

OPINION 6
SET NEW
ENERGY GOALS**WORLD 8**
BEIRUT BLAST: LEBANON GOVT
RESIGNS AMID PUBLIC FURY**SPORT 12**
SANCHEZ WILL STAY
AT DORTMUND**BHUBANESWAR, TUESDAY AUGUST 11, 2020; PAGES 12 ₹4**

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**KANGANA
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*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

Sachin Pilot's ghar wapsi

As face-saver for Raj ex-Dy CM, Cong forms panel to look into issues flagged by him

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA/PNS ■
NEW DELHI/JAIPUR

The month-long crisis in Rajasthan Congress ended on Monday after rebel leader Sachin Pilot opted for an "unconditional" truce and his MLAs left for Jaipur from Maneshar in Haryana.

The breakthrough was worked out by Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi, who met Pilot two weeks ago. The process of reconciliation was set in motion in that meeting. Pilot completed the formality of his "home coming" by calling on Rahul Gandhi and later announcing his commitment to work for strengthening the Congress.

For a "face saver" Pilot was offered a three-member committee that would look into the issues flagged by him regarding the functioning of the Rajasthan Government and Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's



style of governance.

KC Venugopal, Ahmed Patel and Priyanka Gandhi are part of the committee set up by Sonia Gandhi to address grievances of Sachin Pilot and his supporters.

Late at night, Pilot and his supporting MLAs, who were camping in a hotel in Maneshar, arrived at Rahul

Gandhi's residence where Priyanka, Congress organisational general secretary KC Venugopal and Ahmad Patel were present. The MLAs are believed to have conveyed their grievance to the Gandhis, who promised to look into them.

Talking to the reporters — his first media interaction after he rebelled against Gehlot —

Pilot said, "Sonia Gandhiji heard all our concerns and the governance issues that we raised. Formation of the three-member committee by the Congress president is a welcome step. I think all the issues will be resolved."

Pilot kept repeating that he was only trying to raise issues about governance and functioning of the Government and there was nothing personal in his action against anyone.

Throughout his press interaction, he never named Gehlot but expressed dismay on name calling and invectives hurled on him.

KC Venugopal said Sachin Pilot expressed his grievances in detail. "They have had a frank, open and conclusive discussion. Sachin Pilot has committed to working in the interest of the Congress party and the Congress Government in Rajasthan," he said.

With at least 5-6 of the 18

MLAs supporting him not ready to risk expulsion and the BJP not in a position to help him achieve his objective to topple the Gehlot Government because of lukewarm response from former Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje, Pilot has few options but to return "home" unconditionally.

Sources said his meeting with Rahul was arranged by Priyanka at Rahul's residence, where both the Gandhis had "meaningful" discussion with Pilot.

Sources said after Pilot left Rahul and Priyanka, met Sonia to discuss the latest developments following which Sonia called on Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot over phone. Gehlot reportedly assured Sonia Gandhi that he will not defy the party irrespective of the decision it takes on Pilot. He left the matter to Sonia and Rahul to resolve.

Pranab tests Covid positive, flooded with 'get well soon'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former President of India Pranab Mukherjee has tested positive for Covid-19 and admitted to the Army's Research and Referral (R&R) Hospital here.

"On a visit to the hospital for a separate procedure, I have tested positive for Covid-19 today," 84-year-old Mukherjee tweeted.

"I request the people who came in contact with me in the last week, to please self-isolate and get tested for Covid-19," the Congress leader, who was the President from 2012-17, said.

Mukherjee on Monday underwent a brain surgery at the Army's Research and Referral hospital for removal of a clot, sources said.

Several leaders wished a speedy recovery to Mukherjee. "We wish former President Pranab Mukherjee a speedy recovery from Covid," the



Congress said on its official Twitter handle.

Abhijeet Mukherjee, the son of the former President, also tweeted, "I wish my father a speedy recovery! I appeal to all my countrymen to pray for his speedy recovery & good health." Several leaders from across the political spectrum also wished him a speedy recovery.

Ex-Prez was in hospital for brain surgery

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot tweeted, "I have come to know former President of India Pranab Mukherjee has tested positive for Covid-19...concerned about his health. Wish him a speedy recovery."

"Wishing Pranab Mukherjee a speedy recovery. I am sure he will be out of this sooner than later," said Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge. Union Minister Piyush Goyal also wished good health for Mukherjee, and said he is confident that the former President will quickly recover from the virus.

Congress leader Abhishek Singhvi said, "Astonishing and matter of concern that former President Pranab Mukherjee tested positive for Covid per press reports. Very active, regular walker, wish him quick recovery and restful convalescence."

Record 14 deaths; State Covid toll now 286

➤ **1,528 new positive cases; total 47,455**
➤ **Highest 233 in Ganjam again after a couple of days**
➤ **1,236 patients recover; total recoveries 33,020**

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The highest-so far 14 Covid-19 patients undergoing treatment in various hospitals lost their lives on Monday. With this, the total death toll in the State rose to 286.

Six persons succumbed to the disease in Ganjam district, three each in Khordha and Nayagarh and one each in Rayagada and Sundargarh.

The Ganjam deceased included an 85-year-old man, a 65-year-old man, a 70-year-old woman, a 50-year-old man, a 55-year-old man and a 50-year-old man.

The three deceased of Khordha district were an 84-year-old woman, an 82-year-old man and a 69-year-old man.

In Nayagarh, a 34-year-old man, a 78-year-old man and a 30-year-old man succumbed to the virus.

The other fatalities were a 46-year-old man of Rayagada and a 72-year-old man of Sundargarh.

Besides, two persons of Baleswar and Sundargarh districts died due to other health complications. With this, other than Covid deaths increased to 51 in the State, the Health and Family Welfare Department said.

On the day, 1,528 new positive cases were reported from 29 districts, increasing the State's total tally to 47,455.

The day's highest 233 cases were reported from Ganjam district followed by Khordha 218, Sambalpur 168, Sundargarh 126, Dhenkanal 107, Cuttack 72, Bhadrak 70, Koraput 67, Balangir 59, Baleswar 43, Malkangiri 38,

Jaipur 33, Nayagarh 32, Gajapati and Kalahandi 31 each, Rayagada 27, Puri 26, Nawarangpur 23, Mayurbhanj and Jagatsinghpur 22 each, Kandhamal and Kendrapada 17 each, Bargarh 10,

Jharsuguda nine, Angul eight, Boudh seven, Keonjhar and Subarnapur five each and Nuapada two.

However, 1,236 more patients recovered on Monday, increasing the total recoveries to 33,020 in the State.

The highest 461 recovered in Khordha district followed by 182 in Ganjam, 83 Rayagada, 74 Kandhamal, 51 Malkangiri, 39 Angul, 36 Koraput, 35 Baleswar, 34 Baragarh, 32 Jagatsinghpur, 32 Sundargarh, 31 Bhadrak, 29 Jaipur, 28 Gajapati, 23 Mayurbhanj, 15 Nabarangpur, 14 Puri, 10 Kendrapada, nine Boudh, eight Jharsuguda, six Nayagarh, three Cuttack and one Kendrapada.

Ganjam continued to remain the worst-affected district with 13088 positives, of which 2370 are active cases, 137 deceased and 10,573 recoveries.

3 die of Covid at Tirupati, over 740 test positive

PNS ■ TIRUPATI

Three staffers of the famous Lord Venkateswara temple in Tirumala, governed by the Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), have died of Covid-19 and at least 743 others have tested coronavirus positive since the temple re-opened on June 11 for the public after being close for two and a half months owing to the coronavirus-induced lockdown.

Of the 743 infected, three employees succumbed to the dreaded contagion and about 402 personnel have recovered so far from infection while 338 people were undergoing treatment at different Covid care facilities in Tirupati, TTD Executive Officer Anil Kumar Singhal told reporters.

Singhal denied reports in sections of the media and on social media that TTD had reopened the hill shrine after the coronavirus lockdown for the public with an intention to fill its coffers.

He said the ancient temple was reopened on requests from

devotees and entry was allowed by following strict Covid-19 measures.

About 22,000 people, including regular and out-sourced workers, are employed with the board. Tests have been conducted on 9,102 of these employees till now.

Meanwhile, 2.38 lakh devotees from across the country visited the Tirumala temple in July alone. No devotee, who visited the temple ever since it reopened for darshan, has tested positive for the positive,



according to media reports.

The TTD board has arranged screening facility for visitors at the foot of the hill and at other points. The board for the richest temple in the country received about ₹16.69 crore in Hundi collection and about ₹3.97 crore through e-Hundi.

Covid-19 IN INDIA	
TOTAL	
CASES: 22,67,077	
DEATHS: 45,352	
RECOVERED: 15,81,530	
ACTIVE: 6,39,728	



'Temple opening decision in State soon'

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR/ CUTTACK

A decision on reopening of religious institutions in the State would be taken soon after taking into consideration the prevailing Covid-19 situation, said Law Minister Pratap Jena on Monday.

He told mediapersons that the reopening decision would be applicable to almost all temples. "We will analyse things from different angles before taking a decision to reopen the religious places. To ensure that the deadly virus does not spread, we will decide on a set of guidelines to be followed for reopening of temples," said the Minister.

He was giving his reaction to the Orissa High Court's ruling earlier in the day that a decision to reopen religious institutions would be taken by the State Government.

The High Court's view was in response to a PIL on the issue. The PIL had been filed seeking the court's direction for immediate reopening of all shrines across the State including the Puri Jagannath Temple.

Notably, all religious places have remained closed since March following the Covid-19 outbreak.

7L rural houses to be built in State this year

10 lakh man-days to be created per day

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Despite the Covid pandemic, Odisha has made remarkable progress in implementation of rural housing and labour engagement programmes.

This was claimed at a meet-

ing under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy on Monday.

Tripathy directed the Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Department to complete 7 lakh units of rural housing during the current financial year, 2020-21.

By August 5, one lakh houses had been completed in differ districts against 44,000 houses built during the corresponding period last year.

It was revealed that around 57,000 families in waiting list have been found landless. Sanction of houses in their favor is held up as the benefi-

ciary need to have exclusive ownership over the house.

Tripathy directed the Collectors to provide homestead land to these families.

Panchayati Raj Principal Secretary Deo Ranjan Kumar Singh highlighted the need for enhancement of the creation of more man-days during the rainy season for labourers.

The Chief Secretary directed the line departments to create at least 5 lakh man-days per day by end of this month. The balance 10 lakh man-days would be created through the Panhayati Raj Department.

133 new +ve cases in BBSR; total 4,062

➤ **Recovery rate higher at 200**
➤ **53 more infected in Cuttack city**

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR/ CUTTACK

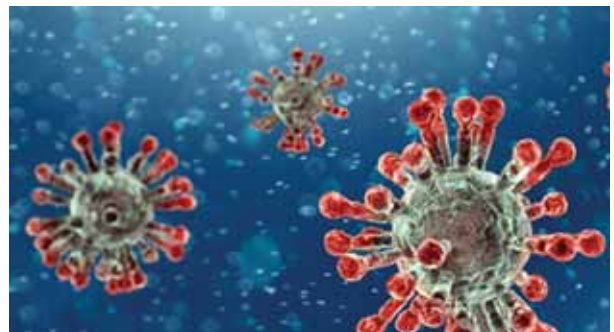
Bhubaneswar on Monday registered 133 more Covid-19 positive cases, pushing the city's total tally to 4,062.

Of the new cases, 96 were from quarantine centres and 37 were local contact cases, said the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC).

The quarantined cases included seven of BJB Nagar

linked with earlier positive cases; seven of Nayapalli near Krishna Tower; seven of Palasuni linked with an earlier case; five of IRC Village VIP Colony linked with an earlier case; four of Old Town Rameshwarpatna linked with an earlier case; four of Mancheswar; four of Laxmisagar Oscar City; three of Bomikhal linked with an earlier case; three of Badagada Brit Colony; three of Nayapalli OMC Colony; three at a quarantine centre linked with an earlier case; two employees of a private hospital; two of Bhoinagar; two of Khandagiri linked with an earlier case; and one of Pokhariput.

The local contacts included three cases of Dumduma



Phase-II; three of Jharpada; two of VSS Nagar; two of Suryanagar; one of Pokhariput Lingaraj Vihar; one of Paika Nagar Delta Square; and one of Unit-9.

However, 200 patients recovered from the disease in the city on the day.

In Cuttack, 53 more positive cases were detected on Monday. With this, the city's total count rose to 1,721. While 19 cases were detected from containment zones, 18 were from home quarantine, 10 local contacts and six from institutional quarantine.

Crorepati Chilika DFO in Vig net

Puri Addl VAS arrested taking bribe

PNS ■ CUTTACK

Acting on complaints of Acquisiton of assets disproportionate to his known sources of income by Chilika Wildlife Division DFO Alok Ranjan Hota, Vigilance officers on Monday conducted raids on his office room and houses of at six different places and

detected assets worth Rs 1,00,32,551 in his and his family members' names.

The inquiry was in progress.

In another case, Vigilance officers arrested Dr Subhanshu Sahoo, Additona Veterinary Assistant Surgeon, District Poultry Hatchery, Pipili, Puri on the charge of taking bribe of Rs 6,000 from Sanatan Behera of Matiapada village to release compensation of Rs 70,000 for damage of poultry firms.



Odisha Skill Development Authority Chairman Subrato Bagchi and his wife Susmita Bagchi donate Rs 7.5 crore as their personal contribution to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund for welfare of distressed women of Puri on Monday. Notably, the couple had recently donated Rs 2.5 crore to the CMRF for Covid-19 management

Pioneer photo

Govt's ex-gratia for Covid warriors eludes teachers

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Though the Odisha Government recently accorded State funeral to Covid warriors who died in the line of duty and announced ex-gratia for the bereaved families, the Odisha Secondary School Teachers' Association (OSSTA) has said that no financial assistance has been given to the families of the deceased teachers, who had been deployed to fight the virus.

Almost 40 per cent of the Covid warriors, who died, were schoolteachers posted at Covid Care Centres (CCCs) and Temporary Medical Camps (TMCs) in local schools, OSSTA secretary Prakash Mohanty said.

The Government had in April announced an ex-gratia of Rs 50 lakh for each family of frontline workers, including

doctors and other healthcare professionals, who die of the virus while on Covid-19 duties.

Of the 27 frontline workers who succumbed to the virus while on duties, 11 were schoolteachers in Ganjam district.

“We have met senior Government officers several times and demanded adequate compensation to the families of the teachers as given to health workers and others. But the Government is yet to make any announcement in this regard,” Mohanty said.

Most teachers who contracted the disease were in charge of TMCs, where migrant workers were lodged. Even now, many teachers are engaged in Covid-19 management though they were not trained before their deployment, Mohanty said.

The teachers are also work-

ing in containment zones to collect data and swab samples.

About the reason of the high fatality rate among teachers, Mohanty said health workers have experience in handling a medical crisis but not teachers. The teachers should be given training on basic techniques to deal with a pandemic.

Bharati Sethi, wife of KC Sethi, a teacher who died of Covid-19 while on duty in Ganjam district, said her family has not received any financial assistance from the Government nor even the salary of her husband for the last two months.

Mamata Sahu, wife of another teacher who died during the course of work said the Government should provide a job to a family member as her husband was the sole breadwinner.

Woman stripped, thrashed on city road

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A video of a woman being stripped and manhandled on a road on the outskirts of the capital city has surfaced on social media and gone viral.

Following a complaint, the Tamando police have started an investigation into the incident. The victim has been identified by the police and would be questioned in connection with the matter, reports said.

In the video, the victim was seen being undressed and beaten by a young woman on the road of a village. Besides, two children of the victim were also seen pleading with the attacker to spare their mother. Though the incident occurred in public glare, none of the onlookers came to the woman's rescue.

2 held for circulating audio clip on BMC

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Commissionerate police on Monday arrested two persons on the charge of circulating an audio clip accusing the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) of Covid-19 mismanagement.

The two arrestees Biswajit Mohanty (47) and Laxmikanta Behera (46) are residents of the Mancheswar area here.

The conversation between two persons about BMC was circulated and telecasted in a private regional news channel.

“Prima facie, the investigation suggests that the audio recording has been prepared, circulated, edited, uploaded and propagated, with mala fide and mischievous intention as the clip contains misleading

and false information about Covid pandemic,” said a statement issued by the Bhubaneswar Additional DCP.

“The mischievous conversation is trying to make others believe that there is false corona positive reports and persons are being shifted to hospital based on the false reports. It also claims that a target has been set to fetch patients to Covid hospitals. This goes against the guidelines related to the management of the present disaster and violates many legal provisions, thus attracting criminal action,” the statement added.

Further investigation is underway and some other persons have been summoned in this direction, said a senior police official.

N Vihar Civil Services rank holder felicitated

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Kumar Biswaranjan of Niladrivihar, who got 182nd rank in the recently-published Civil Services examinations results, was felicitated by a host of public figures and intellectuals here recently.

Rajya Sabha member Sujit Kumar, State Housing Board Chairman Priyadarshi Mishra, social worker Rosalin Patsani and Niladrivihar Youth and Cultural Association president Dr Prakash Chandra Panigrahi and general secretary Biswajit Pattnaik felicitated Biswaranjan with Uttari, flower bouquet, paintings and sweets at his residence and wish all success in life.



Biswaranjan, son of Benudhar Bhola and Minati Bhola, had also qualified allied services last year. From a lower middle class family, Biswaranjan completed his education from Saraswati Sishu Vidya Mandir, Niladrivihar

and B.Tech from IIT, Guwahati.

“My mother owns a small tailoring shop and my father runs a small dress business. Amidst low income of my family, I studied with a strong determination and finally succeeded,” said Biswaranjan.

PG Entrance Test from Sept 30

BHUBANESWAR: As per a decision taken last year, the Higher Education Department would conduct Common PG Entrance Test (CPET) 2020 for admission into various postgraduate courses in the Government-run universities and colleges in the State.

The exam will be conducted under the Student Academic Management System (SAMS).

Aspirants can avail the online Common Application Form (CAF) in the official website of SAMS www.sam-sodisha.gov.in between August 12 and 31. The examination would be held from September 30 to October 7. Applicants can avail Hall Ticket in e-space on September 20.

A Statewide merit list would be published on October 25 while the admission process would be completed by November 20. Classes of PG First Year would begin on December 1.

30 women appointed BJD dist in-charges

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The BJD on Monday appointed its women leaders as district in-charges of the State Women Committee to monitor the party's organisational work.

This followed appointment of 18 women leaders to oversee organisational work less than a month's time ago.

“In suppression of previous orders, women leaders of BJD are hereby appointed as district in-charges of the state Women Committee. This order comes into force with immediate effect,” BJD general secretary (Media Affairs) Manas Ranjan Mangaraj said in a statement.

Geeta Bastia: Ganjam; Lopamudra Buxipatra: Keonjhar; Kasturi Mahapatra: Khurda/ Bhubaneswar; Urmilata Das: Mayurbhanj; Prabhasini Sarangi: Cuttack;

Jyoti Panigrahi: Sundargarh; Snigdha Panigrahi: Rayagada; Bharati Singh: Baleswar; Kunjalata Samal: Nayagarh; Sanjukta Mahalla: Jagatsinghpur; Nibedita Mohanty: Malkangiri; Sanghamitra Dalei: Kandhamal; Rezawana Begum: Jajpur;

Meenati Debta: Sambalpur; Meeta Rout: Kendrapada; Sarojini Raj: Balangir; Puspanjali Rana: Angul; Sanjukta Mohanty: Kalahandi; Sandhya Biswal: Puri; Ranjulata Ray: Subarnapur; Runu Jena: Nuapada; Mira Parida: Koraput; Nibedita Nayak: Bargarh; Sarojini Mohapatra: Bhadrak; Sampa Majundar: Nabarangpur; Sradhanjali Samantaray: Dhenkanal; Sagarika Mishra: Jharsuguda; Basanti Singh: Boudh; Banaja Mohanty: Deogarh; and Basanti Mohapatra: Gajapati.

Golden turtle found in Bhadrak



PNS ■ BHADRAK

A rare golden turtle was rescued from a paddy field in Bhadrak district on Sunday. The freshwater turtle found in Bentalpur village in the Chandbali weighed over two kg. A Forest Department team visited the village. Bhadrak

Divisional Forest Officer Purnima Pandian said arrangements were being made to release the turtle in the Baitarani river near Chandbali.

Earlier on July 19, an extremely rare yellow turtle had been rescued from Sujampur in Soro block of neighbouring Baleswar district.

Interview of the week

Odisha pioneer in digital land record programme



Sugyan Choudhury

A senior IAS officer, **Bishnupada Sethi** is currently the Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Revenue and Disaster Management, Odisha. He was called for to join the Indian Administrative Service of Odisha Cadre after his MTech in Industrial Engineering from a reputed national institute at Mumbai. His engineering skills and ingenuity has had been providing necessary impetus in handling the departments with perfect adroitness during his administrative career. He began his journey as Sub-Collector, Project Director, DRDA, Collector in the KBK region and then became Secretaries to different departments. Sethi has lent Midas touch of gold in his areas of assignments by bringing about meaningful changes focusing on effectiveness, sound financial discipline and leadership. He was chosen for receiving the International Star Award for Leadership in Quality (ISLQ) in Paris in 2015. The Institute of Economic Studies has conferred upon him the Udyog Ratan Award. He has bagged the President's Silver for successfully conducting the 2011 Census in Odisha. Under his leadership as Director, OSDMA, Odisha had climbed to soaring heights in handling multiple disasters. Sethi remains at the vanguard of the Revenue Department to inflict crushing blows to land grabbers in urban pockets and is committed to weed out corruption by implementing the 5T programme. He hits the bull's eye with effortless ease. In an interview to *The Pioneer*, Sethi spoke to **Sugyan Choudhury** on many issues concerning the Revenue Department.

How far have the people been genuinely benefited by the implementation of 5T in the Revenue Department?
As per direction of Hon'ble Chief Minister to trust the goodness of people rather than integrity of our processes, Resident and Income Certificates are issued basing on self-declaration of applicants and documents without RI enquiry. This has earned the goodwill of people and eased the process of governance in the matter. Integration of e-District Portal with DigiLocker for sharing the digital copy of certificates has been facilitated. Similarly, e-Registration application has been integrated with DigiLocker so that registrant public can pull their documents registered after 4th January, 2010 and store in their DigiLocker for perpetuity. Over 6.25 lakh e-Certificates have been issued online since its launching on 28th December,

2019. The process assures citizens with more choices at hand and ensures saving of time, money and dispenses physical journey to revenue offices. Citizens can pay land revenue online anytime anywhere through e-Pauti portal (odishalandrevenue.nic.in) and Mobile App (PAUTI). All types of fees have been abolished for issuance of Resident, Income, Income & Asset, Legal Heir, Guardianship, ST, SC, SEBC and OBC certificates. Consent-Based Aadhaar Authentication



Bishnupada Sethi

during property registration has been introduced. For this, the e-Registration application has been integrated with the Aadhaar database of UIDAI.

All Tehsil and Registration offices have been brought under the 'Mo Sarkar' from 26th February, 2020. After registration, suo-motu mutation is initiated and corrected RoRs are sent through speed post. Digitally-signed copy of RoR is issued through e-District Portal. Digitally-signed certified copies of Encumbrance Certificate (EC) and Certified Copies (CC) of registered documents are issued online through IGR Portal (<https://www.igrodisha.gov.in/>). The fixed minimum limit of Rs 1,000 for e-Stamp Certificate has been abolished. Now, e-Stamp Certificate can be issued for any amount.

How far has the implementation of 5Ts simplified the cumbersome rules for SC & ST communities?

Application fee and other fees have been abolished for issuance of caste certificates in favour of SC & ST community people. Applications can be filed online anytime anywhere (<https://edistrict.odisha.gov.in>) to obtain caste certificates.

Huge encroachments, including encroachment by fraud documents in the village of Sipasaruvali at Puri and other urban pockets of the State, are reportedly still going unchecked. How are they being curbed?

Odisha Prevention of Land Encroachment Act 1972 and Odisha Prevention of Land Encroachment Rules 1985 have detailed provisions and procedure to prevent encroachment of Government lands and take coercive steps against the encroachers. Tehsildars have been authorised to take steps against encroachment and safeguard the Government lands.

In this regard, the department has recently issued guidelines to all RDCs/ Collectors requesting them to take urgent steps for eviction of encroachments. Funds are provided to the Collectors for protection of

Government lands since 2009-10.

How far has Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme been implemented in our State?

Odisha is pioneer in implementing Digital India Land Record Modernisation Programme, which has been well-documented from the fact that Odisha was adjudged second in position in National Land Records Services Index 2020 (N-LRSI) survey conducted by the National Council of Applied Economic Research. Under DILRMP, Odisha has computerised all Registration Offices (SRO). Registered documents are delivered to citizens on the same day. Encumbrance Certificates and Certified Copies of registered documents are issued online. Digitisation of land records of the tenants showing the ownership of land has been done, which is available in the Bhulekh website (<http://bhulekh.ori.nic.in>). Cadastral maps have been digitised and hosted in the Bhunaksha website (<http://bhunakshaodisha.nic.in/>). All revenue offices have been provided with high-speed internet connectivity for updating of land records through e-Mutation software, namely Land Records Management System (LRMS). LRMS is the single source, where every land record gets updated. Modern Record Rooms are operational in 279 tehsils out of 317 tehsils.

Rampant corruptions at the lower echelons in tehsils are reported often. Are there any plans against this?

Introduction of various e-Governance initiatives such as e-Registration, e-Stamping, e-Mutation, Bhulekh, Bhunaksha, Revenue Court Case Monitoring System (RCCMS), Document Management System (DMS), online payment of land revenue (e-Pauti) for delivery of public services and to minimise physical interface between people and Government offices have been initiated along with measures such as: Introduction of the 5Ts in delivery of public services; encouraging cashless in registration offices; over 99% of stamp duty and approximately 99% of registration fee are collected through cashless mode in registration offices; bringing tehsil and registration offices under the ambit of Mo Sarkar; punishing corrupt officials and appreciating sincere efforts of honest and efficient officers; prompt action on media reports and petitions alleging corruption at various levels which are referred to senior-level field officers for enquiry; taking appropriate action on the matter and submission of action-taken report to the department.

What are the measures undertaken for prompt disposal of RTI applications?

A separate RTI Cell is functioning in the department. A Nodal PIO, a First Appellate Authority and branch-wise PIOs have been designated for supply of prompt reply to applicants under the RTI Act.

360 road fatalities in State in April, May

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Despite lockdowns and shutdowns, as many as 360 persons have been killed in road accidents in the State in two months.

This was revealed at a review meeting on the Implementation of Road Safety Action Plan chaired by Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy recently. Tripathy informed that by the order of the Supreme Court Committee on Road Safety, the State Action Plan was prepared for the periods 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21 and submitted the report to the apex court panel.

As per the report, the fatalities due to road mishaps have reduced by 32% during January and May compared to the same

period of last year. However, 360 persons were killed in road accidents during April and May when the State was under lockdowns.

As directed by the SC Committee, the agencies have been asked for stringent enforcement against triple riding, wrong side driving, rash driving and non use of helmet in two-wheelers.

The State Commerce and Transport Department urged other departments and enforcement agencies to submit a revised Road Safety Action Plan for the years 2020-21 and 2021-22 by August 17 for preparation of an Integrated Road Safety Action Plan and submission to the Supreme Court on road safety.

₹50L ganja seized; 4 held in Koraput

Also, Rs 30L contraband seized; 2 held in R'gada

PNS ■ JEYPORE/RAYAGGADA

The Koraput Sadar police on Sunday busted a ganja smuggling racket by arresting four persons.

The cops also seized a huge cache of ganja worth Rs 50 lakh and cash of Rs 3, 10,000 from the possession of the accused.

Getting information about the contraband being transported in a SUV and a truck from the Lamptaput area, a police team intercepted the vehicles at Patraput bridge and detained the four accused.

During search of the two vehicles, the cops recovered 181 packets of ganja weighing

937.200 kg. Besides, they seized the vehicles and seven mobile phones from them.

The accused were identified as Sudarshan Panigrahi (28) of Jalaput village, Chandrasekhar Khora (30) of Semiliguda village, and Ranjan Gadanga (23) and Gopinath Nirika (23) of Surumi village.

In a similar incident, Rayagada district's Gunupur police seized 298.6 kg of ganja from a truck at Bangi chhak and arrested two persons in this connection. The police also seized cash of Rs 1,04,100 from them.

The cannabise was packed in eight polyphone bags and its cost is estimated to be Rs 30 lakh.

The arrested have been identified as truck driver Bir Singh and Jitendra Patika.

The ganja was being transported to Uttar Pradesh.

2 siblings drown in Ganjam

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

In a tragic incident, two minor siblings drowned in a pond at Chikalakhandi village under the Chhatrapur police station in Ganjam district on Monday.

The deceased were identified as Badal (7) and his sister Barsha (4).

According to reports, the brother-sister duo met their watery grave in the pond situated near a temple while they were taking bath in the afternoon.

Seeing the two children drowning, locals fished them out of water and rushed them to a nearby hospital. But the duo was declared dead by the doctors.

Online education a great challenge in rural Odisha

Most students have no android sets; connectivity too an issue

DINESH DAS ■ ATHAGARH

Online education in rural Odisha during the pandemic has become a great challenge for the authorities in the State. Following the Covid-19 guidelines, both Higher Education and Mass Education departments of the State have instructed the schools and colleges to start virtual classes. Accordingly, both students and teachers have been active in holding online classes where they find a plethora of difficulties.

Since there is poor connectivity of networks in almost all rural areas of the State, both teachers and students face communication problem. At times, both teachers and students either climb up to hills or to the rooftops of the buildings or to trees for getting a strong network connectivity during their class time. Even though the IT firms claim their presence in

almost all parts of the State, the reality is far away from it.

Quite a majority of senior teachers of rural Odisha do not know the use of android handsets, besides the apps through which online classes are conducted. The problem has not stopped with this. More than 70 per cent parents of rural Odisha have not been able to provide their children android handsets with data pack facilities. To know the truth we had made a survey in seven blocks namely Baranga, Banki, Damapada, Athagarh, Tigiria, Badamba and Narsinghpur where we found that the parents sending their wards to Government and aided schools and colleges have no mobile handsets.

During their admissions and getting scholarships from the Government, they had given the phone numbers of the owners of the Janaseva Kendras or online outlets where they submitted the admission applications. When recently, the teachers wanted to communicate with the students through the phone numbers given during the time of admission, the

calls were either received by the owners of Janaseva Kendras or the numbers were no longer in operation due to lack of validation charges in most of the cases. While some parents said they needed more time to purchase android handsets, some others expressed their inability to do so, said sources.

This apart, the students who were provided with android handsets for the online classes, a good number of them were found misusing them, after the class hours, that is in playing game and chatting with friends using different apps.

Most importantly, the department has not settled the syllabus for Plus Two classes. Most of the teachers have not started the class as per their routines. As the department has not followed a specific app for running the online classes, the method of teaching in different institutions differ. From the survey, it was known that at best 30 per cent students can be benefitted out of the online education in rural Odisha and for the rest, the online mode is of little use.

Custodial torture to docs

NHRC seeks ATR from Kendrapada SP

RAJESH BEHERA ■ KENDRAPADA

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sought an Action-Taken Report (ATR) from the SP of Kendrapada within four weeks over custodial torture of two doctors and six other para medical staff of a local nursing home.

Acting on a petition filed by activist Dillip Kumar Samantray, the NHRC passed the order and sought detailed reply within four weeks. The NHRC has warned to invoke coercive process under Section 13 of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 for personal appearance of the concerned authority if its order is not complied with.

Notably, the Nayagarh-based social activist Samantray had filed a petition before the NHRC on August 2 alleging that Dr Debashis Sahu (pediatric) and Dr Shishabhis Sahu (surgery) were residing with their family



at Manakarpur-based Durga Nursing home as the nursing home belonged to their father. As per report on July 31, they had a tiff with Town police SI Soumya Ranjan Jally, who had gone to the nursing home over an inquiry against the duo doctors.

So the police nabbed the duo doctors along with six other staff and brought them to the police station.

During police custody, there was allegation of police having meted out inhuman

treatment and torture to them.

Activist Samantray had requested before the NHRC to seek a crime Branch /judiciary inquiry into the custodial torture, direct the DGP of Odisha to submit an Action Taken Report within four weeks of time by taking disciplinary action against the IIC of Kendrapada town police station, besides a direction to the Chief Secretary for providing compensation of Rs 1 crore to the both doctors and their staff.

INBRIEF

1 KILLED, ANOTHER INJURED IN ROAD MISHAP
Rourkela: A person was killed on the spot and another injured when a Bolero by which they were travelling hit a roadside tree on the Koelnagar-Jhirapani road on Sunday afternoon. The deceased was identified as Phiru Sahu (40) from Hamirpur slum of Rourkela.

BREASTFEEDING WEEK HELD AT DHAMRA PORT
Dhamra: The Adani Foundation, Dhamra, observed the World Breast Feeding Week from August 1 to 7 for spreading awareness on the benefits of breastfeeding among more than 900 adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothera and elderly women in 22 gram panchayats in vicinity of the Adani Dhamra Port. The week was observed by the Fortune SuPoshan Sanginis. A mobile health unit was engaged in disseminating awareness and for counselling.

BOY DROWNS IN BRAHMANI IN JAJPUR
Jaipur: A 12-year-old boy drowned in the Brahmani river while taking bath on Monday. Akhtar, son of Ajin Bux of Chandpur in Maheshwarpur panchayat, slipped into deep water. Locals searched for him and recovered his body after about four hours.

‘Mishra believed in empowering kids thru lit’

BHUBANESWAR: Children can be empowered through literature; hence, it is imperative to write for them keeping in mind their age and needs, said eminent writer Dash Benhur here on Sunday.

Delivering the Fifth Ganeswar Mishra Memorial Lecture marking the renowned litterateur's fifth death anniversary, Dash Benhur pointed out, "Literature helps children develop, cultured, create their identities and broaden their horizon." Mishra believed in this and wrote numerous books for children, including his award-winning Bilatare Babu O Papu, he observed.

Well-known translator and former Professor of English, Utkal University Jatindra Kumar Nayak threw light on Mishra's approach to life and literature. "He always tried to keep things simple," he said.

PNS

Webinar discusses breastfeeding benefits

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Under the leadership of Dr Aiswarya Biswal, to celebrate the Breastfeeding Week, a webinar was organised here to promote breastfeeding and increase awareness and its immense benefits, especially to the mother and baby during the week.

The eminent professionals and pioneers of nutrition from both India and the UK who joined as keynote speakers included Basant Kar, Harshita Pandey, Dr Pranab Mahapatra, Prof Lora Mishra, Diana Sahu, Dr Prakash Dey, Dr Sahadev Swain and Ranjita Sethi.

They laid elaborate emphasis on numerous breastfeeding

models for Aatmanirbhar Poshan in India (self reliant nutrition).

India needs to scale up and replicate home growing indigenous models like Surguja (district of Chhattisgarh) for a larger impact. The harmful effects of feeding of formula milk and ultra processed food were discussed.

Awareness and promotion of breast feeding can amplify in achieving the nutritional targets for the baby and the mother. India can show the world as an exemplary country on addressing malnutrition and achieving breast feeding targets as enshrined in Poshan Abhiyaan and United Nations Sustainable Developmental Goal targets, the panelists opined.

Pandemic forces choreographer to sell tea

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

During the Covid-19 pandemic, a well-known choreographer of cine industry has turned a tea seller on a village street for livelihood.

Sauling Padhiali of P Nuagaon village under Beguniapda block in Ganjam district, who had started his career as a choreographer and earned fame in both Bollywood and Ollywood as well as Jollywood, has taken to selling tea to support his family these days due to the pandemic that has almost paralysed the entertainment industry.

Not only tea, the 29-year-old Padhiali is also selling rabadi (a delicious condensed-milk-based dessert) at his shop by the roadside near his village.

Born in Gujarat, Sauling

alias Guru was raised by her mother Budhi under poverty after he lost his father at an age of 10 years. Gradually, he was fascinated towards dance and he learnt the skill from a dance teacher of Gujarat. By the age of only 14, he became an expert in dance. In the course of time, he stepped into film industry after coming in contact with Director Deepak Rajput of Ahmedabad.

In 2017, Guru choreographed for a track 'Hare Krishna Hare Ram' in 'Commando 2', which was his first Bollywood film directed by Devan Bhojani. He takes the credit for his creative skills in choreography in two Odia films 'Bindas' and 'Jaga Hatara Paga'. He had also assisted the leading choreographer in the Odia film 'Sundergarh Ra



Salman Khan. Besides, he is quite popu-

lar among artists as a successful choreographer in a few

Jatras and Odia albums. However, Guru's life turned

drastically after the Central government imposed lockdown in the wake of Covid-19 outbreak. He returned to his native village from Gujarat empty-handed. After struggling for five months, he opened the tea stall.

He gets a profit of Rs 200-300 per day from his shop.

After coming to know about Guru's talent, Beguniapada Block Supplies Officer Sharat Behera has provided him assistance under a Government programme and assured him of taking steps to include him under the food security scheme.

Guru, who lives with his mother, wife Maheswari and two sons at his village, said, "Everything is in the hands of God."

NGO grabs Jagannath lands in Khordha

Locals demand all land freed soon

PNS ■ KHORDHA

While acres of land belonging to the Shree Jagannath Temple, Puri have been entangled in legal complications, mafias, taking advantage of it, are selling patches and also constructing buildings on such lands forcibly.

Such an incident has come to the fore in Chhanaghar Mouza under the Jatni police station in Khordha district recently.

An FIR filed at the Jatni police station alleged that a piece of land measuring n 0.7acre bearing Khata No.877 and Plot No.1772/1 had been sold to Rahas Bihari Sahoo in 1970 by the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration. It was in passion of late Sahoo's fam-



ily since then. A boundary was constructed around it in 2013.

A few days ago, the family got to know that their land has been encroached by a voluntary organisation namely "Bajarangi" led by one Prashant Sahoo. Prashant had also start-

ed construction work on the land. When protested by Shantilata Sahoo and other family members of Rahas Bihari, Prashant and his goons misbehaved with them. Then Shantilata lodged a complaint at the Jatnai PS on July 17, 2020. As police didn't take any action,

the goons dug plinth for a house on July 29. The family members went to the plot and took out the Bajarangi flag from the land. However, about 40 goons attacked them, asking why they removed the flag from the land. This time, police asked both the parties to bring land document to the police station.

In the meantime, the goons have threatened the concerned family members not to go to police station again.

Locals have alleged that the goons have taken many such patches of land belonging to the Shreemandir into their possession forcibly. They have demanded that the Government restore the lands to Shreemandir possession soon.

Wesco job scam: Demo held in Nuapada

AJIT PANDA ■ NUAPADA

The Garib Sena, a people's forum working against corruption in Government offices for assuring rights of marginalised people of Nuapada district, has demanded cancellation of deployment orders of workers for annual maintenance contract works of 33/11 kv substations at Timarpur and Lesunpali of the district.

Sena secretary Rabi Mangaraj and a few other members of the forum along-with ZP member Priyaranjan Meher have been sitting in a hunger strike since Wednesday last. "We are forced to sit in a hunger strike as the administration did not respond to our demand even after 15 days of mass demonstration. We demand complete rollback of the deployment order and initiation of legal action against the Executive Engineer, Wesco Utility, Nuapada who is the main culprit in the corruption and manipulation in appoint-

ment," said Mangaraj.

As per documents provided by the agitators to media, two of the candidates appointed for the posts of operator don't have licence. Two candidates each for the posts of operator and helper have not faced the interview conducted by the agency for selection. Likewise, two of the candidates appointed for helper post do not have requisite educational qualification i.e. tenth pass.

The responsibility to select workers for the posts was given to Techsupport, a Bhubaneswar based recruiting agency, which held walk-in interview for selection of candidates in August 2019. The agency submitted the deployment order to



the Executive Engineer, Nuapada electrical division, Wesco utility subsequently. The Garib Sena has alleged that the Executive Engineer has given appointment to candidates outside the submitted list, which is completely illegal.

The district administration has already held one round of discussion with the agitators on the second day of the strike, which did not yield any result. "The ADM had invited us for a discussion on the second day.

An hour of discussion was held in the presence of the Sub-Collector, Superintending Engineer, Executive Engineer and police, but that did not lead to a solution. They agreed that a wrong has been done and persuaded us to accept the appointment list as it is, but we disagreed," said Mangaraj.

In the meanwhile health condition of one of the agitators, Sekhar Meher became serious and he was hospitalised.

NEP to restore good ambience in schools, colleges



UMASHANKAR PRASAD

The Government of India has announced a 'National Education Policy-2020' after a long period. It is one of the significant and proud initiatives in education sector. Universalisation of education appears to be the most critical aspect of the new new policy.

Some aspects of the NEP like there will be no segregation of streams (Science, Arts and Commerce) and all streams will be treated as equal are important. Other details of the NEP may have had their own importance all right, but most of those appear more like administrative—and even cosmetic—in nature, obviously intended to remove roadblocks that the country has faced for the past three decades as the nation struggled to make education forward-moving in tune with changing times.

The actual effect of those changes will be ready to be judged only after a few years when the nation comes to know about the practical hitches in their implementation, as had happened in the case of the previous education policy adopted by the then Government 34 years ago.

Each kids must be able to attend school to a reasonable level. And if this purpose is fulfilled through the new educational policy, then a great national purpose would be served.

Most of the changes in the new policy appear more of an administrative type. For example, the change from the 10+2+3 to 5+3+3+4, is based on some notion often cited as principle. Other reforms, too, have their own importance. But more important is that more kids must get to go to school.

Our Prime Minister understood the roadblocks in the path of universalisation of education. Lakhs of girls are dropped out of school since their schools did not have appropriate washroom facilities, for example. So came the national campaign to build toilets not just in homes, but

also in schools. There are a lot of other angles, too, to this issue. If the nation wants all kids to attend schools, its Government and people will have to make massive readjustment in attitude towards education.

But let us take a look at what has been happening in the country for the past seven decades. The talks about universalisation of education, of making education job-oriented and focus on study of science and arts is not new to the nation. All policy documents for the past 70 years have talked of these with varying details. The new education policy also has done the same. So we will have to wait and see what good change it brings over time, before we praise the NEP 2020 sky-high.

Most unfortunately, we must admit that the nation

never evolved a truly potent thought on education since independence. We were most often obstructed by red tape. We stopped granting permission to schools if they did not have play-ground, for example. A few years ago, we fell prey to the temptation of having digital boards in class-rooms and the schools that did not have such boards were considered backward.

For, at some point of our educational journey spanning 70 years, we dropped the basic thought that Swami Vivekananda gave: "Education is the manifestation of perfection within." Let us be honest to ourselves to admit that we really forgot this core value, this basic thought, this simple but most accurate definition of what education should be. In the passage of time, something worse, too,

happened.

In our discourse, we only paid a lip service to the idea of empowerment. We talked more of entitlement—a sense each child is taught these days, thanks to our idea of 'good' schools. In that rush, we forgot that countless village schools, too, produced IAS officers, top-class doctors, scientists and also very good human beings. To make my point solid, a few names would be enough. Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar, Lal Bahadur Shastri—none of them went 'good' schools; rather, they went to great schools. Let us hope that the NEP will bring to our schools and colleges a new atmosphere in which the teaching-learning process will become enjoyable.

(The writer is a columnist. Ph: 6370675562)

New Brahmani bridge to link Jaipur, K'pada

PNS ■ JAJPUR

The State Government will construct a bridge on Brahmani river that would connect Jaipur district with the neighbouring Kendrapada district.

This was disclosed by Bari MLA Sunanda Das on Sunday after holding a review meeting with a high-level team of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) that visited Kaipara under Bari block in the district, the site where the proposed bridge will be constructed.

"The bridge will be a direct link between Biraja Kshetra in Jaipur with Talasi Kshetra in Kendrapada. The bridge will boost tourism

potential of both the districts and the distance between the two religious places will be reduced," said MLA Das.

The required land for the proposed bridge has already been acquired by the district administration.

Earlier, an engineering team of the of the PWD, Panikoiili Division, led by Executive Engineer Arun Kumar Patnaik had completed the survey for constructing a bridge and placed its survey reports to the concerned ministry which approved the proposal.

As per the departmental estimate, Rs 33 crore would be spent to construct the bridge which would be borne by the Nabard, the sources said.

Health officials fear Covid spike in festive season



ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

With no let-up in the covid-19 cases which crossed the 22-lakh mark on Monday, health officials are now keeping their fingers crossed in view of the upcoming string of festivals like Janmashtami, Ganesh Chaturthi, Navratras, Dussehra, Diwali and Chhath in the coming months.

The officials fear a further spike in cases during the people's participation in these festivals.

For the last five days, in fact

after Raksha Bandhan, a Hindu festival, which was on August 3, India has been reporting more novel Coronavirus infections than any other country in the world. On Saturday, India's over 64,000 new infections comprised more than 22 per cent of all the cases detected globally, said an official from the Union Health Ministry.

He pointed out that while the United States and Brazil which have greater number of people infected by the virus till now, have been finding fewer number of new cases every day



during this period, while India's case numbers have been increasing steadily, with more than 60,000 new cases for the last three days.

Many Northern States like the Uttar Pradesh had allowed opening of sweet shops and those selling rakhis on Sunday in view of the Raksha Bandhan festival on Monday. Soon after, various parts of the Uttar Pradesh like Lucknow reported huge surge in the Covid-19 infection cases.

Now, with a series of festivals coming up in the next few

months, which are celebrated across the country, we fear more cases on anvil, said the official.

“Though State Governments have been urging people to not to congregate at public places, but being major festivals many times citizens fail to adhere the norms of social distancing and visit the markets to purchase sweets and other items for prayers.

“We have also observed that people tend to visit their relatives during festival times as a ritual and do not follow mask wearing norms, thus leaving

India's fatality rate falls amid rise in cases

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the total coronavirus patients across the country crossed the 22-lakh mark, India's fatality rate dropped to its lowest two per cent in the last 24 hours whereas the recoveries reached a new peak of over 15 lakh so far.

The latest data shared by the Union Health shows that the current Case Fatality Rate (CFR) is two per cent and is steadily declining even as the country tested a record over 1,000 deaths in a single day,

themselves vulnerable to the disease,” said the official.

For instance, if Ganesh Chaturthi is major festival in Maharashtra, Chhath Puja is celebrated with great fervour in Bihar. Similarly, Navratras is important fest in Gujarat. Hence,

pushing the death toll so far to 44,386.

The Ministry said the fatality rate is at its lowest and India is among the countries with lowest fatalities.

“Early identification of cases has also led to steep fall in percentage of active cases,” it said.

Early identification helps to ensure timely and prompt isolation of mild and moderate cases and hospitalisation of severe and critical cases, thereby leading to effective management of cases, the Ministry

said.

The Ministry data further mentions that India's COVID-19 recoveries have crossed the historic peak of 15 lakh on Monday, more than twice the active cases while recovery of 15,35,743 patients, it said, has been made possible because of the policy of aggressive testing, comprehensive tracking and efficient treatment.

Better ambulance services, focus on standard of care and use of non-invasive oxygen had given the desired results, it said.

With the highest-ever single-day recoveries of 54,859 patients in the last 24 hours, the recovery rate had scaled another high of almost 70 per cent.

The record recoveries ensured that the actual case-load of the country, namely the active cases, has reduced and currently comprises only 28.66 per cent of the total positive cases.

India has posted more than 9 lakh recoveries compared with active cases (6,34,945).

Modi reviews flood situation with CMs of 6 States

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday urged the flood affected States for extensive use of innovative technologies and local investments for the development of forecast and early warning systems. PM was reviewing the flood situation in six States with Chief Ministers of Assam, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala. The States complimented central agencies including NDRF for prompt co-ordination and timely deployment of rescue operations.

Chief Ministers Sarbananda Sonowal, Nitish Kumar, Yogi Adityanath, Uddhav Thackeray and Pinarayi Vijayan appraised the flood situation in their States. Karnataka was represented by Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Health Minister Harsh Vardhan and Ministers of State Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy and Nityanand Rai also participated in the review meet.

Modi emphasised on better coordination between all central and state agencies to have a permanent system for forecasting of floods and extensive use of innovative technologies for improving forecast and warning system. Prime Minister said that over the past few years, our forecasting agencies like India Meteorological Department and Central Water Commission have been making concerted efforts to make better and more usable flood forecasts. They are trying to provide not only rainfall and river level forecast but also location specific forecast of inundation. There are pilot efforts underway to also use innovative technologies such as artificial

PM dedicates Chennai-Andaman & Nicobar submarine optical fibre cable link

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday dedicated to the nation, 2,300 km submarine optical cable connecting Andaman and Nicobar Islands to Chennai, which is set to be a big leap in the communication technology. Modi congratulated the engineering team which finished this prestigious project in 18 months. The foundation stone for this project was laid by the PM on December 30, 2018 at Port Blair.

Addressing the function thru video conferring, Prime Minister said this great leap in communication technology will boost the development of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Modi admired the laying of cables for about 2,300 kilometers under the sea, surveying in the deep sea, maintaining the quality of the cable and laying of the cable with specialised vessels is not

an easy task.

The project also had to overcome challenges such as high waves, storms and monsoons and the tough times owing to Corona Pandemic. Telecom Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad also attended function and praised the engineering team in executing this project in speedy manner.

Modi said providing better and cheap connectivity to the people of Andaman & Nicobar Islands is the responsibility of the country.

PM said the Submarine Cable is one such effort to prove that A & N Islands are not far away from Delhi and from the Hearts of the Mainland. “Submarine Cable will help A&N in getting cheaper & better connectivity and all the benefits of Digital India, especially in improving online education, tele-medicine, banking system, online trading and in boosting tourism,” said Prime Minister.

intelligence to improve locations specific forecast, for which States should provide necessary information to these agencies and our timely disseminate the warnings to local communities,” said PMO in a statement.

Prime Minister mentioned that investment should be increased in localised early warning system so that people in a particular area can be provided with timely warning in case of any threatening situation such as breach of river embankment, inundation level, lightning

etc. “Prime Minister also emphasised that in view of COVID situation, while undertaking rescue efforts, States must ensure that people follow all health precautions such as wearing of face mask, hand sanitisation and maintain adequate physical distance and relief materials must include provision for hand washing/ sanitizing and face masks for the affected people. In this regard, special provisions should be made for elderly people, pregnant women and people with co-morbidity.

EIA 2020 criticism is premature as draft is not final: Javadekar



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar on Monday termed “immature” the criticism of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), 2020 from green activists and political parties including the Congress, and said that all suggestions will be considered before the draft is finalised.

“The criticism of the EIA, 2020, was “premature”, as the document is merely a draft at this stage. As per rules, only 60 days notice is to be given, but owing to Covid-19, we extended it up to 150 days,” Javadekar said on the sidelines of the ministry's World Elephant Day celebrations.

“Thousands have sent their views, but some are overage and hence they are protesting. People jumping at the draft [EIA] is not a fair practice. It is just a draft right now, we will take a call on these views and then it will be finalised.”

The Minister also

slammed the Congress, alleging that its erstwhile government did not consult people on such decisions.

“The erstwhile United Progressive Alliance-led government did not consult the people on key environmental decisions. I have mentioned this in my letter and reply to [Congress leader] Jairam Ramesh,” he said. “This is all unnecessary and premature.”

Javadekar also objected to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's comments earlier in the day. Gandhi called the draft a “disaster” and urged people to protest against it. “Those who want to now protest, during their regime took many of the big decisions without consultations,” Javadekar said.

On Sunday, Rahul Gandhi had said the draft (EIA) notification, 2020, is “not only disgraceful, but it is also dangerous”.

“Not only does it have the potential to reverse many of the hard-fought gains that have been won over the years in the battle to protect our environment, but it could also potentially unleash widespread environmental destruction and mayhem across India,” Gandhi wrote in a post on a social media platform calling youth to protest against it.

The new updates to the

draft 2020 EIA notification prescribe the procedure for industries to assess the ecological and environmental impact of their proposed activity and the mechanism, whereby these would be assessed by expert committees appointed by the environment ministry.

Several environmentalists and organisations have alleged that the draft notification does away with the requirement for public consultation for a number of projects that could create an adverse ecological impact.

Ramesh had said last month the draft notification reduces public participation in all steps of the environmental clearance process by “lessening the notice period for public hearings and doing away with them for a large category of projects”.

On August 5, the Karnataka High Court directed the Ministry of Environment to not publish the final draft notification until September 7 as it noted that it was published on March 23, two days before the imposition of the nationwide lockdown to control the coronavirus, people had not been able to file objections to the document. It also criticised the publication of the document only in Hindi and English.

Work for installation of smog tower in Delhi has started: Centre to SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre Monday told the Supreme Court that work for installation of smog tower at Anand Vihar in east Delhi has started and soil samples have been taken for examining the structural stability.

Smog tower is a structure designed as large-scale air purifier to reduce air pollution.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told a bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra that an memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been signed for the project of installation of smog tower and IIT Bombay and Tata Projects Limited are in touch with University of Minnesota for transfer of technology.

The bench, also comprising Justices B R Gavai and Krishna Murari, was informed by Mehta that as on August 8, site survey has been done and soil samples have been taken and are being examined.

Further hearing needed in 2009 contempt case against Bhushan, Tejpal, says SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday said further hearing was required in the 2009 criminal contempt case against activist-lawyer

Prashant Bhushan and journalist Tarun Tejpal to examine whether comments on corruption against judges per se amounted to contempt or not.

A bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra and comprising

justices B R Gavai and Krishna Murari posted the matter for hearing on August 17.

The top court had in November 2009 issued contempt notice to Bhushan and Tejpal.

Elephant conservation is vital as it balances ecosystem: Minister

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Every-year, at least 500 people are killed by jumbos and 100 elephants lose their lives as they come into conflict with humans in search of food and migration from one habitat to another in the country.

This is a matter of concern, said Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar at an event here after release of a document on best practices of conflict management and launch of the national portal of project elephant which will have all the data and details of elephant

“We do not kill animals. Animals are revered in India. We have to devise good conflict management practices. We have also started a fodder and water augmentation programme in elephants' habitat and corridor,” Javadekar said on World Elephant Day on Monday. As per the last census conducted in 2017, India is home to 30,000 elephants while over 2,700 are in the captivity.

Addressing the event, Javadekar said elephant conservation is vital as it balances the ecosystem. Elephants have to be kept in forests for which fodder and water augmentation programme has been initiated, the minister said, adding that by next year results will start showing.

“The Government has taken initiative of fodder and water augmentation in forest areas so that animals will get food and water in forest area and will not come outside,” he said adding that LiDAR technology is being used for it.

Union Minister of State for Environment Babul Supriyo said, it is a moment of pride that India is having 60 percent of Global population of Asian Elephants.

Giving out the figures of deaths due to human-elephant conflict, Additional Director General of Forests (Wildlife) Soumitra Dasgupta said hun-

dreds of elephants migrate and come in contact with human beings.

“More than 500 human and 100 elephant deaths take place each year due to the conflict. In last five years, the ministry has unleashed a series of activities for the conservation of elephants. More elephant corridors have been identified, budget has been increased by 30 per cent and several committees have also been formed,” said Dasgupta.

“New elephant reserves have been declared and elephant corridors have also been identified in the past five years to address the problem. Elephants have also been included in appendix 1 of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals to ensure better conservation.”

Sanjay Kumar, director-general of forests, said the population and distribution of elephants in the country have been on the rise. They have been migrating from Jharkhand to Chhattisgarh to Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

“New interactions are leading to more conflict. They are migrating to newer areas. We are trying to identify research methodologies to understand how the population can remain stable in new areas,” he said.

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority

Main Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, G.B. Nagar, (U.P.)
Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com & <https://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

(A)	Sl. No.	Job No./ Work Name	Amount
1.	103/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21.	M/o Park Sector-77 (SH: Open Gym) with Five Year Maintenance.	Cost Rs. 30.83 Lacs
2.	157/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21.	M/o RSD) with Two year maintenance, in Shivalik marg road sector-24 to DSC road.	Cost Rs. 35.77 Lacs
3.	152/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21.	M/o Green belt (R/o boundary wall and fencing concertina coil on puter boundary wall near A-15 to A-67, A-67 to C-26 to C-1) sector-100.	Cost Rs. 41.55 Lacs

Which can be uploaded by Date 24/08/2020 upto 5:00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/ downloaded on Date 25/08/2020 at 11:00 AM.

(B)	Sl. No.	Job No./ Work Name	Amount
1.	25/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21.	D/o Park (Sh: P/F Open Gym) Sector-62 C- 58 with Five Year Maintenance.	Cost Rs. 30.91 Lacs
2.	95/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21.	M/o Park Sector-112 (SH: Open Gym) with five year maintenance.	Cost Rs. 30.83 Lacs
3.	97/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21.	M/o Park Open Gym Sector-116 with Five Year Maintenance.	Cost Rs. 30.83 Lacs
4.	98/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21.	M/o Park Open Gym Sector-34 with Five Year Maintenance.	Cost Rs. 30.83 Lacs
5.	101/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21.	M/o Park Sector-51 with two year maintenance.	Cost Rs. 48.38 Lacs
6.	111/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21.	M/o Park (Open Gym with Five year Maintenance) Mahamaya Balika Inter College Sector-44 & P/F of Submersible Pump Boring.	Cost Rs. 39.09 Lacs
7.	53/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2020-21.	Two year M/o Sector-85 (A-1 to A-4, B-24 to 36, C-20 to 26, C-1 to C-12 Centrell verge)	Cost Rs. 35.38 Lacs
8.	21/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2020-21.	M/o Park Sector-93, SK-II (Sh: Open Gym) with five year maintenance.	Cost Rs. 30.98 Lacs

Which can be uploaded by Date 17/08/2020 upto 5:00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/ downloaded on Date 18/08/2020 at 11:00 AM.

Office: Sector-39, NOIDA

Director (Hort.)
Noida

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

United Textiles Limited

7th K.M. Stone, Barwala Road, Hisar - 125001 (Haryana)
CIN: L17115HR1993PLC032092

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice for Book Closure

Notice is hereby given that Registrar of Members and Transfer Books in pursuance of Regulation 42(1) of SEBI (Listing obligation & Disclosure Requirements) Regulations 2015 shall remain closed w.e.f. Tuesday the 29th day of September, 2020 To Wednesday the 30th day of September, 2020 for the purpose of Annual General Meeting.

By order of the Boards
For United Textiles Limited
(Arun Kumar Agarwal)
Executive Director (DIN 00248510)

Place: Hisar
Dated 05.08.2020

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS
E-TENDER NOTICE
(A) NAME OF THE WORK: Hiring of (01) no. of Non-A.C Ambulance (Swaraj Mazda/ Mahindra Max, Tata Sumo or similar type equipped with Oxygen Cylinder, first aid box, protective gears (PPE) and including fuel, driver with attendant and maintenance and sanitization of the ambulance for use of all kinds of COVID 19 activities in KGH/CLW/ Chittaranjan, round the clock 5000 Kms per month, for a period of six months. (a) TENDER NOTICE No. Med-G-Hiring of COVID Ambulance-2020. (b) TENDER NO. Med-G-Hiring of COVID Ambulance-2020. (c) Cost of Tender Form (Document): ₹ 2,000.00 (Rupees Two thousand) only. (d) Approx. Value of the Work (Tender Value) : ₹ 5,71,638 (Rs. Five Lakh seventy one thousand six hundred thirty eight) only.

SI No.; Item No.; Description of item; Unit; Qty.; Rate ; Amount; [1]; 1; Fixed charge for supply of COVID ambulance on hire basis including maintenance, wages of driver & attendant, oxygen on monthly basis for six months ; Month; 06; ₹ 31,773.00; ₹ 1,90,638.00. [2]; 2; Cost per Km running including fuel, lubricants and other consumables for 5000 Kms per month for one nos. of Ambulance for 6 months. =5000x06=30,000 Km; Km; 30000; ₹ 12.70; ₹ 3,81,000.00. Total ₹ 5,71,638.00. (e) Earnest money to be deposited: ₹ 11,400/- (Rupees Eleven thousand four hundred) only. (f) Completion period of the work: 06 months. (g) Validity Period=90 (Ninety) days. (h) Tender Submission Closing Date 07-09-2020 at 13.00 hrs. (i) Complete Details can be seen in the Railways website: www.ireps.gov.in & www.clw.indianrailways.gov.in

Principal Chief Medical Officer
PMC - 064 KGH/CLW/Chittaranjan
Take as on: <https://www.facebook.com/clwrailways>

BJP leader shot at by terrorists, succumbs in J&K

PNS ■ JAMMU

Abdul Hamid Najar, the Bharatiya Janta Party leader who was critically injured after being shot at by unidentified terrorists on Sunday in Ompora area of central Kashmir's Budgam district, succumbed to his injuries early Monday morning.

Najar had received at least four bullet injuries. According to official sources, "his liver was punctured". He was operated upon by the doctors but he could not survive and breathed his last early Monday morning.

The 38-year-old was being treated at the SMHS hospital in Srinagar.

Najar was the district president of Budgam BJP Other Backward Class (OBC) Morcha.

He was targeted by the unidentified terrorists when he was out on a morning walk in the area.

His last rites were performed by the family members in the afternoon. Around one dozen BJP workers across Kashmir valley have so far tendered their resignations fearing for their lives.

Death toll climbs to 49

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The death toll in Friday morning's devastating landslide at Rajamala near Munnar in Kerala reached 49 by Monday evening as search and rescue team of the NDRF retrieved six more bodies from the debris in the region. The fate of 22 more persons who went missing remains unresolved even as rescue workers were going ahead with their mission as this report is filed.

Frequent downpour and mist have made rescue operation difficult but efforts were on to locate the missing persons, all workers in tea plantation owned by the Kannan Devan Company of the Tatas.

A new controversy has erupted over the discrimination shown by the Kerala Government towards the deceased in the landslide. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan announced a solatium of ₹2 lakh to the families of each of those who lost their lives. Vijayan had announced cash relief of ₹10 lakh to the families of each of those who died in Friday's Air India air crash at Kozhikode Airport. Those injured were given ₹2 lakh and those who suffered minor injuries were

IDUKKI LANDSLIDE

allocated ₹50,000.

"This is not fair and the Kerala Government should accord the victims of Rajamala landslide the same importance and recognition they gave to those who died and injured in the air crash. The Chief Minister should understand that human lives are the same whether they die in air crash or landslide," said V Muralidharan, Minister of state for external affairs who visited the landslide spot.

Things took an ugly turn when volunteers of Seva Bharati were refused entry to Rajamala for retrieving the dead bodies and help the relations of the victims in performing the last rites. The LDF Convenor A Vijayaraghavan alleged that the Seva Bharati workers have come to propagate Hinduism and not for helping the people in distress.

Local residents said the 5b activists were the first to reach Rajamala with provisions and life saving materials like blankets and medicine for those who survived the nature's fury.

Swapna Suresh's bail plea rejected

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The NIA Court in Kochi on Monday rejected the bail application moved by Swapna Suresh, the kingpin in the Gold Smuggling Scam busted by the Customs.

Judge Krishnakumar also upheld the decision of the NIA to slap Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) against Swapna which would make it difficult for her to come out on bail in the near future.

The Judge said there were sufficient grounds that prima facie prove that the gold smuggling operation undertaken by Swapna was linked to terrorism. "It is based on the case diary as well as other documentary evidences submitted by the NIA that the bail application is being rejected," said the verdict.

Swapna Suresh and her partner-in-crime Sarith were arrested by the sleuths of NIA from Bangalore where they have gone in hiding after the Customs officials of the inter-

national airport in Thiruvananthapuram busted the gold smuggling which was happening through diplomatic channel.

The probe by the Customs and NIA took the investigation to M Sivsankar, the then principal secretary of Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and minister for higher education KT Jaleel, former SIMI leader.

Sivsankar was questioned by the NIA and the Customs officials for almost 24 hours in connection with the case while there are strong reports that Jaleel may be grilled by the agencies for his association with the UAE Consul General and attaché based at the capital city. The customs and NIA have arrested ten persons in connection with the gold smuggling.

The NIA believes that the money generated through the smuggling is being diverted to fund terrorist activities and anti-India programmes.

56 prisoners in Bareilly test +ve

Bareilly: As many as 56 inmates of two prisons in Bareilly district of Uttar Pradesh have tested positive for coronavirus, officials said on Monday.

District Surveillance Officer Ashok Kumar said 51 inmates of the central jail and five inmates of the district jail tested positive for Covid-19. The jail inmates were tested after an inmate of the central jail died due to Covid-19. Kumar added.

The district has so far reported 3,773 coronavirus cases with 98 deaths. Meanwhile, according to a report from Banda, a journalist died due to Covid-19 on Sunday.

Anjani Nigam, 52, was admitted to the Banda Medical College and later referred to the Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences in Lucknow on Saturday when his condition deteriorated. **IANS**



Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Dy CM Sushil Kumar Modi planting a tree as part of closing ceremony of Mission 2.51 trees on the occasion of Bihar Earth Day in Patna on Sunday. As part of the drive by Bihar Environment Department, 3.47 crore sapling have been planted across the State in 10 months initiated by Principal Secretary Dipak Kumar Singh

Kolkata: Fire breaks out at building on Pollock Street

Kolkata: People had a narrow escape when fire broke out at a commercial high-rise in busy Pollock Street area of north central Kolkata.

The fire broke out in a building that houses several corporate offices and banks late in the afternoon however was arrested with the help of 10 fire engines and a hydraulic ladder which was further used to rescue people trapped on the first floor, State Minister Firhad Hakim said.

The immediate reason of the fire was not known he said adding investigations would be carried out after the flames were completely doused. **PNS**

Sri Lankan Jamaatis trapped in violation of visa rules

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

Foreign Tablighi Jamaatis caught in several districts of UP and Delhi have been released after fines and short punishments.

However, the allegation of violation of visa rules has become an impediment in the bail of two Sri Lankan Jamaatis caught in Aligarh.

Therefore, their release was not possible and their bail got dismissed from the sessions court today. After this, efforts have started in the High Court for their bail and for this, the Sri Lankan Embassy has appointed a lawyer.

During the early period of the coronavirus infection period, people of Jamaat were

quarantined all over the country amidst the noise of spreading infection from the Jamaatis involved in the Tabligi Jamat of Delhi.

Action was also taken against them in the Lockdown Violation, Pandemic Act. During this action, two Jamaatians of Sri Lankan origin caught in the city are badly trapped.

They are accused for violation of Indian visa rules. Due to this, the issue of their return to their country is stuck.

According to the government data and Aligarh police records, there were 72 Jamaatis came in the district at that time. In the Dharpakad campaign, 13 in Rangrej, 12 in Atiyan, 10 in Govind Nagar, 102 in

Kasimpur, 9 in Junglegarhi, 16 in Pilauna and the rest Jamaati in Faiz Mosque area were caught.

Out of these, 13 people stayed in the Rangrej Mosque area. Among them were two Sri Lankans named M o h a m m a d Murshidurrahman and MJ Hippalul Rahman. Their investigation and passport verification revealed that both of them visited India for 90 days in February on a tourist visa. According to the rules, during this time they should not have participated in any religious procession here.

Therefore, they were accused of lockdown violation, epidemic act, disaster act, visa rule violation. Their pass-

ports were confiscated and they were sent to jail.

According to Advocate Aale Navi, who is representing them in Aligarh, their bail application was granted in the Sessions Court. But otherwise, the plea was rejected in visa violation rule.

Now the senior advocate of the High Court will advocate the matter as the Sri Lankan Embassy has taken the process forward by taking interest in the matter. The Embassy has appointed advocates. This is important to mention that foreign Jamaatis who were caught in Delhi, Saharanpur, Baghat etc. in the country, were all released. Jamaati of other states of the country were also released.

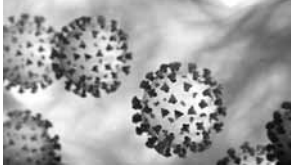
As cases spike, Kerala Govt ropes in police to fight pandemic

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

As the number of Covid-19 patients showing no possibility of coming down, Kerala has sought the assistance of the State's Police force to combat the pandemic fighting mechanism, according to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

Addressing the media in his daily press briefing, Vijayan said he has appointed Harshita Attaluri, inspector general of police as the nodal officer in charge of Thiruvananthapuram rural district and S Sreejith, IG, as the officer in charge of coastal region.

The decision is in the background of 1,184 new persons testing positive for Covid-19 in the last 24 hours ending Monday evening 6 pm. "Seven persons succumbed to Covid-19 during the last 24 hours. What is concern is the number of persons getting infected through social transmission. On Monday, 956 persons out of



the 1,184 tested positive contracted the pandemic through social transmission. 114 persons could not explain how and where they contracted the pandemic. We diagnosed 106 expatriates and 73 persons from other parts of the country on Monday with the pandemic," said Vijayan. Hew also said that 41 health workers too tested positive for the pandemic.

"The task of controlling the spread of the pandemic has been handed over to Neighbourhood Watch System and the Janamithri Police. We are afraid that the local community clusters are almost sure to become Large Community Clusters," said Vijayan.

The testing of samples in the State continued to hover in

the 20,000 to 21,000 range. "During the last 24 hours we tested 20,583 samples. Regarding the district-wise testing, Malappuram topped the table on Monday with 255 positive cases while number of cases in Thiruvananthapuram came down slightly to 200," said Vijayan. He said the downpour has come down in the State and the next few days would see rain coming down further, according to the Indian Meteorological Department.

The sum total of Monday's media briefing by Vijayan is that Kerala continues to be in a fragile state with Covid-19 pandemic continuing unabated. The roping in of police officers to strengthen the preventive mechanism to fight Covid-19 is being seen as a signal in this direction. Vijayan refused to draw into any controversy regarding his staying off Munnar where 48 persons were killed in Friday's landslide.

114 die, 5,914 test +ve in Tamil Nadu

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

114 deaths and 5,914 new Covid-19 patients by Monday evening. This is the information furnished by the Government of Tamil Nadu on Monday about the situation in the State on account of coronavirus.

As on Monday evening, there were 53,099 active Covid-19 cases in the State, lesser than the 53,336 persons with the pandemic as on Sunday evening. Though the numbers were outwardly smaller compared to Sunday, the ground reality is that Tamil Nadu remains critical with the pandemic refusing to show any sign of subsiding.

Chennai had 976 Covid-19 patients on Monday. But Chengalpattu diagnosed 483 new persons while Kancheepuram (310) and Thiruvallur (399) continued with unabated pandemic.

There were 15 districts other than Chennai, VChengalpattu, Kancheepuram and Thiruvallur with high number of Covid patients while others showed less than 100 cases.

An important information that came out of Tamil Nadu Secretariat is that 28 legislators have contracted Covid-19 which means that 10 per cent of the elected representatives have been affected with the pandemic.

Doctors in Chennai's Government Hospitals refused to acknowledge the fat that the pandemic has come down in the Metropolis over the last fortnight. "I am not bold enough to say so. There were many instances where those tested negative getting contracted with the pandemic. Its only after three or four tests that we can boldly say the person is out of danger of getting afflicted with the pandemic," he said.

Why deprive farmers of PM-Kisan scheme: Bengal Guv to Mamata

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Days after alleging that the State Government was withholding information from him on vital issues Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar on Monday shot off a letter to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee requesting her to allow the State farmers to avail of the benefit of pro-farmer Prime Minister Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme which was being blocked by her Government.

Urging the Chief Minister to undo the injustice being meted out to the tillers he wrote that he was distressed at the how the 70 lakh odd farmers of the State were being deprived of the central scheme.

Claiming that the farmers of Bengal has already lost the total benefit amounting to about ₹8,400 crore "which was their due and right," Dhankhar wrote "it is distressing to note that 70 lakh farmers continue to be

denied the benefits of PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi," adding "while each farmer all over the country has so far received ₹12,000 our farmers have been denied of this legitimate right on account of insensitivity and confrontational stance of the State Government.

He said that the farmers of other States had received ₹92,000 crores thanks to the PM Kisan scheme whereas "no amount has come to our State." This, he said required some "soul-searching and immediate amends," he said.

Dhankhar further wrote that the Central Govt scheme has been running from 2018 with 100% funding from Govt of India adding "The amount is directly transferred to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries."

As there was no middle-

men or commission, the amount directly went into the farmers' accounts he said, wondering "why this is not been done by the State Govt.

This unfortunate lapse, is painfully harmful to the interests of the farmers. This 'cruel joke' and historic injustice on the farmers should make me realise that governance has to be for the benefit of the people at large," and urging the Chief Minister to "take steps to undo this injustice to our farmers."

The Governor who has no love lost with the Trinamool Congress Government, had last week alleged that the State Government departments were not only not sharing information with him but also not responding to the queries vides Right to Information.

DRI, customs seize 191 kg heroin worth ₹1000 cr at JNPT

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In perhaps the biggest narcotic hauls in recent years, Mumbai Customs and Department of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) have seized 191 kilograms of heroin worth ₹1,000 crore from a cargo container at Nhava Sheva Port Trust (JNPT) in Navi Mumbai and arrested two customs clearing agents in connection with the seizure.

Acting on a tip-off, the

Customs and DRI officials brought about the seizure in a joint operation carried out at the JNPT.

Each kilogram of seized drug is worth more than ₹5 crore in the market.

Said to be of prime quality, heroin had been concealed in plastic pipes painted in bamboo colour. When apprehended, the smugglers had sought to pass it off as a traditional, the Ayurvedic medicine.

Army starts enquiry after families allege 'ultras' killed in Shopian were labourers

Jammu: Mystery behind disappearance of three labourers hailing from Rajouri on Monday deepened further after social media reports claimed the three "suspected terrorists" killed in Amshipora Shopian 'encounter' on 18 July 2020, have been reportedly identified as the missing labourers of Rajouri on basis of photographs shared by the families. As the news spread like wildfire on various other social media platforms, dis-

gruntled politicians in Kashmir valley issued lengthy statements demanding a probe into disappearance of three labourers from Rajouri in south Kashmir district of Shopian.

Reacting to these social media posts, Srinagar based Defence Spokesman, Col Rajesh Kalia issued a statement which read, "we have noted social media inputs linked to the operation at Shopian on July 18, 2020. **PNS**

Maha deaths drop to 293, cases dip to 9,181

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a marked drop in the number of Covid-19 infections and fatalities, Maharashtra on Monday witnessed 293 deaths taking the total pandemic toll in the State to 18,050, while a relatively low 9,181 people tested positive for Coronavirus.

After the disturbing weekend that saw the pandemic claim 665 lives (275 on Saturday and 390 on Sunday)

and leave an alarming 24,070 others (12,822 on Saturday and 12,248 on Sunday) infected, Coronavirus appeared to have become less ferocious on the first day of the week, going by the death and infection tallies.

Of the 290 total deaths reported on Monday, Mumbai accounted for accounted for 46 deaths, while there were 43 deaths in Pune and 42 in Thane.

राजस्थान आवासन मण्डल

क्रमांक: अति. मु. अति. सूची/ 2020-21/131 दिनांक: 08.08.2020

निविदा सूचना संख्या- 08/2020-21

कार्य का नाम: मानसरोवर योजना, जयपुर में बी. टी. रोड, कॉमिशियल बेल्ड-की स्थित, सिटी पार्क परियोजना में जोड़िंग ट्रेक एवं कम्पाउण्ड वॉल (फेज-द्वितीय) का निर्माण कार्य।

राजस्थान आवासन मण्डल की विभिन्न आवासीय योजनाओं में विभिन्न कार्यों की बिड के लिए उपयुक्त श्रेणी के राजस्थान आवासन मण्डल में एवं अन्य विभागों में 'एए' श्रेणी के पंजीकृत संवेदकों से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ऑन लाइन ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट प्रक्रिया से बिड आमंत्रित की जाती है।

निविदा की कुल लागत	रुपये 891.51 लाख (01 करोड़)
ऑन लाइन बिड मिलने की दिनांक मंद संख्या।	13.08.2020 से 02.09.2020 सायं 6:00 बजे तक
ऑन लाइन बिड एवं निर्धारित प्रपत्र अपलोड करने की दिनांक मंद संख्या।	13.08.2020 से 02.09.2020 सायं 6:00 बजे तक
निविदा अनुसार डिमाण्ड ड्राफ्ट व अन्य मूल प्रपत्र भौतिक रूप से कार्यालय में जमा कराने की दिनांक मंद संख्या।	03.09.2020 सायं 6:00 बजे तक
ऑन लाइन तकनीकी बिड खोलने की तिथि मंद संख्या 01	07.09.2020 प्रातः 11.00 बजे
ऑन लाइन वित्तीय बिड खोलने की तिथि मंद संख्या 01	14.09.2020 प्रातः 11.00 बजे
SPPP UN NUMBER	RHB2021WLBO00141

मंद संख्या 01 के कार्य की बिड दू बिड पद्धति से आमंत्रित की जाएगी आवासीय अनियन्ता - ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट के कार्यालय में उपरोक्तानुसार खोली जायेगी। "ई-टेंडरिंग प्रक्रिया में सिलिब कार्यों हेतु राजस्थान आवासन मण्डल में समुचित वर्ग के पंजीकृत संवेदक एवं "अन्य विभागों के 'एए' श्रेणी के पंजीकृत संवेदक 1.50 करोड़ से अधिक के समस्त कार्यों की बिड में ही भाग ले सकेंगे। निविदा से संबंधित समस्त विवरण एवं शर्तें वेबसाइट www.urban.raajasthan.gov.in/rhb व <https://eproc.raajasthan.gov.in> पर देखी जा सकती है।

अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता, सूचीय, जयपुर

Samwad/C/3331/2020-21

SEARCH OF MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one male (depicted in the photo), **Namely: Shivjiram, S/o: Suraj Ram, R/o: House of Sanjay Saini, Hajari Park, Holambi Kalan, Delhi** **Aged: 34 years**, has been missing from his house since 08.04.2020 at 06.00 AM. In this Regard a case vide **DD No. 40-A, Dated 10.04.2020**, has been lodged at **P.S. Narela Industrial Area Delhi**. His physical description is as under:

Height: 5'5" feet, Face: Long, Complexion: Dusky, Built: Thin, Mentally: Normal, Wearing: Brown Colour Jacket, Blue Colour Pajama and Cloth Shoes in feet.

Any person is having any information/clue about this missing male, may inform SHO, **Narela Industrial Area, Delhi** at E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.nic.in or website : <http://cbi.nic.in> Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641

S.H.O P.S. Narela, Industrial Area, Delhi
Ph.: 011-27787592, 27787593

DP/383/ON/2020



SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED GIRL

General Public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) namely **Soniya D/o Kailash R/o H. No. D-82, Gali No. 1, Vijay Colony, Bawana, Delhi** **Aged- 15 Years** has been reported missing/kidnapped since 24.07.2020 at 7:00 PM from the area of P.S. Bawana, Delhi vide **DD No. 444/2020, Dated 26.07.2020 U/s 363** has been registered at Police Station Bawana, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

Complexion: Fair, Height: 5', Built: Thin, Face: Round, Hair: Black long, Wearing: Black coloured lower, white coloured t-shirt and sport shoes.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing girl, may inform SHO, Bawana, Delhi at E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in or website : <http://cbi.nic.in>

Sd/-
SHO, Bawana, Delhi
Tel.: 011-27752534
Mob.: 7065036321

DP/389/ON/2020



मुख्यमंत्री निःशुल्क दवा योजना

RAJASTHAN MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.
(A Govt. of Rajasthan Undertaking)

Gandhi Block, Swasthya Bhawan, Tilak Marg, Jaipur - 302005, India
Phone No: 0141-2228066, 2228064 Website: www.rmssc.health.raajasthan.gov.in
CIN:U24232RJ2011SGC035067 E-mail : edgrmssc@nic.in

F.02(79)/RMSC/Proc/Non Drug/NIB-11/2020/234 Dated:07.08.2020

Notice Inviting E-Bids

SHORT TERM E-bids for one procurement are invited upto 03:00 PM of 14.08.2020 for Supply of Nitrile gloves. Details of NIB-11/2020. (UBN-MSC2021GLRC00004) may be seen in the Bidding Documents at our office or at the website of State Public Procurement Portal <http://sppp.raaj.nic.in>, www.dipronline.org, <http://eproc.raajasthan.gov.in>, www.rmssc.health.raajasthan.gov.in and may be downloaded from there.

Note:- If any amendment is carried out in the tender specifications and terms & conditions following pre-bid meeting, the same will be uploaded on the Departmental website www.rmssc.health.raajasthan.gov.in, sppp.raaj.nic.in and <http://eproc.raajasthan.gov.in>. In case any inconvenience is felt, please contact on telephone number 0141-2228064

Raj.Samwad/C/20/3308 Executive Director (Procurement), RMSC

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The Congress needs to conduct inner party elections and get a president though it has saved Rajasthan



If indeed Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi, who met rebel Congress leader Sachin Pilot, have worked out a rapprochement in the troubled Rajasthan Congress, then it is their first decisive move, indicating a generational shift. Their efforts have at least built a tenuous bridge between the old guard and the younger breed. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot climbed down, as he was told sternly that Pilot needs to be reinstated and given space. This is a high stake game for Rahul if he sees himself as reclaiming the Congress fortunes with his peers, who are getting disgruntled, impatient and sometimes even impervious to the need for accommodating experience.

But then he has to play the part proactively and wisely, not from the shadows as mother Sonia Gandhi will continue to remain interim president for a little longer. He has to have a strategy, rather than running a lone warrior race on social media. Sure the seniors have fattened up their turfs and positions while letting the Gandhis take the credit or blame publicly as the case may have been, but in securing their interests, they have respectively developed the party's matrix creditably and have a depth of experience in political manoeuvring. But they are status quoist, preferring continuity into their sunset years in ways that they understand, choosing fiefdoms over the larger national revival of the party. The fact is the Congress has lost the hunger to be a national alternative in the changed political template of the times that is disruptive, dynamic, performance-driven, result-oriented and avowedly authoritarian. The party looks rudderless and hopeless in comparison. The younger breed, Rahul included, now want to leave their mark, and reclaim some respectability for the party and as Jyotiraditya Scindia and Sachin Pilot have shown, can live down their entitlements, work the ground and deliver results. Ambition is not a bad thing and maybe the propeller the Congress needs, provided it creates a *margdarshak*-like structure for the old hawks the way BJP has. Besides, the elders forget that they were mavericks once and should let the fresh winds blow in, failed as they have in arresting the party's erosion.

But as mentioned before, the party first needs a strategy. And must speak in a united voice. To give the elders their due, they are right in suggesting that Rahul stop the personal attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It is understandable why Rahul, the nation's butt of ridicule courtesy the BJP's online army, and the recipient of digs about his family legacy, is tempted to make it personal. But he is ending up making Modi look like a victim of dynastic snobbery, something that cost the Congress the Lok Sabha election last year. Despite India's unwieldy pandemic and the mishandling of the Chinese incursion in Ladakh, Modi's personality cult remains unaffected. Attacking him is proving counter-productive for Rahul. The Congress needs to work on issue-based campaigns at a pan-India level, be it of economic slowdown, joblessness or the youth. Only when issues are made bigger than the personality will the Congress be able to force a serious discourse beyond the muscularity of Modi or the triumphalism of religiosity. Let's face it, Rahul cannot win a personality war but can present a cogent alternative plan that may yet find takers. Instead of interviewing experts and luminaries, he should get their inputs to prepare this agenda. Besides, while team Rahul is brimming with ideas, they are not tested in the crucible of the political laboratory and they would need seniors in scripting party responses rather than running down past UPA Governments. Rahul should at least insist upon a disciplined public posturing. While he did try to appear responsible and principled by withdrawing from public life after the Lok Sabha rout, the fact is this move made him look like an escapist. If the high command thought this would lead to a yearning among partymen to get him back, that's not the case. Perceiving the party as a rudderless ship, many grassroots workers and members have just migrated to other parties, be it the BJP or federal outfits, to barter their worth. If he was really keen on a rebuild, he should have stuck through the worst. Something that sister Priyanka at least attempted in Uttar Pradesh. Most importantly, if he really wants to be a reformist and take everybody along, he should usher in democracy within by calling for the Congress Working Committee elections at the earliest. There should be a permanent president and not a stopgap one as MP Shashi Tharoor has indicated. Rahul's problem is that he knows that the chair is his; every Congressman would acquiesce to Sonia's wishes on this matter, even his peers. That probably fuels his complacency or stubbornness, depending on which side of the prism you want to look from. But the Bihar and the Assembly elections aren't too far away. So the Congress needs campaign planks than ego wars. And Rahul must engage with other federal front leaders on his own steam than leave that to his mother. The Congress has already frittered away too much time and talk. Now it is action or perish. And the *baba log*, too, are greying.

Atmanirbhar raksha

Shooting from the hip or shooting oneself in the foot? Is a ban on defence items enough to make India self-reliant?



India is one of the world's largest buyers of defence equipment. It is also unique among big nations with large armed forces to have an abysmally small domestic arms industry. The country imports everything — from frontline fighter aircraft to clothing equipment and bulletproof vests worn by frontline infantrymen. It is a trade that has made many people in Delhi very rich and led to a completely corrupt military decision-making process, both from the political front as well as inside the forces. Therefore, should the announcement by the Raksha Mantri, Rajnath Singh, to gradually move a hundred items from the import list to beef up domestic production be seen as a positive? Frankly, yes and also no. Yes because there is a desperate need for India to build up a military-industrial complex of companies, both public and private, that can supply our defence needs in a hurry. To give an example, the speed with which Boeing delivered the last batch of Apache attack and Chinook transport helicopters after the events of June 15 shows just how agile and efficient American military suppliers are. Nobody is saying that India can reach this efficiency, from both a scientific or production standpoint, but the knee-jerk reaction with which our country buys arms from abroad at any sign of trouble has to change. With some notable exceptions such as Larsen & Toubro and various Tata Sons companies, the private sector's involvement in defence production has been abysmal. Mainly because of the Government's reluctance to involve them, thanks to strong Defence Public Sector Unit (DPSU) lobbies among politicians and bureaucrats. Various research institutions, including the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), too, must chip in to develop technologies and boost in-house capabilities. Even in an area where India is fairly self-reliant — building surface warships — we barely produce one large capital ship annually. Yet China is churning out destroyers and frigates by the dozen every couple of years. If we are to bridge this gap, Indian industry must be encouraged.

However, there is a counter-argument. For several items on Singh's list, India simply does not have the capabilities. Consider transport aircraft; Indian companies were unable to upgrade the extensive fleet of Antonov 32 medium aircraft. While the Modi Government ought to be complimented on finishing the long gestation period for the Light Combat Aircraft Tejas, its three-decade development story is a joke. We have not built any commercial or military transport aircraft in our history. And even if the proposed measures allow for joint development and Indian fabrication, pretending that we suddenly have the skills to make planes is outright bizarre. The same applies to state-of-the-art radar and sonar systems. If we are to get the best systems, we will have to import them until we are able to reverse-engineer or collaborate with the likes of France and Israel to develop our own. Yes, domestic manufacturing is a start and will save considerable resources but it should not come in the way of ensuring that India's frontline warriors have access to the best technology.

Set new energy goals

Perovskite-based solar cells are a good alternative to silicon-based PV cells. But the problem of degradation due to weather conditions needs to be addressed



KK PAUL

Recently, the Prime Minister inaugurated the country's largest photovoltaic (PV) cell-based solar energy plant at Rewa in Madhya Pradesh. While inaugurating this 750 megawatt (MW) plant, he stressed upon the need for *atmanirbharta* (self-reliance). Considering that about 80 per cent of our solar power generation equipment is of Chinese origin, the inauguration of the solar plant was timely. The Prime Minister used the occasion to emphasise this aspect. Said he, "India won't be able to fully use its solar power potential if the country doesn't develop better solar panels, batteries and storage manufacturing capacity." India imported \$2.16 billion worth of solar photovoltaic cells, panels and modules in 2018-19.

India is lucky that sunlight is available in abundance here but the challenge lies in the procurement of the PV cells. This has been one of the major constraining factors in our efforts to realise the full potential of solar energy. According to a report submitted by the parliamentary Standing Committee, in order to achieve the target of 100 GW of solar electricity capacity by 2022, India should have had an installed capacity of 32,000 MW by 2017-18. But as of January 31, 2018, the country only had a capacity of 18,455 MW. As per the standing committee, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has to install the remaining 81,545 MW in just four years — this is over 20,000 MW a year and appears difficult to achieve.

However, despite the constraints, the price of solar energy has come down to ₹2-2.50 per unit from ₹7-8 per unit in 2014. A serious lacuna in this entire exercise of achieving the solar power target continues to be our poor record of indigenous manufacturing of solar panels and our near-complete dependency on Chinese imports.

Today, China is the only country that caters to most of the global PV cell demands. It produces the cheapest solar panels. It is difficult for any country to match such low prices. This has led to a situation where China has a virtual monopoly and this may not be desirable in the long run. Our own imports, mostly from China, accounted for 90 per cent



of 2017 sales, up from 86 per cent in 2014. Thus, it is paradoxical that both our sources of energy, oil as well as solar, are currently heavily dependent on imports.

The Chinese advantage is based on low cost of manufacturing despite the process being highly power consumptive and polluting. In the present scenario, particularly in the wake of the Galwan incident, imports of solar technology from China have been banned as it would not have been logical on our part to continue to nourish their economy.

In the absence of cheap imports, the current situation may, perhaps, appear to be disappointing but there are alternatives which must be fully exploited. First, the solar thermal route for harnessing solar energy has found limited application so far. As of now, there are only six functional solar thermal plants, which amount to just a fraction of our total requirement.

Understandably, this technology has its own advantages but is somewhat more expensive than the PV cell route. This is why it has not gathered much acceptance. More research in this area can ensure that costs are further cut down leading to profitability.

An alternative to silicon-

“PEROVSKITE IS A CRYSTALLINE FORM OF THE CHEMICAL CALCIUM TITANATE. IT MAY SOUND FORMIDABLE BUT FORTUNATELY, ALL THE RAW MATERIALS USED TO MANUFACTURE IT ARE INDIGENOUSLY AVAILABLE. THE PROCESS, TOO, IS MUCH SIMPLER, LESS POLLUTING AND CONSUMES LESS POWER THAN THE PRODUCTION OF SILICON CHIPS

based PV cells, which is the speciality of China, has since been found in the form of Perovskite solar cells. This is also a tried and tested method. According to the work done at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru, the efficiency of the Perovskite cells, which was about three per cent in 2006, showed a marked improvement. It has now been determined to be at about 22 per cent, which makes it quite viable.

Perovskite is a crystalline form of the chemical called calcium titanate. It may sound formidable but fortunately, all the raw materials used to manufacture it are indigenously available. The process, too, is much simpler, less polluting and consumes less power than the production of silicon chips.

Perovskite is the product of limestone, which is abundantly available in the country, and titanium oxide, which is obtained from sands containing ilmenite, an ore of titanium. Ilmenite, too, is available in abundance as we have reserves of several million tonnes of this ore in the sands along the shores of Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

The present usage of titanium oxide is confined to the paints and pigment industry as

well as in the manufacture of cosmetics and sunscreens as it offers good protection against UV rays.

The absence of Chinese products from now onwards needs to be considered as an opportunity for accelerated research so as to put this technology to commercial use at the earliest. Perovskite-based solar cells have performed exceedingly well in controlled conditions but the problem of degradation due to weather conditions needs to be addressed. The silicon-based PV cells are almost weather proof, so the durability of Perovskite has to be brought up to that level.

Perovskite technology has the potential of being a game-changer in our quest for harnessing solar energy with less polluting and low cost solutions. The renewable energy firm, ReNew Power Pvt Ltd, has already announced that it is in discussion with various States to set up a ₹1,500-2,000 crore facility to make solar cells and modules. The need is for close monitoring and allocation of sufficient funds for research. India can't afford to lose the new solar race.

(The writer is a former Governor and senior advisor at the Pranab Mukherjee Foundation)

SOUNDBITE

It is true, how many times did Sushant go to Patna to meet his father? I have sympathy for his father but there are many things that will surface.

Shiv Sena leader
—Sanjay Raut



You have an audience that is exposed to so much content from across the world, which is why you really have to push the envelope to grab its attention.

Actor
—Kunal Kapoor



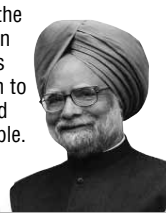
It is a disastrous situation for people living without access to safe water and safely managed sanitation. The chronic underinvestment has left billions vulnerable.

UN-Water Chair
—Gilbert F Houngbo



Economic slowdown in the country is a humanitarian crisis. The Government's shock and awe approach to the lockdown has caused tremendous pain to people.

Former PM
—Manmohan Singh



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Humanity exists

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Tragedy in Kozhikode" (August 10). Credit must be given to the local residents, who rushed to the aid of those on-board the ill-fated flight. However, many people forgot to follow COVID-19 protocols, the downpour and even the possible danger of a fire. It must be noted that the airport area has been listed as a pandemic containment zone. Their help in spotting passengers and later disseminating information using social media were outstanding gestures. There were large queues of blood donors at hospitals even at midnight, proving that humanity, humanness and hope are still alive.

M Pradyu
Kannur

Avoidable crash

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Tragedy in Kozhikode" (August 10). The Kozhikode plane crash incident is a reminder that the findings of the safety audits were not taken

Lessons from a series of tragedies

This refers to the editorial, "Tragedy in Kozhikode" (August 10). Tragedy after tragedy seems to be unfolding even as the COVID-19 pandemic shows no signs of slowing down. The hooch tragedy in Punjab, fire accidents in Ahmedabad and Vijayawada, landslides in Idukki and the plane crash in Kozhikode have all occurred in quick succession. The hooch tragedy in Punjab claimed 113 lives and highlighted how bootlegging and consumption of spurious brew continue in times of crisis. The incessant rain caused a landslide in Idukki, Kerala, which flattened a row of 20 houses of tea estate workers. More than 40 people died. The estate workers were not evacuated in time to escape the nature's fury. Every year, the living quarters of these workers become precarious during the rainy season, a fact that underlines the vulnerability of labourers to natural disasters. The workers must be provided with safe accommodation.

The Kozhikode plane crash turned the homecoming of Indian repatriates into a tragedy. Poor meteorological conditions, low visibility and the less-than-adequate length of the "table-top" runways are said to have led to the crash. The exact cause will be known in the coming days. Local residents and security personnel braved unfavourable weather conditions to rescue the passengers trapped in the debris. Then, the fire that broke out at an Ahmedabad hos-



pital snuffed out the lives of eight COVID patients. It was attributed to short-circuit in a life-support system. The fire at a hotel-turned-COVID facility in Vijayawada claimed the lives of 11 people. This happened due to the Government's callousness and the management's negligence. The fire tragedies in Ahmedabad and Vijayawada were very much avoidable. All such incidents should be a wake-up call for the Government to ensure that health facilities are well-equipped and fire-proof. Flying protocols, too, need revision. Indian aviation deserves better.

G David Milton
Maruthancode

seriously. In a similar incident in 2010, a Boeing 737 aircraft had overshot the tabletop runway at the Mangalore airport,

killing 158 passengers and crew. Experts had warned of a repeat but all in vain. The present crash has proved no lessons

were learnt by the authorities.

Why was such a big aircraft allowed to operate from a tabletop? Why did the operators

allow water to collect on the runway? Given that the pilot had already aborted an attempt to land sensing the condition, why wasn't the aircraft diverted to a nearby airport? Although a few recommendations of the aviation safety report submitted to the Ministry of Civil Aviation in 2011 were implemented, lapses remain. Instead of jumping to conclusions, we must wait for reports to emerge. Hereon, suggestions of the audit report must be implemented without any delay.

V Nagendra Kumar
Hyderabad

Focus on safety

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Tragedy in Kozhikode" (August 10). The Karipur airport is in a hilly area and has a tabletop runway. This has been a matter of concern since long as four major incidents have taken place in the past. Authorities need to focus on improving safety levels.

Aditi
Via email

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

State laws don't hold water

India needs a comprehensive national water law, which should be a collection of rules and principles to address all related issues in the country



RATNESH KUSHWAHA

Water is a unique substance as it is one of the few materials on Earth that exists naturally as a solid, liquid and a gas. There is an estimated over one billion cubic kilometre of water on our planet, which covers nearly three-fourth of the Earth's surface. Though this seems an inordinately huge amount, less than one per cent of it is fresh and usable and is found in lakes, ponds, rivers and groundwater. Though it is not possible for life on the planet to exist without it, about 97 per cent of the water covering the Earth's surface is salty ocean and not suitable for drinking without desalination. So, here's how the Earth's freshwater is spread around the globe: A whopping 70 per cent of freshwater is locked in ice caps; less than one per cent of the freshwater is readily accessible; Brazil, Russia, Canada, Indonesia, China and Colombia have 50 per cent of the world's freshwater reserves. Sadly, about one-third of the world's population lives in "water-stressed" countries, defined as a nation's ratio of water consumption to water availability. Countries labelled as moderate to high stress consume 20 per cent more water than their available supply.

India is home to nearly 17 per cent of the world's population and is bestowed with just four per cent of the total water resources. In our country, 50 per cent of the annual rainfall is received in approximately one month, resulting in non-optimal utilisation due to our limited water-harvesting capacity. We optimally utilise only 36 per cent of the total rainfall that translates into about 252 billion cubic metres of water getting harvested against a total rainfall of 690 billion cubic metre. India is still coping with issues like water pollution, water purity and a worsening potability factor. All these may lead to scarcity in the coming years. That, too, in most parts of our country. Despite this, water laws in India are largely a State-based subject. These have been crafted from various formal and informal laws, various kinds of rules and principles which evolved over the years in a parochial and casual manner.

The Indian Constitution has empowered the States to legislate in this area. Therefore, they have exclusive powers regarding framing of rules and guidelines on all water-related issues like irrigation, canals, water management, embankments and so on. Though the Indian Parliament adopted the Water Act in 1974 but the objective of the Act was skewed towards prevention, control of water pollution and the maintenance/restoration of the wholeness of water. This implies that it was designed to assess pollution levels and to penalise the polluters. In the present situation, where India's population is ascending at a rapid pace and water resources are limited, various challenges are emerging, like indiscriminate usage of groundwater, encroachment of water bodies and water pollution, to name a few. There are also various related issues like rejuvenation of moribund rivers, interlinking of rivers, riparian rights and negotiations with neighbouring countries on sharing resources which traverse both the nations.

Apart from these challenges, if we analyse water resources from a development perspective, there is a need to do a lot in the field of inland waterways in the country, interlinking of rivers and water management for better irrigation plans or promoting water-based economical projects like fisheries and developing fox nut (*makhana*) clusters.

The existing legal framework concerning water in India is mostly complemented by human rights dimensions. The overall picture is that there is multiplicity of principles and rules in the water sector and a lack of an overall framework. This is largely the legacy of the colonial Government, which was more focussed on irrigation work. As a result of this, basic principles of water laws applied in India are derived from these irrigation Acts, like the Northern India Canal and Drainage Act, 1873. Thereafter, Acts like the Madhya Pradesh Irrigation Act, 1931, the Regulation of Water Act, 1941 and the very recent Bihar Irrigation Act, 1997 came into existence, in which it was provided that all the rights on surface water shall rest with the State Government.

One trend which should be followed and must be highlighted is the gradual formalisation of national water laws by taking into confidence all the stakeholders. This should ultimately and amicably replace the existing local laws, incorporate every part of water resource and its components and address all water-related issue comprehensively. Any law is a collection of rules prescribed under the authority of the State or nation so as to manage, preserve and ensure proper use of our water resources. India needs a comprehensive national water law, which should be a collection of rules and principles to address all kinds of issues which the country is encountering or may encounter in the foreseeable future.

(The writer is an Advocate, Patna High Court and a water activist)

SYED ABDUL MALIK WAS A POET, WHO WAS INDULGING IN INTELLECTUAL JIHAD IN THE COUNTRY. —BJP LEGISLATOR FROM HOJAI SHILADITYA DEB

POINT COUNTERPOINT



THE COMMENTS MADE BY DEB ARE POLITICALLY MOTIVATED AND EXPOSE HIS LOW MENTALITY AND LACK OF KNOWLEDGE. —LOP IN ASSAM ASSEMBLY DEBABRATA SAIKIA

Bailout or blowout?

When the wheels of the economy on ground zero are stuck and there is little demand for credit, lowering of interest rates will not help in any way



UTTAM GUPTA

Following marathon deliberations of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) over three days, the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) Governor, Shaktikanta Das, made four important announcements under the central bank's bi-monthly monetary policy review on August 6.

First, Das warned that India's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth is set to contract in 2020-21 but did not give a specific forecast. He also cautioned that "while an early containment of the COVID-19 pandemic may impart an upside to the outlook, a more protracted spread of the pandemic, deviations from the forecast of a normal monsoon and global financial market volatility are key downside risks." Furthermore, the MPC sees "upside risks to food prices and elevated headline inflation during the second quarter of the current financial year (July-September), which would ease in the second half."

Second, "in respect of MSME (micro, small and medium enterprise) borrowers facing stress on account of the economic fallout of the pandemic, lending institutions may restructure the debt under the existing framework, provided the borrower's account was classified as standard with the lender as on March 1, 2020; this restructuring will have to be implemented by March 31, 2021." The banks will have to make an additional provision of five per cent on restructured loans.

Third, large companies will also be eligible for one-time restructuring without declaring it as a non-performing asset (NPA) or requiring a change in the promoter/s. The borrower account has to be standard as on March 1. The decision on the restructuring scheme has to be taken by December 31 and restructuring must be implemented within six months. An additional provision of 10 per cent on the restructured loans should be made. An expert committee under KV Kamath will recommend to the RBI the required financial parameters, along with the sector-specific benchmarks for this special window.

Fourth, the policy repo rate — the interest rate charged by the RBI on loans it gives to banks — remains unchanged at four per cent. The reverse repo rate or the interest rate the banks get on their surplus funds parked with the RBI also remains unchanged at 3.35 per cent. Further, the RBI will continue with the "accommodative" stance of the monetary policy as long as necessary to revive growth and mitigate the impact of COVID-19, while ensuring that inflation remains within the target.

The first announcement is on expected lines even as intermittent lockdowns by States and associated disruptions in both supply and demand have dashed all hopes of a V-shaped recovery in economic growth (as alluded to by the Chief Economic Advisor, KV Subramanian during the initial stages of the pandemic). Several agencies, including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), have projected a significant deceleration in growth.

As regards the second, this is an extension of the existing scheme of one-time restructuring introduced last year. That was applicable to restructuring plans implemented by March 31, (over 5,00,000 MSMEs had benefited from it). Following a commitment given by the Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, in the Budget for 2020-21, the scheme was extended to December 31 this year. For a borrower to be eligible, his/her aggregate exposure, including non fund-based

“THE RBI MAY HAVE PAUSED NOW BUT BY MAINTAINING AN ACCOMMODATIVE POLICY STANCE, IT HAS KEPT THE DOOR OPEN FOR A RATE CUT IN THE FUTURE. THIS SHOULD BE AVOIDED. INSTEAD, IT NEEDS TO WORK ON OTHER FRONTS SUCH AS CREDIBLE MEASURES TO REDUCE NPAs, GOADING BANKS TO BE PROACTIVE IN LOOKING FOR VIABLE PROJECTS FOR FUNDING (MONEY IS NOT A CONSTRAINT AS THE MEASURES ANNOUNCED BY THE RBI ON MARCH 27/APRIL 17 HAVE MADE AVAILABLE PLENTY OF LIQUIDITY TO THE TUNE OF ₹5,00,000 CRORE). STEP UP INVESTMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT, ESPECIALLY IN INFRASTRUCTURE AND SO ON



facilities, of banks and NBFCs (non-banking financial companies) should not be beyond ₹25 crore as on January 1. Further, the borrower's account was in default but was a "standard asset" as on January 1 and continues to be classified as a "standard asset" till the date of implementation of the restructuring (according to an RBI notification in February). In addition, the borrowing entity is GST (Goods and Services Tax) — registered on the date of implementation of the plan except those that are exempt from GST-registration. The RBI has now further extended this to restructuring plans implemented till March 31, 2021 with some relaxation in the conditions.

The exposure limit, including non fund-based facilities of banks and NBFCs to the borrower, should not exceed ₹25 crore as on March 1. Further, the account should be standard as on March 1 (against January 1 earlier).

Via the third announcement, the RBI has extended huge relief to large corporates, too. Unlike the existing arrangement under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), wherein the loan account gets a NPA tag and the promoter stands no chance of retaining the firm, the proposed one-time restructuring treats the account as standard and there is no change in the promoter/s. This special dispensation is meant only for "COVID-19 related stress" and the Kamath committee will have to ensure that the facility is not misused. In other words, all stressed accounts prior to March 1, as well as those which were unaffected during the pandemic, must be excluded.

With the introduction of the above one-time restructuring for MSMEs and corporates, the need for extending the moratorium on servicing of loans (this was initially allowed by the RBI for three months from March 1-May 31 and for a further three months ending August 31) automatically becomes redundant. While the latter was merely a deferment

of the payment liability, the former offers concrete relief by extending the period of repayment, relief in interest and so on.

The Governor sees the scheme as a win-win for both, the lenders and borrowers. According to him, while this will enable the latter to sail through the crisis period without getting permanently impaired, the former's balance sheet will look healthier (as this will put a lid on the NPAs) and they will be able to expand credit for supporting revival of growth. Hopefully, things pan out as per his wish. If not, the banks could be in for bigger trouble even as borrowers come up with more demand for restructuring.

Coming to the fourth announcement, Das has done the right thing by applying the pause button on the repo rate. Ever since he took charge (December 2018), the RBI has handed out a cumulative reduction in repo rate of 2.5 per cent, of which a 1.35 per cent cut was prior to the outbreak of COVID-19. Despite this, during 2019-20, growth in the GDP hit a low of 4.2 per cent.

This was because other factors such as compression in demand (due to massive loss of jobs and decline in incomes) and increasing risk-aversion of banks to lending (during 2019-20, bank credit grew by 6.1 per cent, down from the 13.4 per cent growth during 2018-19) were at work.

Apart from these factors coming in the way of spurring growth, even the cut in the repo rate was not fully transmitted (according to Das, reduction in lending rate was just about 0.6 per cent), thanks to the high cost of the banks' funds (an overwhelming share of these comes from public deposits of varying maturity) on the one hand and high NPAs on the other.

Both these factors make the lending rate downward inflexible. After the COVID-19 crisis, the RBI has reduced the rate by 1.15 per cent (0.75 per cent on March 27 and 0.4 per cent on May 22) thereby bringing the rate down to a

record low of four per cent. And this has come at a time when the intermittent lockdowns are simply not allowing economic activities to get into full swing. When the wheels of the economy on ground zero are stuck and there is little demand for credit, how will lowering of its cost (interest rate) help?

At this juncture, therefore, it makes no sense to keep lowering the policy rate. It sounds like the driver is merely pressing the accelerator while the car is in the neutral gear. He will only end up burning fuel without any outcome. Far from any help in giving a boost to growth (as the real bottlenecks lie elsewhere), this will do collateral damage. For instance, each time the RBI cuts the policy rate, it expects banks to follow suit. This will propel the latter to pay less to depositors on fresh deposits or when the old ones come up for renewal.

The RBI may have paused now but by maintaining an accommodative policy stance, it has kept the door open for a rate cut in the future. This should be avoided. Instead, it needs to work on other fronts such as credible measures to reduce NPAs, goading banks to be proactive in looking for viable projects for funding (money is not a constraint as the measures announced by the RBI on March 27/April 17 have made available plenty of liquidity to the tune of ₹5,00,000 crore), step up investment by the Government, especially in infrastructure and so on.

By propelling demand — both investment and consumption — and helping businesses run, this will also help reduce the cost of "one-time" restructuring and bring about a real improvement in the banks' balance sheet in the near term. Meanwhile, all-out efforts should be made for early resumption of economic activity even while strictly complying with Coronavirus-related protocols and guidelines.

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

New performance measure metrics needed

With students crossing the virtual threshold, everyone is trying to decode employability skills in educational institutions and workplaces



SHARAD MEHRA

Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn." This quote by one of America's founding fathers, Benjamin Franklin, encapsulates the challenges and possible solutions to the new-age education in India and across the globe in today's pandemic-afflicted world. With millions of students crossing the virtual threshold and Work From Home becoming the new normal, everyone is trying to decode employability skills, performance metrics in educational institutions and workplaces. Amid the uneasy and unpredictable change, one thing is certain: The human spirit won't change — and that's our biggest solution.

Now let's step into a more famil-

iar past of conventional classrooms. Here, body language, facial expressions, physical projects and practical experiments were integral to learning, besides theory and concepts. Learning outcomes took into account personality traits, cognitive skills, life skills, critical thinking and more, for creative and conventional courses. But the digital world has turned these features into challenges. Or, not.

For instance, for fashion design studies, real-world scenarios and industry-live projects that hinged mainly on sensory and cognitive skills, put a big question mark on virtual teaching of concepts and practical training. The challenge was how to keep students engaged and achieve the desired outcomes? Teaching from books was fine but what about practical learning? The answer to this was, by understanding the process backwards. For example, construction stream students were asked to take apart a stitched garment at home and understand the process, in reverse. They were asked to raise open-ended and close-ended questions and prioritise them. For styling, students used

their mobile phones and narrated stories with the limited resources available while they were at home. In the textile stream, students developed interesting and innovative prints using natural dyes.

Similarly, the University of Petroleum and Energy Studies, Dehradun, decided to take the Coronavirus challenge head-on by developing AeroOpt, an airport management tool to improve efficiency at counters, staff requirements for boarding gates and immigration security with social distancing norms. Both these instances highlight how critical-thinking, innovation, creativity and adaptability were channeled as everyone struggled with the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. And this is exactly what is needed now: A design-thinking approach, with problem-solving skills, critical thinking, risk-management and most importantly adaptability.

With these developments, one aspect is clear: To shape and mentor this kind of an approach, boxed methodologies cannot be a point of reference. Instead, we need to look at

alternative approaches to teaching, experimentation with available resources, providing critical feedback and delivering learning assessment outcomes. This means re-structuring pedagogies and adapting courses to the online mode with necessary tweaks and improvisations. Learning assessment is a fundamental feedback mechanism in education, allowing all stakeholders of the learning process to understand what is being learned and where learning resources need to be focussed. The wheels are moving now. But is India prepared to handle these on a larger scale for the next phase? Yes, because we have tremendous technology expertise and political will to tide through. Besides the Digital India initiative, strong indicators come from the recent move by our Government to encourage more Foreign Direct Investment in education, provide ₹3,000 crore for skill development and recognise foreign online degrees for Indian students. At present, the Centre and States are collaborating with broadcasting services to deliver education through television and radio. But for these media to suc-

ceed, it is important to operationalise talent and skills. These can be done via projects, classroom discussions, encouraging feedback and curiosity. In my estimation, these key metrics will define the future:

Critical thinking: This is a key skill that equally defines both educational and professional spheres. With the pandemic-induced restrictions, how do teachers enhance critical thinking? The answer is, by asking for real-time projects drawn from the students' immediate environment and asking for solutions from different perspectives. How can things be made better? Is there a new way of looking at a situation? How will more people benefit from a solution? Is this safe and has every loophole been plugged? These are some indicators for enhancing critical thinking.

Adaptability and innovation: In a 2018 Barclays Life Skills Report in the UK, 60 per cent of the employers have clearly stated that adaptability has become more important now than during the previous decade. Therefore, how do you respond to a situation and how quickly do you adapt to change?

Are you able to control your thoughts, emotions and behaviour under pressure or in certain situations? Adaptive students are certain to be a professional success, wherever they go. Some of the world's best innovations have debuted in the worst situations. Are you willing to experiment, take risks and create something new? An innovator will always be valued in every situation.

Empathy and collaboration: How do you respond to your peers? Are you supportive, understanding and display compassion? Are you a team player and do you believe in taking individual credit? Do you believe in "We" over "I"? These values are critical to the future. The pandemic has eroded everything that we took for granted in workplaces, businesses, economies and even our education systems. This sudden pause from the physical world is significant to herald change. And remember, as Greek philosopher Socrates said, "The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new." (The writer is CEO Asia Pacific Region, Global University Systems)



WILDLIFE CAUGHT IN CROSSHAIR

Wildlife conservation is costly and reliant on philanthropy and Western visitors as well as far-sighted policy-makers. While the environmental benefits of a permanent reduction in long-distance air travel are indisputable, it also threatens the viability of wildlife tourism. While COVID-19 doesn't affect animals and ecosystems in the way it affects humans, it is putting them at risk. (The Guardian editorial)

Chinese hackers targeting US Prez poll: NSA

They want Trump to lose re-election attempt: O'Brien

Washington: Chinese Government-linked hackers have been targeting US election infrastructure ahead of the 2020 presidential election, White House National Security Adviser Robert O'Brien said on Sunday, indicating a more active level of alleged Chinese interference.

O'Brien's comments appeared to go beyond a statement released on Friday by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence which

said China "has been expanding its influence efforts," and that Russia was already trying to undercut Democratic candidate Joe Biden. But did not specifically accuse Beijing of hacking attempts against U.S. election-related systems.

"They'd like to see the President lose," O'Brien said on CBS' "Face the Nation." "China — like Russia, like Iran — they've engaged in cyberattacks and phishing and that sort of thing with respect to our

election infrastructure, with respect to websites and that sort of thing."

China has consistently denied U.S. government claims that it hacks U.S. companies, politicians or government agencies. "The U.S. presidential election is an internal affair, we have no interest in interfering in it," Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said in April.

O'Brien said the United States had seen hackers try to

infiltrate websites belonging to Secretary of State offices around the country, which are responsible for administering elections at the local level, and collecting data on Americans.

"It is a real concern and it's not just Russia," he said. "There will be severe consequences for any country that attempts to interfere in our free and fair elections." The National Security Council did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The ODNI declined to comment or clarify whether O'Brien's com-

ments contradicted their own.

The ODNI previously said that "adversaries" seek to compromise the private communications of American political candidates and penetrate U.S. election systems ahead of November's election. And that China would prefer President Donald Trump does not win reelection. Multiple reviews by US intelligence agencies have concluded that Russia acted to boost Trump's 2016 campaign and undercut his rival Hillary Clinton's chances in that election.

Agencies

China sanctions 11 Americans who 'behaved badly' over HK issue

AFF ■ BEIJING

China on Monday sanctioned 11 Americans, including senators Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz, in retaliation for similar US moves prompted by Beijing's crackdown in Hong Kong.

Washington last week accused 11 officials of suppressing "freedom and democratic processes" in Hong Kong, including city leader Carrie Lam, and announced plans to freeze their US assets.

It was the toughest US action yet in response to Beijing's introduction of a sweeping and controversial new national security law for the territory.

Beijing said the measure was a violation of international law and "grossly interferes in China's internal affairs".

"China has decided to impose sanctions on some people that behaved badly on Hong Kong-related issues," foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said Monday, with

Human Rights Watch director Kenneth Roth and National Endowment for Democracy president Carl Gershman also on the list.

Zhao did not give details of what the sanctions would entail.

Republican senators Rubio and Cruz established themselves as two of the most vocal supporters of Hong Kong's democracy movement last year, when the city was convulsed by huge and sometimes violent protests.

Beijing has accused "external forces" of fomenting unrest and responded to the unrest by imposing the security law in late June, sending a political chill through the semi-autonomous finance hub.

Since then, the city's leaders have postponed local elections, citing the coronavirus pandemic.

Authorities have also issued arrest warrants for six exiled pro-democracy activists and launched a crackdown on other activists.

BEIRUT BLAST — LEBANON GOVT RESIGNS AMID PUBLIC FURY

AP ■ BEIRUT

Lebanon's Government resigned on Monday amid widespread public fury at the country's ruling elite over last week's devastating explosion in Beirut. The move risks opening the way to dragged-out negotiations over a new Cabinet amid urgent calls for reform.

Prime Minster Hassan Diab headed to the presidential palace to submit the Cabinet's group resignation, said Health Minister Hamad Hassan. It follows a weekend of anti-government protests in the wake of the Aug. 4 explosion in Beirut's port that caused widespread destruction, killed at least 160 people and injured about 6,000 others.

The moment typified Lebanon's political dilemma. Since October, there have been mass demonstrations demanding the departure of the entire sectarian-based leadership over entrenched corruption, incompetence and mismanagement.

But the ruling oligarchy has held onto power for so long — since the end of the civil war in 1990 — that it is difficult to find a credible political figure not tainted by connections to them.

Although Diab's resignation had appeared inevitable after the catastrophe, he seemed unwilling to leave and only two days ago made a televised speech in which he

EGYPT MOVES 'DANGEROUS MATERIALS' FROM AIRPORTS

Cairo: Egypt's Civil Aviation Ministry said after Lebanon's massive explosion last week it was moving "dangerous materials" held at airports nationwide to more secure locations. The ministry is "taking precautionary measures with regards to dangerous materials, either immediately releasing them or transferring them to safe storage spaces well outside the range of airports and residential areas," it said in a statement Sunday. The statement referred to materials held in "cargo bays and storage warehouses in Cairo's airport and all airports nationwide", without specifying which kind of materials would be moved. *AFF*

Hong Kong newspaper raided, tycoon detained under new law

AP ■ HONG KONG

Hong Kong authorities broadened their enforcement of a new national security law on Monday, arresting media tycoon Jimmy Lai, searching the headquarters of his Next Digital group and carting away boxes of what they said was evidence.

In the evening, police also arrested prominent pro-democracy activist Agnes Chow Ting at her home, according to a tweet by fellow activist Nathan Law, who is

currently in Britain. A post on Chow's official Facebook page said police had arrived at her home and that her lawyers were rushing to the scene.

Two days after Chinese and Hong Kong officials shrugged off sanctions imposed on them by the U.S., the moves showed China's determination to enforce the new law and curb dissent in the semi-autonomous city after months of massive pro-democracy demonstrations last year.

Lai's arrest and the search of his Next Digital group

marked the first time the law was used against news media, stoking fears that authorities are suppressing press freedom. Next Digital operates Apple Daily, a feisty pro-democracy tabloid that often condemns China's Communist Party-led government.

Apple Daily's popularity stems from its celebrity news and flamboyant stories, but it is also known for investigative reporting and breaking news coverage. It has frequently urged readers to take part in pro-democracy protests,

Trump trails Biden in two key battleground States: Opinion poll

Washington: Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden is leading President Donald Trump by as much as six percentage points in Wisconsin and Pennsylvania, two battleground states the Republican leader had won in the last election, according to a new opinion poll on Monday. Voters in these two states think the US is doing poorly and that Biden would do a better job than Trump in handling the coronavirus outbreak, the CBS News reported citing the findings of its poll tracker. *PTI*

Trump's pandemic relief orders are limited in scope

AP ■ NEW YORK

President Donald Trump's new executive orders to help Americans struggling under the economic recession are far less sweeping than any pandemic relief bill Congress would pass.

Trump acted Saturday after negotiations for a second pandemic relief bill reached an impasse.

Democrats initially sought a USD 3.4 trillion package, but said they lowered their demand to USD 2 trillion. Republicans had proposed a USD 1 trillion plan.

The are questions about how effective Trump's measures will be.

An order for supplemental unemployment insurance payments relies on state contributions that may not materialise.

In Berlin, thousands of children returned to school on Monday after the summer break, sporting masks which are compulsory in common areas like school courtyards. Schools in some other German regions also reopened, though with differing rules on masks.

"No child forgot their masks this morning, so we see everything is back to normal," said Domenica Aciri, headmistress of the Carl Orff primary school in Berlin.

In Pakistan, all restaurants and parks were allowed to reopen Monday, as well theatres, cinemas and public transport, after the country saw a drop in new cases for several weeks.

"Anything but second lockdown." People in Paris aged 11 and over are now required to wear the masks in crowded areas and tourists hotspots.

These include the banks of the Seine River and more than

100 streets in the French capital, including tourist destinations like Montmartre, where the Sacre Coeur basilica is located.

Several French towns and cities have already introduced similar measures, as well as parts of Belgium, the Netherlands, Romania and Spain. "All the indicators show that since mid-July the virus is again circulating more actively in the (Paris) region," said a police statement at the weekend.

Paris residents interviewed by AFP generally supported the decision on masks.

"I think it's a very good idea, we should maybe have done it sooner," Bertrand, 28, said in the popular Rue des Martyrs in central Paris.

"Since we don't understand enough about this illness, the best thing is that we protect ourselves."

The masks are "restrictive" but necessary "if we want to avoid a second wave in Paris," said Marion, 24, wearing a bright green mask. "Anything

except a second lockdown."

Globally, nearly 20 million cases have been officially registered. The death count is at least 7,31,500 worldwide.

The United States is by far the worst-hit country with nearly 1,63,000 deaths. On Sunday, it reached the extraordinary milestone of five million coronavirus cases, according to John Hopkins University.

President Donald Trump's Democratic opponent in the presidential election, Joe Biden, tweeted that five million coronavirus cases was "a number that boggles the mind and breaks the heart."

"Unworkable, weak" relief

The figures came as Trump was accused of flouting the constitution by unilaterally extending a virus relief package. The package — announced by Trump on Saturday after talks between Republican and Democrat lawmakers hit a wall

— was "absurdly unconstitutional," senior Democrat Nancy Pelosi told CNN.

Fellow Democrat and Senate minority leader Chuck Schumer, appearing on ABC, dismissed Trump's unilateral measures as "unworkable, weak and far too narrow."

Grim milestone for Brazil

After the US, Brazil has the most cases, and on Saturday it became the second country to pass 1,00,000 fatalities. President Jair Bolsonaro has played down the coronavirus from the beginning, dismissing it as a "little flu," questioning the lockdowns ordered by some state governors and saying their economic impact could be "more deadly than the virus."

Following the news of the latest milestone, Brazil's most widely viewed TV network Globo criticised Bolsonaro's handling of the crisis, asking "Has the president of the republic done his duty?"

PARIS MAKES FACE MASKS MANDATORY

US HITS 5 MILLION CORONAVIRUS CASES

AFF ■ PARIS

Face masks became compulsory in tourist hotspots in Paris on Monday amid warnings of a resurgence of coronavirus cases, as infections in the world's worst-hit country the United States topped five million.

The requirement came as France along with much of Western Europe sweltered in a heatwave, with temperatures soaring above 35 degrees Celsius (95 degrees Fahrenheit).

The blistering heat sent crowds flocking to beaches at the weekend despite health warnings about the risk of infection.

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Covid seems to lack seasonal pattern: WHO

AP ■ LONDON

The emergencies chief for the World Health Organization (WHO) said Covid-19 doesn't seem to follow the seasonal patterns that some viruses exhibit, making it harder to control.

Unlike other respiratory viruses like influenza that spread mainly in the winter, the coronavirus pandemic is accelerating in the summer. That's

despite earlier predictions from some scientists and politicians it would fade in the heat.

"This virus has demonstrated no seasonal pattern as such," said Dr Michael Ryan at a press briefing on Monday. "What it has clearly demonstrated is that if you take the pressure off the virus, the virus bounces back," he said.

Ryan said the UN Health agency continues to advise

countries even where Covid-19 appears to be under control, such as those in Europe, to maintain measures to slow virus spread. He called for countries where transmission remains intense, such as Brazil, to adopt measures so that communities have the necessary support they need to implement strategies like social distancing, wearing masks, and self-isolating if they have symptoms.

SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED BOY



General public is hereby informed that one boy namely **Virender S/o Sh. Santosh** R/o Vill. Baba ka Vilba, PS Misroliya, Distt. Sidharth Nagar, UP. Age 13 years, Height 4', Complexion black, Built normal, Face round wearing Check Shirt, Black colour pant and Red colour slippers has been missing/kidnapped from Ajmal Khan Road, Near Hanuman Mandir, Karol Bagh, Delhi on 07.05.2015. In this regard a case FIR No. 394/2015 U/s 363 IPC dated 09.05.2015 has been registered at PS Karol Bagh, Delhi. Any person having any information or clue about this missing/kidnapped boy may kindly inform to the undersigned at the address or telephone nos. given below.
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
Email: cic@cbi.gov.in **SHO**
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 **PS Karol Bagh, Delhi**
DPI/254/CD/2020 **Ph. 011-28726870, 28721115**

Metro Railway, Kolkata

Kolkata's Pride
COMPOSITE WORKS IN METRO RAILWAY FROM NOAPARA TO BARASAT VIA BIMANBANDAR

Abridged Tender Notice No. Civil-2335-2020 (Open) for Composite work as per two packet system e-tendering : Tender Notice for e-tendering is invited by **Chief Engineer/ Con, Metro Railway, Kolkata** for and on behalf of the President of India for the following work : **Name of Work :** Execution of works for preparation of conceptual designs, tender drawing, architectural drawing, carrying out detailed structural designs, preparation of construction drawings and preparation of specification of items and schedule of quantities with rates etc. for underground construction of Double Line/ Multiple Line and Station Building beyond Bimanbandar Yard to New Barrackpore by Cut and Cover method including topographical survey, confirmatory soil-engineering exploration including design, drawing for sub-way environmental simulation (SES) and Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) analysis and sizing of Tunnel Ventilation System (TVS) and major Environmental Control System (ECS) equipment for underground Metro tunnel of Double line including four (04) metro underground tunnel stations and yard from Christian Burial Ground to New Barrackpore including the approach of New Garia - Airport portion entering Bimanbandar Station with station and trackway fire scenarios in connection with Extension of Metro Railway from Noapara to Barasat via Bimanbandar (Airport). **Tender Value :** ₹ 13,82,27,655.60 (approx.). **Cost of Tender Document :** Nil. **Earnest Money :** ₹ 8,41,200/-. **Completion Period :** 24 (twenty four) months. **Date of Closing :** 10.09.2020 at 12.00 hrs. The tender document and other details can be obtained from the website : **www.ireps.gov.in** The bidding for the tender is to be submitted through e-tendering on above website. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any manual offer, if received shall not be accepted and will be summarily rejected. Pre-bid meeting will be held on **17.08.2020 at 11.30 hrs.** through 'Online'. **E-mail :** er.kcmisra@gmail.com. **Tender Notice No. : Civil-2335-2020 Date : 04.08.2020**
FASTER • SAFER • SMOOTHER • CLEANER

KAMA HOLDINGS LIMITED						
CIN : L92199DL2000PLC104779						
Registered Office: The Galleria, DLF Mayur Vihar, Unit No. 236 & 237, 2nd Floor, Mayur Place, Noida Link Road, Mayur Vihar Phase I Extn, Delhi – 110091						
Corporate Office: Block C, Sector 45, Gurgaon-122003, Tel. No. : (+91-124) 4354400 • Fax : (+91-124) 4354500						
Email : info@kamaholdings.com ; website : www.kamaholdings.com						
STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED JUNE 30, 2020						
(Rs. in Lakhs)						
Sl. No.	Particulars	STANDALONE		CONSOLIDATED		
		Quarter ended	Year ended	Quarter ended	Year ended	
		30-6-2020	30-6-2019	31-03-2020	30-6-2020	30-6-2019
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited	Unaudited	Unaudited
		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1	Total Income from Operations	0.08	-	4,206.86	156160.62	178660.93
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (including discontinued operations)	(40.94)	(41.88)	4031.79	22595.45	23417.57
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (including discontinued operations)*	(40.96)	(41.88)	4037.65	17624.73	17801.74
4	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(41.35)	(42.23)	4037.33	22995.51	19397.17
5	Paid up Equity Share Capital	645.26	645.26	645.26	645.26	645.26
6	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) -					
	(a) Basic :	(0.63)	(0.65)	62.57	143.48	157.45
	(b) Diluted:	(0.63)	(0.65)	62.57	143.48	157.45
Note:						
The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/Annual Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/Annual Financials Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites (www.bseindia.com) and the Company's website (www.kamaholdings.com).						
For and on behalf of the Board						
Ekta Maheshwari						
Whole Time Director, CFO & Company Secretary						
(DIN: 02071432)						



PUBLIC NOTICE

The Public at large take notice that my client Sh. Sachin Rithalia S/o Late Sh. Dhanaram Rithalia R/o A-161, Todarmal Colony, Najafgarh, New Delhi-43 Hereby Declare that name of the father of My Client had been written Sh. Dhanaramir instead of Dhanaramir Rithalia in the death certificate therefore Dhanaramir Rithalia and Dhanaramir were the same person.

Yatender Sharma, Advocate
Chamber No. 628, 6th floor
Lawyer's Chamber Block Dwarka District Court, Sec-10 Dwarka, New Delhi-75
Tel: 9267948473.

United Textiles Limited

Regd. Office 7th K.M. Store, Barwala Road, Hisar - 125001 (Haryana)
CIN: L17115HR1993PLC032092
Notice
Pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations & Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, notice is hereby given that the Meeting of Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Monday, 31st August, 2020 at 11.00 AM at the Regd. Office of the Company to consider the Unaudited Quarterly Results for the Period Ended 30th June, 2020.
Further as per the Company's Code of Conduct for Prevention of Insider Trading, the trading window for dealing with securities of the Company will remain close from 30.06.2020 to 48 hours after the declaration of the Financial Results. The said information is also available on Company's Website www.unitedtextileslimited.com & also on the website of Stock Exchanges at www.bseindia.com.
For United Textiles Limited (Amit Kumar Aggarwal) Director
Dated 04.08.2020 (DIN 07079171)

Covid-19 likely to alter consumer behaviour permanently: Survey

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A survey has said that the Covid-19 pandemic is likely to alter the consumer behaviour permanently and cause lasting structural changes to the consumer goods and retail industries.

The demand for local goods and brands is growing as consumers are hesitant to step out of their safety zones to resume previous consumption patterns, according to Accenture COVID-19 Consumer Pulse Research report.

The survey polled 2,500

consumers in India among 45,000 respondents globally, between March and June, it said.

“The India leg of the survey found that 90 per cent of consumers are making lasting changes to how they live, work and shop, and there is no going back to the pre-pandemic world for consumer brands,” the report said.

The survey found that the pandemic is causing more people to shop for groceries online.

The demand for local products, digital commerce and omnichannel services such as home delivery, chat fea-

tures and virtual consultations is surging, and is likely to endure beyond this crisis, it said.

Consumers are now focused on their most basic needs while cutting back on nonessentials, the report said.

“They are more mindful of what they are buying, striving to limit food waste, shopping more cost consciously and are making healthier and environmentally sustainable choices,” it said.

As many as 85 per cent of the consumers in India said that they are shopping more health-consciously and are



focusing more on limiting food waste. While, 75 per cent of consumers said they are being ore cost-conscious when shopping for products and 71 per cent feel that quality, safety and trust are the most considered brand attributes in purchase decisions.

A majority of respondents are now focusing on their personal health, it said.

“Staying-at-home and working from home are becoming the norm. The ways in which people spend their leisure time are changing because of the outbreak and related social distancing mea-

sures, and again, these habits are likely to continue,” it said.

Entertainment, learning and DIY (do it yourself) have also seen a rise -- this trend is reflected in the types of apps that consumers are downloading and the devices they are purchasing, related to entertainment, news, health-care and education, the survey said.

Anurag Gupta, Managing Director and Lead - Strategy & Consulting, Accenture in India, said: “The pandemic has taken a toll on brand loyalty and as consumers make more social-ly and environmentally sus-

tainable and healthy choices, consumer goods companies must tailor their offerings accordingly and refresh their brand promise to meet these new requirements.”

Brands will also need to explore ways to rebuild consumer confidence frayed by the pandemic -- proof of good hygiene and safety is becoming a key part of brands’ ability to retain shoppers’ trust.

“Brands also need to look at ways to tap into the opportunities resulting from the demand for local and the emergence of the home as the new hub,” he said.

Sensex rises for 3rd day, gains 142 pts

L&T SPURTS OVER 4 PC

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The BSE Sensex notched up gains for the third straight session on Monday, bouyed by engineering, finance and pharma stocks amid positive cues from global markets.

After rallying 390.12 points during the day, the 30-share BSE benchmark pared some gains to end 141.51 points or 0.37 per cent higher at 38,182.08. Similarly, the NSE Nifty climbed 56.10 points or 0.50 per cent to close at 11,270.15.L&T was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, rallying 4.81 per cent, followed by M&M, Sun Pharma, Tech Mahindra, NTPC, SBI, ICICI Bank and Titan.

On the other hand, Reliance Industries, Asian Paints, Maruti, Bajaj Finserv, UltraTech Cement and Bajaj Finance were among the laggards, shedding up to 1.26 per

cent.According to traders, market sentiment was positive amid firm cues from global indices and consistent foreign fund inflows.

Global markets rose following positive factory output data from China, though escalating US-China tensions capped the gains. Bourses in Shanghai and Seoul ended on a positive note, while Hong Kong settled in the red. Markets in Tokyo were closed for a holiday.Stock exchanges in Europe were also trading with gains in early deals. “Today’s trade was characterised by heightened activity in defence and pharmaceutical stocks, the former due to the proposed changes being implemented favoring domestic producers and the latter due to earnings...”

“On the broader market too, we witnessed investor interest across stocks in the sugar sector as large integrated sugar complexes have demonstrated success in their distillery operations,” said S Ranganathan, Head of Research at LKP Securities.

Defence stocks in limelight; zoom up to 9 per cent

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Defence stocks on Monday jumped up to 9 per cent after the announcement that India will stop the import of 101 weapons and military platforms like transport aircraft, light combat helicopters under a staggered timeline till 2024, in a mega push to boost domestic production.

Shares of Bharat Electronics Limited zoomed 9.17 per cent, Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd 8.

74 per cent, Astra Microwave Products 5.48 per cent, Bharat Dynamics 4.16 per cent, BEML jumped 3.95 per cent and Apollo Micro Systems 3.63 per cent on the BSE.

“Government’s action to boost domestic defence productions helped gains in

defence stocks,” said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services. In a mega push to boost domestic defence production, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday announced that India will stop the import of 101 weapons and military platforms like transport aircraft, light combat helicopters, conventional submarines, cruise missiles and sonar systems under a staggered timeline till 2024

Making the announcement on Twitter, the defence minister estimated that the domestic defence industry would receive contracts worth almost ₹4 lakh crore within the next five to seven years as a result of the decision to prune the import list of defence platforms and equipment.

Sebi amends rules for filling of executive director posts

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi has made changes pertaining to the proportion of executive director posts to be filled up through different modes and composition of selection committee.

Besides, Sebi said an employee, who has put in at least seven years as junior accounts assistant and junior engineer and have requisite qualifications, can be considered for the post of ‘Grade A’ officer at the regulator.

With regard to the position of executive director (other than law), Sebi said two-thirds of the total posts will be filled up from internal candidates and the remaining one-third to be filled up by deputation or contract basis.

In case of non-availability in any category - internal and deputation or contract - the post may be filled from

other categories, the regulator said in a notification dated August 5.

Earlier, 50 per cent of the total post of executive directors were required to be filled in from internal candidates and the remaining 50 per cent were to be recruited by deputation/ contract and/or direct recruitment.

Besides, the regulator said chairman, two other members of the board and two external experts, to be nominated by the chairman, will constitute the selection committee for executive director position.

In June, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) had invited applications to recruit two executive directors. Currently, Sebi has eight executive directors.

Further, Sebi said, “An employee working as junior secretarial assistant, junior accounts assistant, junior

library assistant or junior engineer, who has completed minimum seven years of service and possesses the requisite qualifications for officer Grade A..., may be considered for switch over to Grade A in the officer cadre against the vacancies”.

This will be within the overall 10 per cent vacancies arising in a calendar year or as notified by Competent Authority.

The switch over to grade A officer is subject to such employees qualifying in the departmental test and interviews conducted by the competent authority or by an outside agency engaged by Sebi.

To give effect to these, Sebi has amended employees service regulations. The regulator is in the process of hiring 147 officers in Grade A -- general, legal, information technology, engineering, research and official language streams

Bank of Baroda posts Q1 net loss of ₹864 crore

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned Bank of Baroda on Monday reported a standalone net loss of ₹864 crore during the quarter ended June of the current fiscal year, due to higher provisions and contingencies.

The bank had posted a net profit of ₹710 crore in the same quarter a year ago.“On account of provisioning on standard accounts of ₹1,811 crore, bank reported a (stand-alone) net loss of ₹864 crore in Q1 FY21 and consolidated net loss stood at ₹679 crore,” Bank of Baroda said in a regulatory filing.Interest income of the lender during the April-June quarter of 2020-21 was down by 2.38 per cent to ₹18,494 crore as against ₹18,944 crore in the year-ago quarter.

₹ rises by 3 paise to 74.90 on firm equities

Mumbai:The rupee rose by 3 paise to settle at 74.90 against US dollar on Monday tracking positive domestic equities.

The rupee traded in a narrow range as positive domestic equities and foreign fund inflows supported the rupee while strong US dollar and rise in crude oil prices weighed on the local unit, forex traders said. At the inter-bank forex market, the rupee opened weak at 74.96. It moved to a day’s low of 74.96 before settling at 74.90 against the greenback, showing a gain of 3 paise over the previous close. The rupee had settled at 74.93 against US dollar on Friday.

The dollar index, which

gauges the greenback’s strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.17 per cent to 93.59.

On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share BSE benchmark Sensex pared some gains to end 141.51 points or 0.37 per cent higher at 38,182.08.The NSE Nifty climbed 56.10 points or 0.50 per cent to close at 11,270.15.

Foreign institutional investors were net buyers in the capital market as they purchased shares worth ₹397.32 crore on Friday, according to provisional exchange data. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, rose 1.10 per cent to USD 44.89 per barrel.

Gzb Municipal corporation blacklists firm for cheating on contract on LED lights

PNS ■ GHAZIABAD

Sadan Councilor Rajendra Tyagi, leader of the BJP in Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation, has exposed a scam related to a company with evidence in a press conference held here on Monday.

Councilor Tyagi said that the Municipal Corporation had an agreement on January 7, 2016 with M / s White Placard Technologies Private Limited. Under this contract, the company had to replace the old street lights in all the five zonal areas of the corporation and replace them with fifty thousand 214 new LED lights.

Due to non-compliance of the terms of the contract, the municipal administration, corporation executive and corporation board not only black-listed White Placard Technologies Private Limited, long ago, but a report was filed against it at Sihani Gate police station.

Despite this, the officers of Uttar Pradesh Government paid Rs 8,97,13,602 from the account of the Municipal Corporation. The interesting thing is that Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation has paid to this firm from the funds received from Uttar Pradesh Government.

GM reviews progress of on-going metro projects



Kolkata: Manoj Joshi, General Manager, Metro Railway on Monday reviewed the progress of works of different on-going Metro projects in the city with the senior officials of Metro Railway and Rail Vikash Nigam Limited (RVNL).

During this meeting, he instructed all to maintain social distancing norms and other protocols at worksites during

this lockdown. Shri Joshi emphasized on timely completion of different projects.

Shri Joshi was also apprised of the treatment facilities being provided to the COVID patients at Tapan Sinha Memorial Hospital. He expressed his satisfaction about the facilities provided.


CM gifts various development works to Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi district

Raipur : On the occasion of International Day of World’s Indigenous People, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel today interacted with the public representatives and beneficiaries of Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi district via video conferencing in a programme organised at his residence office and took information about the demands and grievances of the area. Baghel also immediately sanctioned various development works on the occasion. Baghel said that we had announced formation of Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi on August 15, 2019 and on February 10, 2020, the new district was constituted.

With the formation of the district, the government has been consistently making efforts to ensure all-round development of the district, ensuring availability of basic facilities, and soon all the administrative services will begin in the district. On the occasion, public representatives of the district thanked the Chief Minister for formation of the new district and for inauguration of SDM office in Marwahi.

On public representative’s requests, Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel announced that Marwahi Gram Panchayat will be upgraded as Nagar Panchayat.

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE						
SR. No.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	PWD B&R, AMBALA	BALANCE WORK FOR UP-GRADATION OF KURUKSHETRA DHAND ROAD KM 0.00 TO 15.00 (MDR 119) – ROAD ID 8036 – UPTO DISTRICT BOUNDARY KURUKSHETRA (RE-INVITED).	06.08.2020 28.08.2020	790.00 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	9729017798 pwd-eeepd1-kurukshetra@hry.nic.in
2	PWD B&R GURUGRAM	SPECIAL REPAIR WORK OF CIVIL HOSPITAL RESIDENCE STAFF QUARTER AT SONHA IN GURUGRAM DISTT. (RE-INVITED)	CLOSING DATE 21.08.2020	46.89 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in TENDER NO [PWD/PD/GGN/16/07/2020-1] [2020_HRY_136048_2]	01242322424 pwd-eeepd1gurgaon@hry.nic.in
3	PWD B&R, JIND	SPECIAL REPAIR OF 13 NOS. RESIDENCES OF 1130 SFT AREA IN OFFICERS COLONY AT JIND IN JIND DISTT.	CLOSING DATE 31.08.2020	35.34 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	01681-249416 pwd-eeepd-jind@hry.nic.in
4	PWD B&R, REWARI	SPECIAL REPAIR OF GOVT. POLYTECHNIC AT LISANA AT REWARI IN REWARI DISTT. (BOYS HOSTEL) + 1 OTHER WORK	11.08.2020 01.09.2020	42.63 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	01274-253703 pwd-eeepd-rewari@hry.nic.in
5	PWD B&R, HISAR	PDG. MGP & ALLIED WORK IN CIVIL HOSPITAL AT BHIWANI + 7 OTHER WORKS	13.08.2020 28.08.2020	3.73 CRORE	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	01662-225651 pwd-eeed-hissar@hry.nic.in
6	IRRIGATION AND WR DEPTT REWARI.	SPECIAL REPAIR / REWINDING OF 1 NO. 325 HP HT BHEL MAKE MOTOR SR. NO. 4000661-02-03 AT PUMP HOUSE JF-1. + 6 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 19.08.2020	EMD 28300	www.etenders.hry.nic.in	xenmch@yahooc.com
7	IRRIGATION & W.R. DEPARTMENT HARYANA PANCHKULA	PURCHASE OF INSTRUMENTS UNDER NHP	10.08.2020 24.08.2020	EMD RS-NIL BID SECURING DECLARATION IS REQUIRED	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	xen.nhp@gmail.com 0172-2560080
8	TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT,HARYANA HARYANAROADWAYS,KARNAL	ADVERTISEMENT BOARDS/HOARDING	11.08.2020 24.08.2020	72.00 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in Tender no 2/BC/Knl/2020-21	1800-180-2097.
9	DIRECTOR, STATE TRANSPORT, HARYANA, CHANDIGARH	MIXED WASTER PAPER + 3 OTHER WORKS	20.08.2020 27.08.2020	30000/-	https://hartrans.gov.in/	0172-2701188 caohartrans@gmail.com
10	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGG. DIVISION NO. 2, KARNAL	BHADSON - PROVIDING FUNCTIONAL HOUSEHOLD TAP CONNECTION (FHTC) UNDER JAL JEEVAN MISSION. " LAYING OF D.I. PIPELINE IN BALANCE STREETS AND PROVIDING FUNCTIONAL HOUSEHOLDS TAP CONNECTION IN VILLAGE BHADSON AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THERETO + 1 OTHER WORK	07.08.2020 14.08.2020	10.57 LACS	TENDER NO 2020_HRY_138791_1 + 1 OTHER	0184-2266004/ eepkarnal@gmail.com
11	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGG. DIV. NO.-2, HISAR	CH. TO LAB WORK WQMS " REQUIREMENT OF CHEMICALS AND CRMS (CERTIFIED REFERENCE MATERIALS) REGARDING NABL PROCESS OF DISTRICT WATER TESTING LABORATORY HISAR COMPLETE IN ALL RESPECT"	07.08.2020 14.08.2020	8.25 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	EXECUTIVE ENGINEERR
12	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGG. NARWANA	ANNUAL MAINTENANCE SEWERAGE SCHEME NARWANA TOWN," DEPLOYMENT OF 1 NO. SPECIALLY FABRICATED TAILOR-MADE SEWER CLEANING MACHINE FOR CLEANING OF SEWER LINES OF 105051 METER IN NARROW STREETS/ LANES INCLUDING MANHOLES IN NARWANA TOWN AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THERETO." (FOR 7 YEARS)	07.08.2020 17.08.2020	127.67 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	Executive Engineer
13	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGG. DIVISION NO. 1, SIRSA	ANNUAL MAINTENANCE ESTIMATE FOR SEWERAGE SCHEME SIRSA TOWN, DISTT. SIRSA. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF SUPER SUCKER MACHINE COMPLETE SET FOR A PERIOD OF 2 YEARS AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THERETO.	06.08.2020 17.08.2020	62.15 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in Tender No. 2020_HRY_138419_1	94681-90036 ee3sirsra@phedharyana.gov.in
14	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGG. NARWANA	:-LAYING, CUTTING, JOINTING & TESTING OF 100 MM I/D DI PIPELINE, 197 NOS. FUNCTIONAL HOUSEHOLD TAP CONNECTIONS, 133 NOS. FERRULE CONNECTIONS, DISMANTLING OF STREETS & CONSTRUCTION OF SUICIDE VALVE HOODIES IN VARIOUS STREETS AT VILLAGE TARKHA AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THERETO." + 5 OTHER WORKS	08.08.2020 18.08.2020	90.95 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in TENDER NO 2020-HRY-138867-1 + 5 OTHER	eenarwana@phedharyana.gov.in
15	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGG. NARWANA	LAYING OF BALANCE/ PARALLEL WATER SUPPLY PIPE LINE IN DI PIPE NARWANA TOWN TEHSIL NARWANA DISTT. JIND," LAYING OF DI PIPE LINE IN VARIOUS STREETS AT NARWANA TOWN AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THERETO."	07.08.2020 14.08.2020	89 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	Executive Engineer
16	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGG. TOSHAM	A/MTC. OF PUMPING MACHINERY OF 2 NO. CANAL BASED WATER WORKS, 2 NOS BOOSTING STATION AND VARIOUS SHALLOW TUBEWELL INCLUDING STAND BY PUMPING MACHINERY ON THIS 2 NOS CANAL BASED SCHEME UNDER PHESD BAWANI KHERA (CH. TO A/MTC. OF VARIOUS WATER SUPPLY SCHEME UNDER PHED TOSHAM FOR ONE YEAR) + 4 OTHER WORKS	08.08.2020 17.08.2020	21.26 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	9306500986 eetosham@gmail.com
17	GOVT.POLYTECHNIC, HISAR	JOB WORK	10.08.2020 25.08.2020	300000	http://etenders.hry.nic.in TENDER NO 2020_HRY_138700_1	Principal,Govt.Polytechnic, Hisar
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in RO NO. 82187						



Hero FinCorp.

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NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002

Notice is hereby served on:
1. **M/s Shree Ambica Iron Industries (Borrower)**, having its office at 1A, Nanda Mullick Lane, Kolkata, West Bengal-700006. **Also** at 8/1, Diamond Harbour Road, Alipore, Kolkata, West Bengal-700027. **Also** at 206, Kailash Patidar, Sanjay Nagar, Misroad, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh-462026.
2. **Mr. Manoj Chhawchharia (Guarantor)**, having its office at 8/1, Diamond Harbour Road, Alipore, Kolkata, West Bengal-700027.
3. **M/s Assam Sail Motors Pvt. Ltd. (Guarantor)**, having its office at 1A, Nanda Mullick Lane, Kolkata, West Bengal-700006.
4. **M/s Manoj Enterprises (Guarantor/Mortgagor)**, having its office at 1A, Nanda Mullick Lane, Kolkata, West Bengal-700006.
5. **M/s Veda Farm Implements Pvt. Ltd. (Guarantor)**, having its office at 206, Kailash Patidar, Sanjay Nagar, Misroad, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh-462026.
6. **Mr. Gaurav Chhawchharia (Guarantor)**, residing at 8/1, Diamond Harbour Road, Alipore, Kolkata, West Bengal-700027.
7. **Mrs. Anu Chhawchharia (Guarantor)**, residing at 8/1, Diamond Harbour Road, Alipore, Kolkata, West Bengal-700027.
8. **Ms. Harshita Chhawchharia (Guarantor)**, residing at 8/1, Diamond Harbour Road, Alipore, Kolkata, West Bengal-700027.

The abovementioned Borrowers had entered into a two (02) **Master Facilities Agreements**, two (02) **Supplementary Agreements** and two (02) **Addendum Agreements** all dated 30.11.2018, with M/s. Hero FinCorp Limited (hereinafter referred to as "HFCL"), for availing credit facilities to the tune of Rs.1,75,00,000/- (Rupees One Crore Seventy Five Lakhs Only) and Rs.75,00,000/- (Rupees Seventy Five Lakhs only) from HFCL, by way of Mortgage of following property in favour of HFCL:
“**Plot area measuring 5000 Sq. mtr., Survey No. – Plot No. 70/FBD, situated at Urban Estate, Faridabad.**”

The above-mentioned property shall hereinafter referred to as “Secured Asset”. The Secured Asset has been Mortgaged to HFCL as security so as to secure the due repayment of loan together with the interest and other charges. However, the Borrower defaulted in due repayment of Loan alongwith interest and other charges. In this regard, Demand Notice u/s 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as “SARFAESI Act, 2002”), were sent to the last known addresses available of the aforesaid Borrowers with HFCL.

By way of this publication, HFCL hereby once again call upon **M/s Shree Ambica Iron Industries (Borrower)**, **Mr. Manoj Chhawchharia (Guarantor)**, **M/s Assam Sail Motors Pvt. Ltd. (Guarantor)**, **M/s Manoj Enterprises (Guarantor/Mortgagor)**, **M/s Veda Farm Implements Pvt. Ltd. (Guarantor)**, **Mr. Gaurav Chhawchharia (Guarantor)**, **Mrs. Anu Chhawchharia (Guarantor)** and **Ms. Harshita Chhawchharia (Guarantor)** to pay the entire outstanding due of **Rs.27,29,873.74/- (Rupees Two Crores Twenty-Seven Lakhs Twenty-Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy-Three and Seventy-Four Paise Only)** due as on **18.06.2020** within 60 days from this Notice, failing which HFCL shall take all necessary actions against the Secured Asset including taking possession and sale of the Secured Asset under SARFAESI Act, 2002.

Further, in pursuance to the provisions of Section 13(13) of SARFAESI Act, 2002, the Borrower is hereby prohibited from selling, transferring or alienating either by way of sale/lease or deal with the Secured Asset, in any manner, whatsoever, in contravention with the provisions of aforesaid Loan Agreements and/or SARFAESI Act, 2002.

The Public at large is also hereby informed that they should not deal, in any manner, whatsoever, with the secured asset as HFCL has the First and exclusive charge over the same.

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
For Hero FinCorp Limited
Date: 11.08.2020
Place: West Bengal


Trend
Blazer

Kangana slams Ayushmann

Actor **KANGANA RANAUT** has slammed **Ayushmann Khurrana** for allegedly sympathising with Rhea Chakraborty, who has been accused of abetting actor Sushant Singh Rajput's suicide.

In response to a tweet which alleges that Ayushmann has been supporting Rhea and star kids because he wants to survive in Bollywood and is YRF's talent, Kangana's team wrote, "*Chaploos* outsiders support *mafia* only for one reason, their mediocrity. Nobody is threatened by them and they take full advantage of conflicts faced by few like Kangana and SSR by openly denying and mocking them."





‘For online education, you need certain equipment and parents who can teach you at home. If you go to a village or a slum, such facilities are not available there. As a result, you will see a huge inequality and disparity in education. The attempt of every government should be to reduce that inequality.’

—Atul Kulkarni

AAMIR KHAN fans will have to wait for yet another year to pass before they can catch their superstar on the screen.

His next release, *Laal Singh Chaddha*, was set for a Christmas release this year, but the film will now arrive on Christmas 2021, owing to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.


The film is based on the 1994 Tom Hanks blockbuster *Forrest Gump*. Portions of the film has already been shot in Chandigarh and Kolkata before the nationwide lockdown was imposed. It also features Kareena Kapoor Khan and Mona Singh. It is adapted by Atul Kulkarni and directed by Advait Chandan.



Billie finds social media terrifying

British actor **BILLIE PIPER** feels social media is terrifying. In an interview, Piper spoke about her fame and how she deals with social media.

“Let’s put it this way, I wouldn’t have wanted to be a famous pop star now. The social media element is terrifying because it’s continuous, it’s in your bed, next to your bedside table every night. In my pop career there were moments that were horrible to experience as a teenager, but they came and went. Now it’s got worse,” she said.



Driving with car windows open could mean more foul air for you

Keep the glass shield



Health Organisation (WHO), air pollution kills an estimated seven million people worldwide every year and nine out of 10 people breathe air with high levels of pollutants.

The research team investigated PM2.5 and PM10 exposure levels inside vehicles during peak hours in the morning and evening, as well as off-peak hours in the middle of the day.

The scientists measured how exposure levels changed when drivers used recirculation systems, fans and simply opened the windows.

The study discovered that drivers in some of the world's poorest cities experienced higher levels of in-car pollution.

Irrespective of the city and car model used, a windows-open setting showed the highest exposure,

followed by fan-on and recirculation.

Pollution exposure for windows-open during off-peak hours was 91 per cent and 40 per cent less than morning and evening peak hours, respectively.

The study also found that the windows-open setting exposed car passengers to hotspots of air pollution for up to a third of the total travel length.

The findings also showed that commuters who turn on the recirculation are exposed to around 80 per cent less harmful particles than those who open their car windows.

Car cabin filters were more effective in removing pollution than fine particles, suggesting that if new cars had more efficient filters, it could reduce the overall exposure of car commuters.

“The study has drawn important conclusions that can help commuters make decisions in their day-to-day lives to protect their health,” said study researcher Abdus Salam from the University of Dhaka in Bangladesh.

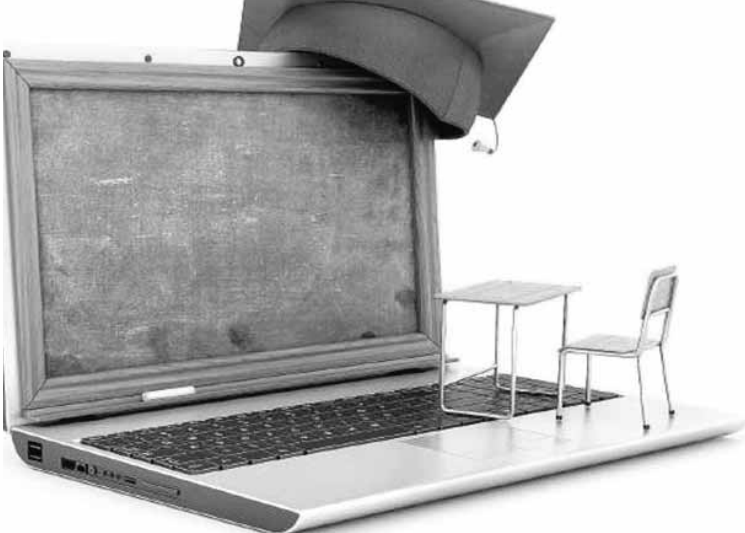
“Simple choices, like travelling during off-peak hours, can go a long way in reducing their exposure to air pollution,” Salam said.

—IANS

IS IT A NEW BEGINNING?

With a pandemic at hand, the future of global higher education seems bleak. So what’s the way out?

Dr MARK C ELLIOTT, Vice Provost for International Affairs at the Harvard University, suggests answers



THERE IS A BIG MARKET FOR EDUCATION IN INDIA. HENCE, FOREIGN UNIVERSITIES ARE SETTING UP CAMPUSES IN THE COUNTRY AND JOINT PROGRAMMES WITH INDIAN INSTITUTIONS ARE ON THE CARDS

Trends in higher education have for a long time pointed towards a greater internationalisation of student enrollments, teaching staff, extra-curricular content and research networks. It accelerates the advancement of scholarship in every field and discipline, leading most surveys of higher education to rely on some measure of “globalisation” in determining their rankings.

Today, however, the future of international higher education seems quite bleak. By forcing a halt to nearly all international travel, the pandemic has interrupted the normal movement of people within and between the world’s universities, isolating us from one another in unprecedented ways. Even before the emergence of the novel Coronavirus, resurgent nationalism and xenophobia around the world were already leading some to question the value of a globalised system of higher education. Now, the question is — what does the future of internationalisation in higher education look like after the global pandemic? The Association of Indian Universities recently collaborated with the US Embassy in New Delhi to seek the answers through a special lecture series titled — *The Future of Higher Education*.

The main speaker of the webinar, Dr Mark C Elliott, Vice Provost for International Affairs, Harvard University, said that the American diplomacy and Indian higher education, both remain equally committed to the values of spreading knowledge about educational opportunities in the US and in India. And this series is a wonderful evidence of that. “The promulgation of the new National Education Policy 2020 (NEP) promises a new beginning in education at all levels in the country and lay the foundation for a brighter future for all citizens regardless of birth, religion or socio-economic situations. In the higher education sector, the NEP also points to a future in which Indian higher education is more agile and firmly balanced with that of the rest of the world. It’s a good thing and comes at a very great time,” said he.

Given the present moment, it is appropriate to consider this question — what does COVID-19 change? According to Dr Elliott, the answer to this is either the pandemic changes everything or it changes nothing. He said, “In the short-term, it is clear that the pandemic has indeed brought massive changes in the patterns of international higher education. In the long-term, those patterns will be permanently changed, too. But that’s not our answer. What I have learnt is that change typically happens more slowly than we think.”

The changes that he has seen at Harvard in the last 20 years or so, more or less during his time at the University, suggest a profound transformation in how they recruit students, faculty, scholars and the research pattern. This transformation is



broadly applicable to all American research universities. It is reasonable to expect that these transformations will soon be coming to India.

“The enormous experiment in online education will leave us all permanently changed. We would be far more willing to participate in long-distance educational ventures. The work we have been doing in this area for the last few years would be seen as preparatory to a more widespread turn to online teaching, education and knowledge transfer. Universities will become more involved in this domain than before,” he added.

Excerpts of a conversation between Dr Pankaj Mittal, Secretary General at The Association of Indian Universities, and Dr Elliott:

Dr Mittal: As the new National Education Policy 2020 allows the top 100 foreign universities to set up campuses in India, does Harvard has any plan of establishing itself here?

Dr Elliott: We have no plans to establish a campus anywhere in the world. It’s a question that many institutions have been asking. We have thought about it and the answer so far is that we don’t think this would work as the experiences cannot be replicated. For now, the prevailing opinion is that the students want to come to our institution to study. We believe in being global and local at the same time. We are pretty happy with our connections. But I have no doubt that among the 100 institutions, there will be growing opportunities.

Dr Mittal: What can be the strategy for India to attract international students?

Dr Elliott: This is one of the greatest challenges. Indian students are among the most talented in the world and Harvard and other American universities would be much stronger with the addition of really talented, creative and hardworking scholars and scientists from India. I know from my visits to many campuses that efforts have been underway in some universities. I hope that the NEP will provide more room for these universities to grow and to have the kind of autonomy and independence that is vital for success for all institutions of higher education. There is a big market for education in India. Hence, foreign universities are setting up campuses in the country and joint programmes with Indian institutions are on the cards.

Dr Mittal: Is there any scope of online education for Indian students?

Dr Elliott: Here, I can offer a positive response. It’s already in place. The institution has thousands of courses online, that too totally free. There are different ways in which it has been structured. We will be redoubling our efforts in the digital learning space soon.

Dr Mittal: But the online courses don’t provide degrees...

Dr Elliott: Harvard is not a typical American school. We are a pretty conservative institution. We are hesitant for online degrees yet.

BHUMI STANDS FOR SUSTAINABILITY



Actor Bhumi Pednekar is an environmentally conscious citizen who has taken up climate conservation as a cause to raise awareness among fellow Indians. Bhumi has launched an initiative called *Climate Warrior* through which she is mobilising people to contribute towards the environment. The actor is batting for sustainability and says it’s vital for climate protection.

“I believe in repeating clothes. I don’t think that people might see me wearing the same clothes because as an actor you are told to always wear different and new outfits but, honestly, I don’t care. There are so many business which I have come across where people are renting clothes. I love the idea,” says Bhumi.

She adds, “Even personally, between me and my sister, our wardrobe is pretty much one. We share clothes. We keep repeating clothes and we have no problem with that. In the last two years, I have consciously started seeing how climate conscious the brand is before I wear them. Today, we have enough options of such brands.”

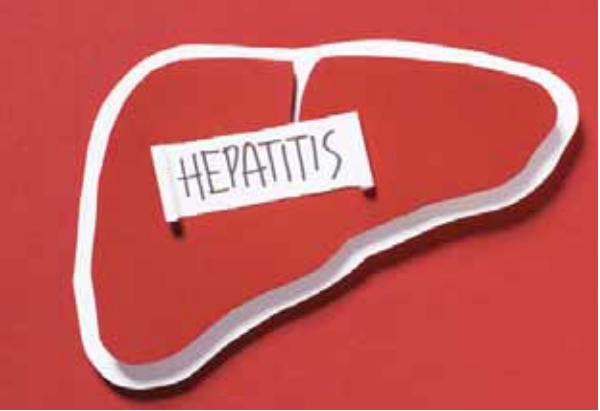
Bhumi feels the whole world is shifting towards sustainability in a big way. She says, “And, rightly so. If you have noticed, there is large shift in the way brands are now dealing with sustainability. Most of the high fashion, luxury brands are slowly and steady turning towards sustainability. I really hope that the process happens a lot faster. Unfortunately, with recycled and up-cycled fashion, the price difference is a lot and it’s not affordable to everybody.”

DOCYARD

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Fight the silent killer

Hepatitis is today's one of the major health concern. According to a study around 290 million people across the world are living with viral Hepatitis unaware. In some cases of Hepatitis symptoms don't occur even for years and in some cases it can even cause liver failure. Liver's proper functioning is necessary for the better health of even other organs in the body.

Hepatitis B is a type of liver infection. If a person is exposed in adulthood, most are able to clear the virus from their bodies without treatment. For other people, acute hepatitis B leads to life-long infection known as chronic hepatitis B which can result into liver failure, liver cancer if not treated on time. Basically, this infection spread from infected blood, unsafe sexual practices and from infected mother to child. Prevention is the key and early treatment is the best way to prevent its complications. Never ignore symptoms like:

- Fever
 - Repeated episodes of vomiting
 - Fatigue
 - Loss of appetite and Jaundice
- Hepatitis can be asymptomatic even for decades and can convert into chronic liver failure.

Hepatitis B and C: Both Hepatitis B and C are caused majorly by blood contact. In Hepatitis B around 90 per cent cases come out normal while 10 per cent may go on to develop chronic infection. In some of these patients virus remains active causing progressive liver damage and finally resulting in liver cirrhosis, liver failure and liver cancer. While early detection is the key, one major trait of Hepatitis C is that it doesn't show any symptoms even for decades, and when the symptoms appear the liver is already damaged to a great extent.

While early detection is the key, one major trait of Hepatitis C is that it doesn't show any symptoms even for decades, and when the symptoms appear the liver is already damaged to a great extent. Around 80 per cent cases of Hepatitis C convert into chronic liver disease

Hepatitis A and E: Unlike Hepatitis B and C these are caused by consumption of infected water or food. The infected person develops symptoms like fever, loss of appetite and vomiting followed by jaundice. In majority of people complete recovery would occur without any permanent damage to liver. Treatment is mainly symptomatic.

Prevention: Following steps would help in preventing Hepatitis B & C :

- Safe blood transfusion.
- Blood should be tested to rule out hepatitis B&C before transfusion.
- Apart from other life threatening infections intravenous drug abusers are at a very high risk of hepatitis virus infections. Avoid such practices.
 - Tattoo lovers should be aware that reuse of same needle used on other persons can bring the infection. Ask for fresh needles.
 - People taking salon services like manicure, pedicure, shaving etc should be aware that contamination by blood of these instruments carries the risk of hepatitis infection. Blades, nail cutters etc may accidentally cut the skin get soiled with blood. It is not wise to use same tools on other people
 - Avoid unsafe sexual practices.
 - Do not use reusable syringes or needles. Always insist on disposable syringes and needles.
 - Pregnant mothers with hepatitis B infection should seek proper medical advice to prevent transmission of infection to the newborn infant.
 - Get yourself vaccinated against hepatitis B
- While Hepatitis A and E can be prevented by:-
- Maintaining basic hygiene
 - Consumption of properly cooked food, and clean filtered water.
- Hepatitis B and C are now very much treatable. Early diagnosis and treatment can save the liver and prevent development of liver failure and liver cancer.

SUMMER COOLERS

RADICHHIO: Radicchio, also known as red cabbage, is one of the excellent sources of Vitamin K that strengthens the bone and is good for the treatment of Alzheimer's.

The vegetable promotes weight loss due to high fibre content. It makes one feel full and keeps one satiated for longer. Radicchio is also high in antioxidants that boost overall health, wellness and energy. It promotes bile production which improves digestion and reduces cholesterol.

Radicchio contains inulin that naturally helps to regulate blood sugar levels and reduces the risk of strokes and other heart diseases.

As the veggie has high fibre content, it helps in colon cleansing. Also radicchio has been used to fight intestinal worms and parasites to great effect. Polyphenols found in radicchio help neutralise free radicals and give a mental sharpness, keen eyesight and lower incidence of stomach flu.



BACK YOUR BACK

Over four lakh Indians above the age of 60 years are suffering from the symptoms of degenerative scoliosis and over 12 lakh across age brackets have some sort of spinal stenosis. DR SK RAJAN tells you the signs to look out for

Our lower back (Lumbar spine) consists of five big bones *aka* vertebrae in the lower part of the spine between the ribs and the pelvis with intervening soft cushion like pads referred to as discs. Each of the bones have a hole in them and these holes align to form a pipe for passage of spinal nerves. Narrowing of this passage is referred to as Lumbar Canal Stenosis (LCS). This stenosis results in compression of the nerves traveling through the lower back into the legs.

While it may affect younger population due to developmental (birth related) causes, it is more often a degenerative (wear and tear) condition that affects people age 50 and older. The discs may become less spongy as you age, resulting in reduced disc height and bulging of the hardened disc into the spinal canal. Currently, it is estimated that over four lakh Indians above the age of 60 years are suffering from its symptoms and over 12-15 lakh across age brackets having some sort of spinal stenosis.

Depending on the severity of the condition, Lumbar spinal stenosis may or may not produce symptoms. While the narrowing of the spinal canal itself does not produce the symptoms but due to the inflammation of the nerves caused by the increased pressure attributes to the cause. Varying from person to person the various symptoms include:

- Pain, weakness, or numbness in the legs, calves, or buttocks
- Pain may radiate to one or both the legs (resembling a painful condition referred to as Sciatica)
- In rare cases, there is loss of motor functioning in the legs, and loss of bowel control.
- Excruciating pain while walking that may subside while bending forward, sitting or lying down.

Degenerative spondylolisthesis and degenerative scoliosis (curvature of the spine) are two conditions associated with lumbar spinal stenosis. Degenerative spondylolisthesis (slippage of one vertebra over another) is caused by arthritis of the facet joints. Most commonly, it involves the L4 slipping over the L5 vertebra. It usually is treated with the same conservative or surgical methods as lumbar spinal stenosis.

Degenerative scoliosis occurs most frequently in the lower back and more commonly affects people age 65 and older. Back pain associated with degenerative scoliosis usually begins gradually and is linked with activity. The curvature of the spine in this form of scoliosis often is relatively minor, so surgery is required when conservative methods fail to alleviate pain associated with the condition.

Diagnosis

Based on the medical history, symptoms, hereditary risk factors, physical examination and diagnostic tests are required to confirm the condition. Radiology tests including X-rays, CT Scan and MRI are helpful in identifying the structure of the vertebrae and outline of the joints. These imaging techniques help the surgeons a detailed view of the spinal canal, its content and the structures around it. 3 D imaging produced through MRI are also helpful in analysing the nerve roots, adjacent areas, any enlargements, degeneration or tumors.

In specific cases a myelogram may be required, which is a special X-ray of the spinal cord that is taken after injecting a contrast material in the surrounding cerebrospinal fluids (CSF). This is helpful in monitoring the pressure on the spinal cord or on the related nerves due to the compression, herniated disc, bone spurs or tumors.

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While medication and physical therapy remain the first line of treatment module, surgical intervention is only preferred when these fails to provide relief.

Medications & injections: Anti inflammatory medications and analgesics may be helpful in the initial stages to subside pain. But in case is the pain is persistent of worsens with time, the doctor may prescribe other medications or injections. Epidural injections also help in reducing pain and swelling, but is only a temporary relief method followed.

Physical therapy: this along with prescribed exercises may help stabilise your spine, build your endurance and increase your flexibility. Therapy may help you resume your normal

lifestyle and activities.

In those cases where these conservative options fail, surgery may be the only resort. Depending upon age, overall health, associated co-morbidities and pre-existing conditions doctors may consider the type of surgery.

Surgical treatment

There are several different surgical procedures that can be utilized, the choice of which is influenced by the severity of your case. In a small percentage of patients, spinal instability may require that spinal fusion be performed — this decision generally is determined prior to surgery. Spinal fusion is an operation that creates a solid union between two or more vertebrae. This procedure may assist in strengthening and stabilising the spine, and may thereby help to alleviate severe and chronic back pain.

Decompressive laminectomy: The most common surgery in the lumbar spine is called decompressive laminectomy, in which the laminae (roof) of the vertebrae are removed to create more space for the nerves. A neurosurgeon may perform a laminectomy with or without fusing vertebrae or removing part of a disc. A spinal fusion with or without spinal instrumentation may be recommended when spondylolisthesis or scoliosis occurs with spinal stenosis. Various devices (such as screws or rods) may be used to enhance fusion and support unstable areas of the spine.

The benefits of surgery should always be weighed carefully against its risks. Although a large percentage of lumbar spinal stenosis patients report significant pain relief after surgery, there is no guarantee that surgery will help every individual.

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C PLUS



Taking care of your skin's needs is just as important as your overall health.

AAYUSH NARANG tells you how Vitamin C serum can work wonders and do the job

There's a reason why Vitamin C serums became so popular. It has an incredible benefits for skin health because of potent antioxidants. It can help you in brightening your skin, healing surface damage, boosting circulation, stimulating collagen production, and even search free radicals to stop the onset of fine lines and wrinkles. The best news is that a lot of dermatologists recommend Vitamin C serum for all skin types.

Our skin's natural regeneration process gets aided by Vitamin C, which helps our body to heal damaged skin cells. It is touted as one of the best anti-aging ingredients on the market. As consuming antioxidant-rich foods aids your body in fighting off free radicals, topical antioxidants do an equivalent for your skin by helping to offset daily aggressors like UV damage and exposure to air pollution. Even if you're probably getting Vitamin C in your diet, there's no guarantee that it's going straight to your skin. Using serums and other topical products is the most direct to gain these benefits.

Vitamin C's skin-saving benefits aren't restricted to its antioxidant status. It has many other skin-healing assets that make it praiseworthy. For one, because it's highly acidic, when Vitamin C is used topically our skin starts to heal itself by accelerating the assembly of collagen and elastin. Remember: Collagen and elastin are both present protein fibers that help keep skin plump and firm. So, in helping to market collagen production, topical vitamin C can help prevent premature aging of the skin.

Another cool thing about the ingredient is that it contains a property that inhibits your skin's melanin production, which is what causes skin discoloration like dark spots and hyperpigmentation. With continued topical use, Vitamin C can help prevent dark spots from forming within the first place. It's a greater brightening agent that works to fade brown spots without changing normal skin pigmentation.

A serum is that the preferred sort of Vitamin C. They generally comprise a perfect delivery system and are considered to be used before moisturiser. While Vitamin C used in the morning or evening, most people prefer to apply it during the day as its antioxidant assets act as a guard to bounce pollution and other environmental attackers. In terms of when you should use it in your routine, a three-step system of cleansing, treating, and moisturising. That second step would be Vitamin C application, followed by moisturiser unless you've got oilier skin and like to use a serum on its own.

If you're new to using the ingredient on your skin, start slowly. It's potent stuff, so you only need a few drops for each application. It's best to start out with a low concentration and work your way up as your skin grows more accustomed to the ingredient.

The writer is Sales and Marketing Head, International Business, Rowan Biocuticals

DadiKaKehna

Our hair becomes dull and lifeless during monsoon. But there are many ingredients in our kitchen that can help restore the shine and give the bounce. ROSHANI DEVI shares tips that can help



Rain brings its share of woes. More so when it comes to hair care — be it be dry and frizzy or oily and sticky. One of the best remedies to take care of frizz is to make a paste by soaking fenugreek seeds overnight in water, add two ripe bananas and one egg white apply it to the hair and keep it for an hour. Wash using a mild shampoo.

Mix yoghurt with a teaspoon of honey. Apply it to the scalp and hair once a week as it takes care of

dullness. One can soak almond paste to be mixed with banana will take care of dryness.

Applying coconut oil 15 minutes before you shampoo helps in pre-conditioning the hair. It makes hair less greasy.

This is the season for amla. Apply amla pulp mixed with lemon juice. Massage this in the hair and leave it overnight. Wash off with shampoo in the morning. Soak methi seeds in water overnight. Strain the water the next day and use this water to wash your hair. This will take care of the dandruff and dryness.



TIPTOP

National Faecal Sludge & Septage Management (NFSM) Alliance brought together country's leading policy makers and city leaders to deliberate on Opportunities for Co-Treatment of Septage at Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs), through a webinar on July 30, 2020. The discussions focused on recognising the potential for cities and towns to convert existing underutilised sewage treatment plants (STPs) to co-treatment facilities to bring down the contamination of water bodies across the country.

The keynote speaker Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, Director General of National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) said: "Fast but unorganised urbanization has put a load on natural resources. The system has not been able to give as much priority to wastewater management, or any other waste disposal, as compared to services such as provision of drinking water and other infrastructure needs."

SLIMLINE

Antara, a part of the \$3 bln Max Group, has announced remote COVID care packages customised for seniors. The comprehensive and contactless COVID Care at Home packages are designed for seniors with mild symptoms to avoid the hassle of hospitalisation. This announcement follows Antara's recent foray into the 'Assisted Care Services' space with the launch of two new lines of business — 'Care Homes' and 'Care at Home'.

Antara's 15-day Home Isolation Care

Speaking about his experience in Kanpur while working for the Clean Ganga Mission, he highlighted the huge capacity utilisation gap that was observed in the STPs, along with inadequate presence of a sewage network across the city. He further emphasised on the need for co-treatment especially in river cities in order to curb the dumping of septage into river bodies. "There is an essential need to focus on the interests of river cities by merging urban planning with river management," he said.

The NFSM Alliance, which works closely with Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, comprises of numerous national and international organisations that are actively working for implementation of sustainable sanitation solutions in the country. The Alliance has been instrumental in the passage of India's first National Policy on FSM in 2017 which cascaded to 19+ states in India.

Package aims to help patients with mild symptoms recover at home and offers: Comprehensive remote assessment for holistic care; Essential medical kit for health tracking and self-isolation; Daily vital monitoring by nurses, Regular telephonic doctor consults to track progress; Respiratory rehabilitation by experts to aid recovery; Physiological counselling to manage anxiety; a Nutrition plan to boost immunity as well as preventive counselling for non-affected family members.

INBRIEF

The times of the Covid pandemic proved the importance of yoga to bring positivity, health and mindfulness to everyday life. Yoga became a friend to the world to help people heal themselves from trauma, anxiety, stress and even improve upon their immunity.

In a bid to provide a healthy life to his followers, Grand Master Akshar expanded his digital presence during the lockdown phase. His Facebook Page became the go-to guide to embrace a healthy lifestyle for more than 20 million online users. Many people across the world leveraged the quarantine phase to adopt healthy habits and fitness routine. In this regard, The Akshar Yoga Facebook page came to the rescue of many by providing the right guidance.

Akshar Yoga Ashram also organised many live sessions to address queries of yoga practitioners, Spiritual seekers and Yoga enthusiasts. The sessions were vibrant and full of valuable knowledge. Thousands of people attended these live programs to have their queries answered about various issues such as health, wellness, stress, anxiety, Diabetes, blood pressure and so much more.

The courses that were conducted included weight loss exercises, yoga for beginners, yoga for therapy, daily yoga classes for overall fitness, stress relief, mental balance and more.

Special Himalayan meditation techniques were revealed by Grand Master Akshar, such as Siddho Hum Dhyana, Aarambh Dhyana, Chandra Graham Meditation and Surya Graham Meditation. He is dedicated towards the welfare of people and is actively involved in spreading awareness on yoga. He has also launched many books of yoga and its benefits across the levels — beginners, advanced, professional.

