatpur. Period : 3 years; Tender Form Cost : 500/- (Rs. Five Hundred only) for each station; Earnest Money : 5000/- (Rs. Five Thousand only) for each station. 1. Sale of application form : From the office of Divisional Rail Manager (Commercial) N.E. Railway Itanagar Bareilly in any working day between 10.00 to 16.00 pm till 28.08.2020 on payment of Application form fee which will be deposited in cash in banking office at Itanagar station. 2. Applications submission date & time : 28.08.2020 to 31.08.2020 upto 14.00 Hrs. 3. Applications Opening date & time : 31.08.2020 at 15.30 Hrs. 4. This application form & document is available on N.E. Railway & Government website [www.northeasternrailways.gov.in](http://www.northeasternrailways.gov.in) The person who are interested to submit their applications from website he can download the documents and the cost of application form & Earnest money should be deposited necessarily with application form through Demand Draft issued by nationalized bank in favor of F.A. & C.A.O.N.E. Railway Itanagar paid in Bareilly. The railway administration reserves the right to cancel the application without assigning any reason. Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager CPRO Comm-18 N.E. Railway, Itanagar (About any Passenger, Assembly complaint) S.O. No. 40/744/2017 Do not travel with inflammable article in train

**PERFECTPAC LIMITED**

Regd. Office: 910, Chinnanjy Tower-43, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019  
Phone No. 011-26441018, Website: [www.perfectpac.com](http://www.perfectpac.com)  
Email: [compliance@perfectpac.com](mailto:compliance@perfectpac.com)  
CIN No.: L27100DL1972PLC005971

**EXTRACT OF UN-AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED JUNE 30, 2020**

PARTICULARS	Quarter Ended		Year Ended	
	30.06.2020	31.03.2020	30.06.2019	31.03.2020
	Unaudited	Audited	Unaudited	Audited
Total Income from operations	620.77	1979.28	2216.08	7354.55
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax and Exceptional items)	(65.29)	4.12	143.92	361.08
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional items)	(65.29)	4.12	143.92	361.08
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (after Exceptional items)	(47.13)	3.26	103.63	260.86
Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)	(47.13)	0.89	103.63	258.49
Equity Share Capital	133.26	133.26	133.26	133.26
Earnings Per Share (Face Value of Rs. 10/- each) for continuing and discontinued operations -				
1. Basic (Rs.)	(3.54)	0.24	7.78	19.58
2. Diluted (Rs.)	(3.54)	0.24	7.78	19.58

**NOTES:**  
1. The above unaudited financial results, were subjected to limited review by the Statutory Auditors of the Company, reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved and taken on record by the Board of Directors at its Meeting held on August 07, 2020.  
2. The above is an extract of the detailed form of Un-audited Financial Results for the quarter ended June 30, 2020, filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full form of the Un-audited Financial Results along with review report of the Statutory Auditors is available under the investor section of our website at [www.perfectpac.com](http://www.perfectpac.com) and on the website of the stock exchanges i.e. [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com) and [www.cseindia.com](http://www.cseindia.com)

For Perfectpac Limited  
Sanjay Rajgaria  
(Managing Director)  
DIN: 00154167  
Place : New Delhi  
Date : 07<sup>th</sup> August, 2020





# India to host 2021 T20 World Cup

## Australia gets 2022; Women's 50-over WC now in 2022

PTI ■ DUBAI

India on Friday retained the right to host the 2021 T20 World Cup while Australia will conduct this year's postponed edition in 2022, the ICC announced on Friday after its board meeting, straightening out a schedule that went topsy-turvy due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

This year's edition had to be postponed because of the raging pandemic, which has severely impacted all sports calendars globally.

"The International Cricket Council (ICC) today (on Friday)

confirmed that the T20 World Cup 2020 that was postponed due to Covid-19 will be held in Australia in 2022. India will host the T20 World Cup 2021 as planned, the ICC stated in a press release.

The global body also confirmed that next year's women's ODI World Cup in New Zealand has been postponed until February-March 2022 because of the impact the pandemic has had on cricket globally.

ICC Chief Executive Manu Sawhney said: "We now have absolute clarity on the future of ICC events enabling all of our Members to focus on the resched-

uling of lost international and domestic cricket.

"We will now proceed as planned with the Men's T20 World Cup 2021 in India and host the 2022 edition in Australia."

The format of the 2021 T20 World Cup will remain as it was for 2020 and all teams that qualified for that event will now participate in India in 2021.

A new qualification process will be started for the 2022 edition in Australia.

"BCCI were never keen to host the 2022 event which would have meant that they had to host back to back ICC events including the

50-over World Cup in 2023. That wasn't a viable option," an ICC Board member told PTI.

However, it was a big setback for the women's game with the much-awaited World Cup being pushed by a year.

Sawhney said the decision would "give players from every competing nation, the best opportunity to be ready for the world's biggest stage and there is still a global qualifier to complete to decide the final three teams."

An ICC Board member said that due to various countries facing different situations with regards to the Covid case load, it would



New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and ICC Chief Executive Manu Sawhney pose with the Women's World Cup trophy @cricketworldcup/Twitter

have been difficult to hold the qualifiers in time.

The postponement also raises doubts about the future of India legends such as Mithali Raj and Jhulan Goswami, who probably would have played their last ICC tournament in 2021.

The decisions were taken by the BCCI, the commercial subsidiary of the ICC) following an extensive contingency planning exercise which took into account the health, cricket and commercial impact of Covid-19 around the world.

The format of the postponed World Cup will remain as it was for 2021. Five teams have already qualified for the event and that will stand for 2022.

The original global qualification to determine the final three teams to contest the event was scheduled to be held in Sri Lanka in July this year, but was postponed due to Covid-19.

The qualification event will now be held in 2021.

"There has been no women's international cricket played since the conclusion of the women's T20 World Cup earlier this year and due to the varying impact of Covid-19 globally that is likely to remain the situation for a number of the teams," Sawhney spoke

## Eng tour of India postponed until early 2021

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's white-ball series against England, scheduled at home in September-October, was on Friday postponed to early 2021 with both the boards citing the Covid-19 pandemic, which wrecked the international calendar and created space for the IPL during this window.

Both teams were scheduled to play three ODIs and as many T20s and the matches could now be held after the Test series between the two in India early next year.

The series was to be a preparatory one ahead of the T20 World Cup, which was originally scheduled from October 18 to November 5 in Australia, but has now been postponed.

"BCCI and ECB are in consultation with a view to confirming the 2021 schedules for all formats England men's tour to India to run from late January to late March and for India's Test tour to England due in the summer of 2021," the BCCI said in a statement.

BCCI secretary Jay Shah added: "The BCCI and ECB are working closely to finalise the day-wise schedule as we move towards the resumption of cricket."

The first Test series to be hosted by India could be trimmed to four to accommodate the white-ball games next year.



Wolverhampton Wanderers' Conor Coady embraces Olympiacos' Omar Elabbadi after the Europa League match AP

## Wolves send Olympiacos packing

AFP ■ WOLVERHAMPTON

Wolves battled into the quarter-finals of the Europa League on Thursday while Sevilla, Bayer Leverkusen and Basel enjoyed far more comfortable victories in the matches that brought the Europa League round of 16 to a belated close.

Raul Jimenez scored the only goal from the penalty spot in the ninth minute and Wolves survived a series of scares to edge Olympiacos 1-0 at Molineux for a 2-1 aggregate win in a tie that began in Athens on March 13.

At Molineux, Bobby Allain, the visitors' Franco-Scottish goalkeeper, failed to control a back pass in the seventh minute.

Daniel Podence, who scored for Olympiacos at Tottenham in September but moved to Wolves in January, dived in and stole the ball.

Allain clumsily bundled his former clubmate over and Jimenez converted the penalty.

The Greek champions created a string of chances but were thwarted by good saves by Rui Patricio, a tightrope walk and their own inaccurate finishing.

Wolves, who began their Europa League campaign on July 25 last year against Crusaders in the second qualifying round, will next face Sevilla at Dusseldorf on August 11.

Sevilla were also in Dusseldorf on Thursday where they took the lead against Roma after 22 minutes. Captain and right back Jesus Navas switched play with a cross-field pass to left back Sergio Reguilón that caught Roma flat-footed.

Reguilón surged past two defenders and into the box before sliding a low shot past Spanish goalkeeper Pau Lopez's foot.

Sevilla added a second on the counter-attack in the 43rd minute.

Lucas Ocampos burst down the right and after Lopez failed to cut out the low cross, Youssef En-Nesyri finished into an empty net from close range.

Sevilla, coached by former Spain boss Julen Lopetegui, dominated as they stretched their unbeaten run to 18 games in all competitions and kept on course to add to their record five Europa League titles.

In Basel, defender Fabien Frei scored the only goal in the 88th minute as the home team won 1-0 to complete an aggregate 4-0 victory over Eintracht Frankfurt.

In Leverkusen, Moussa Diaby scored the only goal after 51 minutes to complete a comfortable victory for Bayer, who won 3-1 in Glasgow in March.

In the quarter-finals, Bayer will make the short trip to Dusseldorf to face Inter Milan on August 10, Basel will play Shakhtar Donetsk in Gelsenkirchen the next night.

## Pak opens big lead

AP ■ MANCHESTER

England was bowled out for 219, a 107-run first innings deficit, after losing six wickets to Pakistan's leg-spinners on the third day of the first Test at Old Trafford on Friday.

At tea Pakistan stretched its lead by another 20 runs and took control despite Shan Masood's duck.

Ollie Pope's 62 was as good as it got for the England batsmen, with the majority of those runs scored on day two, with Yasir Shah claiming 4-66 and Shadab Khan taking the last two wickets.

England resumed the day on 92-4 with Pope and Jos Buttler hoping to continue the rescue mission they had started the previous evening.

Pope had 46 to his name when he walked out but almost fell short of his half-century, deflecting Shaheen Afridi over the top of the stumps in an early scare. He got there soon after, off 81 balls, but the first hour was little more than a trial for the home side.

Just nine runs came off the bat in that time, outscored by the 10 extras Pakistan contributed, with the three-pronged pace attack of Shaheen, Mohammad Abbas and Naseem Shah working up a head of steam.

Buttler edged the third ball of Naseem's spell just short of second slip but after that it was a string of plays and misses. Somehow the duo reached the drinks break without any crucial nicks and when both hit their first boundaries of the day there was a small hope they had weathered the storm.

Tentatively, the fifth-wick-

et stand crept up to 65, every run hard-earned, before Naseem's 202nd over a memorable delivery to claim his deserved reward.

Pope was hardly to blame, reeling back and fending to gully after the teenager got one to kick viciously off the surface. Barring an early blow to the helmet for new man Chris Woakes, the remainder of the session was better for England as they eased the score out to 159-5.

Buttler had scrapped his way through to 38 but fell to his second ball after lunch, leaving a gap between bat and pad that allowed Yasir enough room to part the stumps.

The experienced spinner was buoyed by the success and made short work of Don Bess, producing the turn and bounce that left Assad Shafia with a diving catch at slip. He claimed his third wicket of the spell and fourth overall when Woakes lost his patience and his shape, bowled for 19 swinging hard to leg.

England were in turmoil at 170-8 but had Stuart Broad to thank for two tail-end stands that added 49 to the total.

He finished unbeaten on 29, with three boundaries in a row off Shaheen and a slog-swept six off Yasir under his belt, but all-round Shadab did enough at the other end to see off Jofra Archer and James Anderson.

Broad then chipped in with the ball, getting Masood caught down the leg-side for a duck to take his career-best 156 from the first innings.

Anderson should have made it two down by tea but Ben Stokes dived in front of Root and spilled the chance to leave Pakistan 20 for one.

## Sindhu, Praneeth & Sikki resume training

NEW DELHI: World champion PV Sindhu, along with B Sai Praneeth and N Sikki Reddy, hit the courts for training on Friday under strict safety protocols at the SAI Pulla Gopichand Badminton Academy in Hyderabad, ending a four-month-long coronavirus-forced hiatus.

This was after the Sports Authority of India (SAI) decided to resume the national badminton camp for the eight Olympic hopefuls following Telangana Government's approval on August 1.

The eight Olympic hopefuls also include Saina Nehwal, former world No 1 Srikanth Kidambi, women's doubles player Ashwini Ponnappa and men's doubles pairing of Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj. Saina, who is based in Hyderabad, didn't train on Friday, while the others, who had gone to their respective homes, and are yet to return.

## Barca may need youth to get past Napoli

AP ■ BARCELONA

Barcelona coach Quique Setien says that he is ready to count on youngsters Ansu Fati and Riqui Puig to eliminate Napoli and advance to the Champions League final eight in Portugal.

Barcelona will be without midfielders Sergio Busquets, Arturo Vidal and Arthur for Saturday's second leg of their round-of-16 tie. The match will be played five months after the Spanish side earned a 1-1 draw at Napoli before the pandemic brought most sports to a halt.

"Both Riqui and Ansu are ready to play," Setien said Friday. "They have performed and played pretty well and could perfectly well start (against Napoli). And if they do start, I am sure they will be guaranteed to play well."

The 20-year-old Puig has a good chance to earn his debut in Europe's top-tier club competition with both Busquets and Vidal suspended for the critical match. Arthur has had a falling out with the club

after securing his transfer to Juventus for next season and refusing to return to team practice.

Setien values Puig's passing and ball-control skills, which remind some Barcelona fans of Xavi Hernandez and Andrés Iniesta, and rewarded him with a bigger role during the final stretch of the Spanish league.

Fati, 17, made a huge splash this season by becoming the youngest player to score in the Spanish league and the Champions League, among other precocious scoring milestones.

With Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez set to start in attack, Fati could get picked over fellow forward Antoine Griezman, who was cleared to play by team doctors on Friday after having recovered from a right thigh injury last month.

Clement Lenglet was also cleared by team doctors and will likely play with Gerard Pique in the center of the defense with Samuel Umtiti still injured.

With only 13 first-team players

available, Setien has called up seven members of Barcelona's youth squad, including American Konrad de la Fuente.

"It would have been better to have all our players available, but that is not the case," Setien said. "We are going to have to rely on many players from our youth team. We have to adapt and we will do our best not to miss the players who can't be with us."

Setien said that he is confident that keeping his job does not hinge on qualifying for the "bubble" Champions League tournament to be played in Lisbon later this month. Setien has been under intense pressure since Barcelona lost the Spanish league to Real Madrid last month, when Messi called his team "weak" and said that unless the team turned things around it would lose to Napoli.

"In no moment have I thought that tomorrow's game could be my last," Setien said. "We are focused on advancing and playing the rest of the competition in Portugal with the same sense of excitement that we feel now."

## 2 more top-10 women - Kiki, Svitolina out of US Open

AGENCIES ■ NEW YORK

Women's world number five Elina Svitolina and Kiki Bertens, ranked seventh, on Friday joined a growing list of players withdrawing from this month's US Open due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"I understand and respect all the efforts that are being put to make it happen in a safe environment, but I still don't feel comfortable to travel to US without putting my team and myself at high risk," Ukrainian Svitolina, who reached last year's semi-finals in New York, said on Twitter.

The United States has close to 5 million cases of Covid-19 and almost 160,000 people have died.

"The situation around

Covid-19 is still worrying and the health of everyone and the control over this virus is priority," said the 28-year-old Bertens on Instagram.

The US Open organizers are creating a bio-secure bubble in New York to hold the tournament from August 31 without spectators. But concerns remain about whether players would face mandatory quarantines upon returning home from the US Open.

"Our prime minister indicated yesterday that we should be quarantined for 14 days after coming back from the States," Bertens said.

"Of course we respect this as a team and this would disturb our preparation for my beloved clay court tournaments in Rome and Paris."

**Government of Odisha e-Procurement Notice**

**Bid Identification No. Online Tender/04/EED RWD BLG/2020-21**

1 Name of the work	::	Road Works.
2 Total Number of Works	::	2 (Two) Nos.
3 Estimated cost	::	As per Annexure
4 Class of Contractors	::	As per Annexure
5 Period of Completion	::	As per Annexure
6 Other Details	::	

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding
		From To
Executive Engineer Rural Works Division Balliguda	Online Tender/ 04 /EE RWD BLG/ 2020-21	14.08.2020 at 10.00 AM 28.08.2020 up to 5.00 PM

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal website [www.tendersosga.gov.in](http://www.tendersosga.gov.in)

OIPR-25150/11/0094/2021

**Office of the Collector, Khurda**  
(District Child Protection Unit)

**Public Notice**

One abandoned male child was rescued and produced before Child Welfare Committee, Khurda. Presently this child is residing at SAA(AMAGHAR), Bhagabanpur, Patrapada, Bhubaneswar by the order of CWC Khurda. Any Person to whom the child belongs may contact District Child Protection Unit, Infront of Old Collectorate, Pallahat, Khurda Ph No-06755-296065 or the Chairperson, Child Welfare Committee, Khurda, Ph No-9437359431 with all relevant documents within a period of one month from the date of this advertisement. Despite the efforts, if the biological parents or legal guardian cannot be traced within the prescribed period, under such circumstances the child will be declared legally free for adoption by the Child Welfare Committee, Khurda under Section 38(1) of the JJ (CP) Act 2015.

**Debabrata, male**  
**New born baby**  
This child was rescued on 25/07/2020 by Arun Ku. Baral from the backside of a house at Madhunanagar, Jatni. Now, the child is placed at Specialized Adoption Agency, AMAGHAR, Patrapada for his care and protection by the order of CWC, Khurda.

OIPR-33016/11/0010/2021

Collector, Khurda

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**DIRECTORATE OF FISHERIES, ODISHA, CUTTACK-753001**

EoI No. 83 /Marine-XIII.AGRIL-02/2020, Date: 6/8/2020

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR EMPANELMENT OF AGENCIES TO SUPPLY FISHERY MACHINERY/EQUIPMENTS/IMPLEMENTS**

The expression of interest is hereby invited from the registered Manufacturers/ Dealers having valid GST, PAN etc for supply of "Fishery machinery/equipment/implements" such as Aerator- 1HP & 2 HP and Air blower-SHP & 10 HP to the eligible fishermen, fish farmers, registered PFCS, WSHGs involved in fish/shrimp production in the state through the District Fisheries Officers. The purpose of the EoI is to empanel the genuine firms and to derive a uniform price for a particular brand & specification of fishery machinery/equipments. The interested firms having proven records of manufacturing or dealing with such type of "Fishery machinery/equipment/implements" with valid GST, PAN are eligible to apply. Interested firms should submit their interest containing the Technical and Financial Bid along with documents supporting their eligibility. Two separate sealed envelope superscribing "Technical Bid" and "Financial Bid" kept inside a cover superscribing "EOI for supply of Fishery Machinery/Equipment/Implements" by Regd. Post/ Speed Post by hand to the Director of Fisheries, Odisha, Cuttack on or before 28th September, 2020 at 3.00 PM. The EOI shall be opened by the committee on dated 02.09.2020 at 4.00 PM in presence of participating firms or their authorized representatives. The participating firms must bring their original documents for verification by the Committee. The bid documents are available in the Directorate website [www.odishafisheries.nic.in](http://www.odishafisheries.nic.in) & Department website [www.fardac.odisha.gov.in](http://www.fardac.odisha.gov.in) which may be downloaded for reference. The undersigned reserves the right to cancel the EoI without assigning any reason thereof.

OIPR-06015/11/0088/2021

Director of Fisheries, Odisha