

**OPINION 6**  
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'DISRESPECTFUL' KAMALA: TRUMP**SPORT 12**  
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SARA PENS A  
SPECIAL NOTE  
FOR MOM  
10 VIVACITY

# Dance of death & destruction in Bengaluru

**Irked at FB post by Cong MLA's relative, mob runs riots, torch police station, MLA's house; 3 killed, SDPI leader among 110 held**

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Three people were killed (in police firing)," Bengaluru Police Commissioner Kamal Pant told PTI.

Further, 110 people have been arrested in connection with the rioting at Pulakeshi Nagar here. Scores, including around 50 policemen, were injured in the violence that erupted on Tuesday night and continued till the wee hours of Wednesday, apparently triggered by the online post.

SDPI leader Muzamil Pasha has been arrested by Bengaluru Police for his role in the mob violence.

Curfew has been imposed in the affected areas in and around the affected areas, DJ Halli and KG Halli.

Pulakeshi Nagar MLA Akhanda Srinivasa Murthys



Police and residents walk past charred remains of vehicles vandalised by a mob over a FB post by a relative of a Congress MLA in Bengaluru on Wednesday

PTI

## ACTIONS-REACTIONS

**■ About 50 cop injured in attack**

■ The manner in which the riots were perpetrated shows that it was a well planned act and was intended to spread to other parts of the city. These are traitors, said Revenue Minister Ashoka

■ The Government has decided to recover losses caused to public property from the rioters

■ Naveen, a nephew of the MLA, who allegedly put out the social media post, has been arrested

residence and a police station at DJ Halli were among those targeted by the angry mob. The house of the MLA, who was not at home at the time, was set on fire by the rioters.

"The manner in which the riots were perpetrated shows that it was a well planned act and was intended to spread to other parts of the city. These are traitors," Revenue Minister Ashoka told reporters after meeting Congress MLA in his office at Vidhana Soudha.

The Minister said the

MLA's house was completely damaged, belongings, including Sarees and jewels, were looted and the rest, including vehicles, were set on fire

"It is clear from the intensity of vandalism that the intention was to attack and finish off Srinivasa Murthy. It has to be investigated whether any corporator or anti-social elements from within the state and outside were involved," Ashoka said.

Tourism Minister CT Ravi said, "It is clear and evident that yesterday's violent attack was carried out by a Muslim mob in a pre-planned manner."

Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai said six companies of the Central Reserve Police Force are being dispatched to the violence-hit areas of Bengaluru.

Three companies from Hyderabad and three from Chennai will be deployed in DG Halli and KG Halli police station limits, he told reporters at Udupi before leaving for Bengaluru.

He said the situation is now under control and additional police forces are deployed in

the area. Rapid action force and the "Garuda" force are also being deployed, the Minister added.

Meanwhile, the State Government on Wednesday announced that a district magistrate would conduct an enquiry into the violence.

The Government also decided to recover losses caused to public property during the violence from the rioters.

BJP MP Shobha Karandlaje who visited Pulikeshinagar, in a tweet said, "PFI-SDPI conspired this violence, they targeted only Hindu houses & burnt public properties. I strongly condemn this behaviour of a communal elements & urge @CMofKarnataka to take stringent actions against the culprits."

Pant said Naveen, said to be a nephew of the legislator, who allegedly put out the social media post has been arrested.

Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa said the "attack on the residence of the MLA, the police station and rioting are condemnable."

## 'Release tusker held captive in Kapilash Zoo'

**Petition signed by 63K wildlife lovers filed**

Wednesday, an online petition comprising 63,000 signatures has appealed for release of a chained tusker in the Kapilash Zoo in Odisha.

Several elephant lovers world over, including Dr Biswajit Mohanty from Odisha, have signed the petition

the Kapilash Zoo, Dhenkanal, as per direction of the Forest Department Project Elephant and the Central Zoo Authority.

The activists have alleged that the elephant is tortured in the zoo. "His health and leg injuries seem to be improved now, but he is still in Kraal.

catch other wild elephants," they said.

Being not recognised as an Elephant rescue/rehabilitation centre from Project Elephant and Central Zoo Authority, how can they catch wild elephants and torture like this, they have asked, adding the the



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Even as the World Elephant Day was observed on

demanding release of the tusker.

The elephant "Rakesh" was captured in January and kept at

Instead of releasing him back to the wild or a sanctuary, discussions are going on to tame (cruel way of training) him to

captivity of the elephant is against provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972.

## State Cabinet decisions

# State to amend 3 rules relating to industries

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

With an aim to boost industrialisation in the post-Covid-19 period, the State Cabinet on Wednesday decided to amend three rules relating to industries.

At a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, the Cabinet decided to amend the Factory Act 1948 to increase the threshold of workers in the power-generating industrial units from 10 to 20 while the limit was increased to 40 from 20 workers in manual labour-intensive industrial units.

The industrial units would be allowed to allot overtime working hours during one quarter for 115 hours. Earlier, the limit was 55 hours.

Besides, a proposal for amendment to the Factory Act was approved under which women workers can be engaged from 7 pm to 6 am subject to their safety and security.

The Cabinet approved 20 proposals at its meeting.

➤ **Women workers can be engaged at night**  
➤ **Guarantee of Rs 1,500 cr to GRIDCO**  
➤ **No personal interview for recruitment to Group C posts**  
➤ **4 drinking water projects worth Rs 827 cr**

It approved a proposal for providing Government guarantee of Rs 1,500 crore for the loans already availed by the GRIDCO during Financial Year 2019-20.

Such guarantee would enable GRIDCO to get about 2 per cent interest concession from the banks, said Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy after the meeting.

The Cabinet also approved a proposal to make some

changes in the Group C recruitment procedure amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

No more personal interview would be conducted for the recruitment of Group C posts in the State. Only written tests and skill tests would now be conducted for recruitment to such posts.

As many four drinking water project tenders worth Rs 827 crore were also approved.

## Revenue Spl Secy in Vig net

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Acting on complaints of Acquisition of assets disproportionate to his known sources of income by Revenue and Disaster Management Special Secretary Ajay Kumar Das, Vigilance officers on Wednesday conducted raids on his office room and houses at many places to detect assets possessed by him and his family members.



Simultaneous raids were conducted at Das' residential house at Ratnakara Bag, Tankapani Road and a flat at Patia in Bhubaneswar and his double-storied building in Baleswar.

During the searches, three flats in his name, two in Bhubaneswar and one in Puri, were traced. The raids were in progress, informed an official.

## State Covid recovery, fatality rates higher in country

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Covid-19 recovery and fatality rates in the State now seem to be good indicators in the fight against the virus.

At a meeting held on Wednesday, Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy informed that all indexes in Odisha's Covid-19 management are encouraging compared to other States. Odisha, which is in 14th place in the country's Covid-19 recovery index, has a recovery rate of 68.6% against 70.3% of the country.

So far, 34,805 patients have recovered in the State. Similarly, the fatality rate stands at 0.60%.

Regarding plasma therapy, Tripathy informed that while 10 patients have completely recovered from the disease through the therapy so far, 132 are currently undergoing treatment. Besides, 98 patients being treated through the therapy are showing noticeable improvement. Total five plasma banks have been launched in

the State in the last three weeks.

The meeting also decided to felicitate plasma donors during Independence Day celebration at district levels. Besides, it decided to open more RT-PCR machines in the three Government medical colleges and increase the number of testing labs in the State.

At the meeting, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik held discussions with COVID Observers of Kendrapada, Jagatsinghpur, Dhenkanal, Bhadrak, Baleswar and Cuttack and enquired about the situation in these districts.

Expressing happiness over conduct of the highest 32,000 tests in a single day on Tuesday, the CM asked the district Collectors to begin testing facilities at the Sub-Divisional Hospitals and Community Health Centres across the State. He also asked the BDOs and gram panchayat representatives to motivate people to voluntarily come forward for test.

Considering Global experiences as well as experiences from different States that home isolation provides better and early healing for asymptomatic and persons with mild symptoms, Patnaik also stressed on home isolation of patients both in urban and rural areas.

The fear for the disease and stigma around it must be removed from the people's mind so that more and more people would opt for home isolation. A home isolation kit comprising do's and don'ts, some basic medicines and a list of telephone numbers of doctors, counsellors/ tele-medicine professionals and Government officials may be distributed among all such persons to enable them to call appropriate numbers regarding medical, psycho-social and other assistance if and when required, the CM said.

However, patients who have no such facilities at home would be taken care of at Covid Care Centres and Covid Care Homes, he added.

## 9 more Covid deaths; State toll now 305

➤ **1,876 new positive cases; total 50,672**  
➤ **Day's highest 297 in Khordha**

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Nine more persons succumbed to Covid-19 on Wednesday, breaching the 300-mark in the State's death toll that surged to 305.

While four of the deceased belonged to Ganjam district, two were from Rayagada and one each from Baleswar, Angul and Khordha. The deceased of Ganjam district included a 48-year-old woman, a 57-year-old man, a 74-year-old woman and a 57-year-old man.

The deceased of Rayagada were both 65-year-old men. The other casualties included a 38-year-old man of Baleswar, a 44-year-old woman of Angul and a 58-year-old man of Khordha district.

On the day, the Covid caseload crossed 50,000 with

1,876 new positive cases detected from all 30 districts. With this, the total tally surged to 50,672. Of the new cases, 1,182 positives were detected from quarantine centres and 694 were local contacts.

Khordha district reported day's highest 297 cases followed by Ganjam 260, Sundargarh 119, Cuttack 109, Nayagarh 105, Rayagada 98, Balasore 81, Puri 80, Koraput 77, Gajapati 71, Mayurbhanj 70, Kendrapada 58, Jajpur 53, Bhadrak 50, Kalahandi 41, Dhenkanal and Sambalpur 36 each, Balangir 31, Kandhamal and Nawarangpur 30 each, Jagatsinghpur 26, Malkangiri 24, Sonepur 22, Keonjhar 21, Angul and Bargarh 15 each, Boudh 10, Jharsuguda six, Nuapada three and Deogarh two.

However, another 1,673 patients recovered in the State on the day. With this, the total recoveries increased to 36,478. The highest 389 recovered in Ganjam district followed by the next highest 177 in Khordha, 163 in Sundargarh, 126 in Cuttack, 120 in Koraput and 100 in Puri.

## 187 test +ve in BBSR; total cases 4,358

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

As many as 187 new Covid-19 positive cases were registered under the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) area on Wednesday. With this, the city's total case rose to 4,358.

Of the new cases, 104 were from quarantine and 83 were local contact cases.

The quarantined cases included 18, all employees of a hotel at Jayadev Vihar linked with an earlier positive case; five of Chandrasekharpur BDA Colony; five of Mancheswar linked with an earlier case; five of Samtrapur Mahaveer Nagar linked with an earlier case; four of Palasuni linked with an earlier case; four of Dumduma linked with an earlier case; three of VSS Nagar Mahaveer Basti; three of Reserve Police Colony; three of Central Revenue Colony; two of Unit-8 OCC Colony; two of Sikharchandi Basti; two of IRC Village; two of Unit-4 near RBI Colony; two of Salia Sahi; and

➤ **Highest 18 infected in Jayadev Vihar hotel**  
➤ **10 patients recover; total recoveries 2,914**  
➤ **85 infected in Cuttack city; total cases 1879**

two of Kapilaparasad BDA Colony.

The local contacts included three cases of Ganganagar, three of Shailashree Vihar, three of Satuanagar, two of Nayapalli, two of Sundarpada, two of Mancheswar, two of Unit-8, two of Jagamara Bhaktamadhu Nagar, two of Samatrapur, two of Patia, two of Dumduama, two of Bomikhal and two of Bhoi Nagar.

However, 107 persons recovered from the disease on the day in the city, taking the total recoveries to 2,914.

In Cuttack, 85 positive cases were detected on Wednesday, with which the city's total tally rose to 1,879.

Of the new cases, 24 cases were from Malgudown Jalua Sahi, 13 from institutional quarantine, 17 from home quarantine and 21 local contact cases.



# Virus at peak in Khordha, decline in Ganjam

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Khordha district appears to be at peak of the coronavirus infection, said ICMR Regional Medical Research Centre (RMRC), Bhubaneswar, Director Dr Sanghamitra Pati on Wednesday.

“As the number of testing has increased in the State, the positivity rate has declined, which is a good sign for Odisha. As per test results, Khordha district is at the peak stage, and the virus infections may also reach its heights in

other districts in upcoming days,” she told media.

However, the infection rate has dropped in Covid hotspot Ganjam district Dr Pati said, adding, “The report on serological surveillance conducted in Ganjam has been submitted to the State Government. It suggests that the infection is under control in the district.”

She also informed that in Ganjam, which has registered the highest number of 13,575 Covid-19 cases so far, positive cases are of late only detected from the contact tracing.

# 70.21% clear +2 Sc exams; boys outshine girls

➤ 25K get 1st Div; 137 secure 90%+ marks  
➤ 15 schools post nil results

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The much-awaited results of the Plus Two Science Examinations 2020, conducted by the Council of Higher Secondary Education (CHSE), Odisha, were published on Wednesday.

The pass percentage stood at 70.21 with 68,374 students clearing the examinations.

Boys outshined girls in the CHSE examinations. The pass percentage comprised 39% boys (38,301) and 31 per cent girls (30,073).

School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash released the results at CHSE office.

The results showed that 25,339 students have cleared the exam in First Division, while 24,121 got Second Division and 18,260 Third Division. As many as 137 students have secured above 90 per cent marks.

While 20 higher secondary schools have registered 100 per cent results,



15 schools reported zero results.

Nayagarh has recorded the highest pass rate of 86.51 per

cent, while Jharsuguda recorded lowest pass rate of 40.71 per

cent. Total 97,377 students had appeared for the examinations held in March. Examination to Biology people was not held due to Covid-19 outbreak and subsequent lockdown. The marks were assessed based on marks of other two papers.

Results of the +2 Commerce examinations would be announced by the third week of August and that of Arts and Vocational Education streams by August-end, the Minister.

# Target: 1 lakh tests a day

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State Government has set a target of conducting one lakh Covid-19 tests per day, informed Institute of Life Sciences (ILS) Director Dr Ajay Parida on Wednesday.

“The number of rapid antigen tests will be increased significantly and contact tracing will be emphasised for early isolation of the Covid-19-infected persons,” said Dr Parida.

There is no scarcity of testing kits as several companies are now manufacturing them. Such kits have already been sent to the District Headquarters Hospitals and Municipal Corporations of the State in large numbers, he informed.

The Covid-19 infection is approaching towards its peak in the State; and the rate of infection would drop subsequently, he added.

# Puri seer launches coconut sapling distribution

30K saplings to be distributed in Puri dist

PNS ■ PURI

Jagadguru Shankaracharya Nischalananda Saraswati inaugurated a programme of distribution of 30,000 coconut saplings undertaken jointly by the Bhasha and the Odisha International Centre (OIC) here on Tuesday. The Shankaracharya donated five saplings to mark the beginning of the campaign.

Over three lakh coconut trees had been uprooted by the impact of Cyclone Fani in May 2019. As a result, farmers lost income. The OIC has provided 30,000 saplings for distribution to farmers in Puri Sadar, Satyabadi, Pipili, Brahmagiri, Gop and Kakatpur block areas.

Among others, America's Odia volunteer Priyadarshan Patra, Vastu expert Manoj Lenka, Rotarian Monoj Tripathy and Kuldip Rath were present. Matruprasad Mishra



organised the event. Shreemandir Muktimandap member Bichitrananda Mishra also graced as the occasion as a guest.

Volunteers like Bhabagrahi

Shanti, Kumudini Panda, Kamal Kumar, Itishree, Lalatendu Mishra and Indira Mishra coordinated the programme, which ended with a vote of thanks delivered by

Bhasha secretary Jayanti Sahoo.

The coconut distribution work would end on Gandhi Jayanti on October 2, said OIC chairman Paresh Nayak.

# Healthy ageing conf held in city

Experts talk about sound living

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

An international conference, 'Healthy Ageing 2020,' was organised by the GeriCaRe (Geriatric Care and Research Organisation) here recently. Over 500 delegates attended.

Dr Yohko Maki from Japan talked about 'promotion of a dementia-friendly community and extension of healthy life expectancy in Japan' and compared with the situation in India. Dr David Jolley from the UK spoke about approaches to reduce the incidence of cognitive decline and dementia. Dr

Gopalakrishna Pemmaraju talked about 'ageing joints and remedies' while Dr Biswa Mishra talked about prevention of diabetes mellitus.

Dr PT Sivakumar from NIMHANS, Bangalore, discussed the public health priority of preventing late life depression and suicide.

Dr Saamdu Chetri from IIT, Kharagpur, talked how knowing the self could prepare one to age in happiness. He discussed mindfulness techniques.

The topics were well received by the audiences. The conference was coordinated by Dr Nilamadhab Kar, Dr Prasanta Mohapatra, Dr Susanta Kumar Padhy, Dr Tushar Kanti Das and Dr Aparna Prasanna.

The Quality of Life Research and Development Foundation, India and The Institute of Insight, United Kingdom, supported.

# +2 admission dates announced

BHUBANESWAR: Admission into Plus II courses in various streams for the academic session 2020-21 would start from August 21, informed School & Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash on Wednesday.

The candidates need to apply online for admission into the intermediate courses through the Student Academic Management System (SAMS) between August 21 and September 4. The first-phase merit list would be released on September 9.

In view of the financial crisis of people during the Covid-19 pandemic, the authorities have cut the admission fee for students of all categories.

“The Chief Minister has decided to reduce the fee for this session,” Dash said.

While the fee has been fixed Rs 100 for the ST and SC students, the students of general categories would get admission by paying only Rs 200.

# CUO webinar: New Edu Policy hailed

PNS ■ KORAPUT

The Central University of Odisha (CUO), Koraput, organised a national webinar on 'National Education Policy 2020: Perspectives on Excellence in Higher Education' on August 10.

Vice-Chancellor Prof I Ramabrahmam inaugurated the event.

Vice-Chairman, UGC, New Delhi, Prof Bhusan Patwardhan chaired the webinar and highlighted the glorious history of education and future idea of knowledge for liberating man from mono-cultural dominance.

He welcomed the proposal of 6 per cent of GDP expenditure on education and other revolutionary measures and said implementation of the policy is a major challenge and can happen when everybody commits to perform and participate in key interventions.

Assam Science and Technology University, Guwahati VC Prof Dhiraj Kumar Bora as a distinguished speaker in his address said, “This policy is actually included as part of a long awaited revamping of the education

sector; inclusion of both the early childhood education and secondary education into the Right to Education Act, which is the need of the hour.”

Visiting professors, Prof P Durgaprasad and Prof Akshaya Rout hailed the NEP and said it needs to be implemented both in letter and spirit to make India self-reliant and excel among nations in spite of challenges.

Department of Education Head Dr Ramendra Kumar Parhi spoke on the progressive steps in the policy that are bound to take higher education in India to new heights.

# ‘Remove Tata firm from power distribution’

SUCI(C) urges Govt  
PNS ■ CUTTACK

The Socialist Unity Centre of India (Communist) has urged the State Government to remove the Tata Power Company Limited from electric distribution work alleging that consumers are facing difficulties due to frequent power cuts occurring since the company was given the charge on June 1, 2020.

“Power cuts are occurring frequently every day in cities and rural areas now. Farmers, school students, businessmen are suffering a lot. Water supply projects have been hit. Faults in meters and decreasing of rebate period in payment of

tariff from earlier 15 days to seven days have added to the woes of the consumers. To stop monopoly in power service and consumer exploitation, the Government should drive away the Tata Power soon,” urged SUCI (C) Cuttack district secretary Biswabasu Das and other regional committee secretaries Khageswar Sethi, Rajkishore Mallick, Bobby Balabantray and Siddhartha Rath in a statement.

They demanded that the Government should ensure uninterrupted power supply to consumers, extend rebate period to one month and sort out meter glitches soon. They said the party would take to a mass agitation if demands are not met soon.

# CUO launches Executive MBA

PNS ■ KORAPUT

The Central University of Odisha (CUO) has embarked on a two-year Executive MBA Programme for offering it in September. HAL, NALCO, DRDO, NAD, NMDC, RSPL, VSPL, JK Paper, Utkal Alumina would be the potential sponsors of their executives.

Other executives aspiring to assume general management roles include executives of cooperatives, farmer producer organisations, civil society representatives, entrepreneur and teachers desirous of becoming management teachers/executives.

# For I-Day celebrations Weekend shutdown relaxed in 4 dists

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State Government on Wednesday announced relaxation of the Covid-19 pandemic-related weekend shutdown restrictions in four districts and a municipal corporation area on August 15 in view of the Independence Day celebrations.

As per an order issued by the Special Relief Commissioner's Office, the weekend shutdown imposed in Ganjam, Khordha, Gajapati

and Cuttack districts and the Rourkela Municipal Corporation would be relaxed till 11 am on August 15.

The decision was taken to allow citizens to unfurl the National Flag at their premises with the condition that not more than ten persons would congregate at any place.

The order further stated that all safety protocols such as social distancing, wearing masks, proper sanitisation shall be duly maintained during the I-Day celebrations.

## HITTING THE BULL'S EYE

# Here're least-known facts of British colonisation



BISWARAJ PATNAIK

Two hundred and thirty six years ago, on this day in 1784, an Act of the Parliament of Great Britain was passed specifically to bring the East India Company's rule in India under the control of the British Government. By 1773, the East India Company was in dire financial straits. So, it sought assistance from the British

Government which had by now known too well that the company was in the red for rampant corruption and nepotism by its officials. So, a Regulating Act in 1773 was passed to take control of the company activities. However the Act did not give power to the British Government to rule India.

The idea of the 1784 Act was passed only to improve the previous law, which failed to prevent corruption by way of nepotism and bribery; effect speedier 'Trial of corruption-accused persons' in the East Indies. This Act was also known as Pitt's Act after the serving British Prime Minister William Pitt, the Younger. The Act provided for a Board of Control to govern British India jointly, the Crown holding the ultimate authority.

Incidentally, by the late 1400s, Spanish explorers had begun colonising the Americas

successfully amassing huge wealth. So, Britain reduced Spain's power through private entrepreneurial explorers who were sea explorers permitted by the British Monarch to raid and steal from Spanish ships to split the proceeds between them. Sailors who defied the government or who kept all of the proceeds for themselves, were branded as 'pirates'.

In 1562, English sailor John Hawkins stole a Portuguese slave ship off the west coast of Africa and sold the enslaved Africans in the Caribbean. Subsequently, England built up a navy and colonised some sovereign lands in the Caribbean. The British surpassed the Spanish and Portuguese in the sale of kidnapped African people. The slave trade also benefitted the British economy as countless related commercial ventures came up including shipbuilding, banking and importing. Bristol and Liverpool flourished due to the slave trade.

New companies like the Royal African Company came up to transport slaves from West Africa to the Caribbean particularly Barbados as the centre for excellent sugar farming there. Sugar plantation was a very labour-intensive process. Hence, more and more African slaves were shipped across the Atlantic. The English plantation owners made vast profits from sugar and tobacco trade and the money was reinvested in expanding similar businesses.

Interestingly, competition for trade in the East Indies was much fiercer for several reasons: There were already three major empires in East Asia namely the Ottoman Empire, the Mughal Empire and the Chinese Empire that controlled the trade of cloths and spices. And the Dutch East Indies Company was already established in Indonesia with complete control of the valuable spice trade. So, the East India Company focused its attentions

on trade with the Mughal Empire and succeeded in establishing trading posts on the coast of eastern India. These small trading posts would soon become the platform for the British Empire in India. It must be mentioned here that only in 1717, little-known Mughal Emperor 'Farrukhsiyar' issued royal Farman (charter) granting the company important trading facilities in Bengal which included the permission of export and import British goods in Bengal without paying taxes. England badly needed raw materials that her colonies could supply easily. Lumber, wool, iron, cotton, tobacco, rice and indigo were among the products needed in England. British manufacturers would pick the materials at hopelessly negligible prices and sell the value-added products back in the markets in the Mughal Empire. Thus, India lost at both ends. Its valuable raw materials were virtually stolen and the local manufac-

turing outfits were forced to close shop.

The East India Company started as a monopolistic trading body, gradually became involved in politics and acted as an agent of British imperialism in India from the early 18th century to the mid-19th century.

Around this time, the American War of Independence had resulted in the loss of thirteen American colonies giving a severe blow to the British trade. So, the British had shifted focus to India.

The 1784 Act provided for not more than six Privy Counsellors, including a Secretary of State and the Chancellor of the Exchequer to be appointed "Commissioners for the Affairs of India". Of these, not fewer than three formed a Board to execute the powers under the Act. The board was presided over by the president, who soon effectively became the Minister for the Affairs of the East India

Company. Section 3 of the Act provided that the president was to be the Secretary of State; or failing that, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, or failing that, the most senior of the other Commissioners. The Act stated that the board would henceforth 'superintend, direct and control' the government of the company's possessions, the acts and operations relating to the civil, military and revenues of the company. The board was supported by a Chief Secretary. The governing council of the company was reduced to three members. The Governors of Bombay and Madras were also deprived of their independence. The Governor-General was given greater powers in matters of war, revenue and diplomacy. By a supplementary Act passed in 1786, Lord Cornwallis was appointed the second Governor-General of Bengal, soon to be elevated to become the de jure ruler of British India under the authority of the Board of Control and

the Court of Directors. The Constitution set up by the 'Pitt's India Act' did not undergo any major changes until the end of the company's rule in India in 1858 after the most shocking jolt given to the British by the Sepoy Mutiny of 1857.

The East India Company eventually lost the Indian empire to the British Crown; and, effectively, the crown ruled India only for only 89 years, not for 200 years as is generally believed.

Though there is no reason to celebrate or observe the fateful date of August 13, 1784, it is certainly important to know how a great nation was enslaved because of a weak and gullible Mughal Emperor Farrukhsiyar, who had no real control over the vast Indian land and people like the legendary Mughal Emperor Akbar who had kept all communities happy by his great governing skills and secular principles.



**After Beirut blast**

# State seeks explosive storage info from factories

**PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR**

Following the massive blast in Lebanon's capital Beirut, the State Government as a precautionary measure has asked all industries to report on the storage situation of explosive chemicals.

In a letter on Wednesday, the Directorate of Factories and Boilers instructed the factories occupiers (The person who has ultimate control over the affairs of the factory) to submit a list of quantity of flammable and explosive materials used, handled and stored in their facilities.

Besides, the directorate issued directions to take all possible safety measures to prevent any untoward incident in future. They have also

been asked to furnish a report on preparedness to deal with any such emergency.

"In the wake of the massive explosion in a ware house at Beirut city, Lebanon that resulted in death of 135 persons and injury to 5,000 occupiers of all factories are requested to provide the list and quantity of flammable and explosive materials used, handled and stored in your factories," the department stated.

The letter has also been sent to all Zonal Assistant Directors of Factories and Boilers for information and necessary action. They have been instructed to verify the preparedness in factories under their jurisdiction and furnish a report on preventive measures taken by the respective factory managements.

# Jumbo dead on Elephant Day

**PNS ■ SAMBALPUR**

An elephant was found dead near Digajharana village under Jujumura block of Sambalpur district ironically on the World Elephant Day on Wednesday.

Locals spotted the jumbo's carcass in the morning and informed Forest Department officials about it.

The ailing elephant was roaming in the nearby forest for the last few days, villagers said, adding that though they had informed forest officials about it three days ago, no step was taken to come to the animal's rescue.

The reason behind the death of the elephant could be ascertained after an autopsy, an official said.

# No livelihood, man attempts self-immolation

JAJPUR: A 33-year-old man on Wednesday allegedly attempted to immolate himself in Dasarathpur panchayat in Jajpur district as his livelihood got severely affected during the Covid-19 pandemic.

According to reports, Sankarsan Sahu, who got married recently, was struggling to make ends meet as an auto-rickshaw purchased by him through a loan was not fetching him adequate income due to the prevailing Covid-19 situation.

Following a verbal duel with his pregnant wife over the issue, Sahu lost his cool and set himself ablaze after pouring kerosene on him. His thatched house also caught fire during the incident.

Being informed, Fire Services personnel reached the spot, doused the flames, rescued Sahu and admitted him to a hospital. He was later shifted to the SCB Medical College Hospital in Cuttack as his condition deteriorated.

# JSPL 1st Indian firm to supply HH rails

## Trains can run on tracks at 250 kmph speed

**PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR**

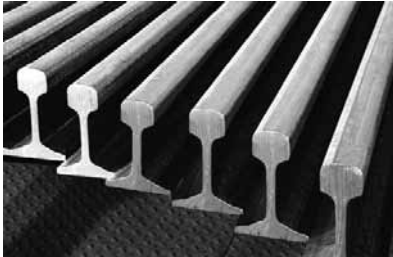
The Jindal Steel and Power Limited (JSPL) has started supplying 1080-grade HH rails to the Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) for the completion of the Kolkata Metro's Joka-Esplanade corridor.

The JSPL became the first Indian company to supply specially treated indigenous 1080 grade HH rails for completion of the new phase of Kolkata Metro corridors. Trains can run on these tracks at a speed of 250 km per hour as they have been specially prepared at the Raigarh plant of the JSPL.

The JSPL would supply 3000 MT of HH rails for

Kolkata Metro rail tracks. So far, it has supplied 1300 MT of 1080 grade HH rails and the remaining 1700 MT would be made within a week.

"We are thankful to the Prime Minister for the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat. We sincerely thank the Steel Ministry for implementing the vision



and supporting us to lead in this direction as a steelmaker. We also pay sincere gratitude to the Indian Railways and Research Design and Standard Organisation for considering us to contribute in various high-speed rail track projects, including Kolkata Metro corridors," said JSPL MD VR Sharma.

# INBRIEF

## JEEVAN BINDU BLOOD DONATION CAMP



**Keonjhar:** A Jeevan Bindu-Mo Parivar blood donation camp was held at the Luxminarayan High School, Ramchandrapur, on Wednesday. Total 80 units of blood were collected. Jeevan Bindu State coordinator MLA Atanu Babasachi Nayak inaugurated the programme. Keonjhar district MLAs Badrinarayan Patra, Jagannath Naik and Meenakshi Mahanta, district BJD president Madhab Sardar, MP Chandrani Murmu, Soumya Sekhar Chakra and Anjan Bej, president and secretary of BJD Youth Committee, Keonjhar, Pradeep Sahoo, coordinator, district Jeevan Bindu-Mo Parivar Committee, were present.

## 73 PIECES OF SAL LOGS SEIZED IN PALLAHARA

**Pallahara:** As many as 73 pieces of sal logs and a van carrying them were seized at Choraghati in the Pallahara area by Khamar Forest Range Officer Kajal Kumari Nayak on Tuesday night. The logs were stolen from Boitasarei forest, said Forester Kiran Bala Nanda. The approximate cost of the seized sal logs would be Rs 2 lakh. A person named Rasananda Pradhan was arrested and forwarded to court on the charge of stealing timber.

## VEDANTA DISTRIBUTES 1000 FRUIT-TREE SAPLINGS

**Jharsuguda:** The Vedanta Limited on Wednesday distributed more than 1,000 saplings of fruit bearing trees to about 200 farmers for creation of backyard orchards in their homesteads in villages in Jharsuguda. The saplings were distributed under the company's livelihood programme, Jeevika Samridhi. Farmers can supplement their diet with organically-grown nutritious fruits and vegetables from their own backyards, besides earning a living. The saplings were of high-yielding varieties of papaya, drumstick, lemon, guava and Indian jujube. Farmers were also oriented about plantation, care, harvesting and marketing. Earlier, Vedanta had also distributed 1,000 such trees earlier.



# Baripada jail turns reform institution for inmates

## Engages them in productive works

**PNS ■ BARIPADA**

While taking all sorts of preventive measures during Novel Corona Virus (Covid-19) pandemic, the Circle Jail Baripada authorities are providing Ayurvedic medicines freely to the inmates.

DG Prisons Santosh Upadhyay, who inspected the prison of the State on August 8, appreciated the efforts of the authorities to keep the inmates hale and hearty during the Covid-19 pandemic.

All inmates are provided Ayurvedic medicines prescribed by the Ministry of Aayush and efforts are taken to improve the immunity and

self esteem of the inmates through various efforts.

Authorities are promoting camaraderie among the inmates and promoting physical health and wellness, which is helping them during Covid-19 pandemic.

In fact, established in 1885, the Circle Jail having scheduled capacity of 591 inmates has turned out to be a correctional and reformatory institution and during pandemic it has relentlessly strived to rehabilitate and reform the inmates.

Jail Superintendent Pradeep Kumar Behera and Jailor Madhusmita Sethi and all the Staff are working in tandem to boost the immunity and esteem of the inmates while taking up various innovative ways and means and keeping the inmates engaged.

The jail is promoting growing and cultivating plants, flowers, fruits, vegetables and herbs

for consumption and marketing products. Root vegetables, leafy vegetables, pulses and other consumables are produced in a big way throughout the year.

The jail campus is having a huge garden and all the year round flowers are blooming and environment is charged with freshness. Manufacturing of Sabai Grass products, managing a dairy unit, phenyl is getting fruitfully engaged the inmates and they are producing various household products and decorative pieces, which have big market value.

During the visit of the DG, the inmates requested for a tractor and power tiller for cultivation of paddy, as there is a lot of scope for large scale production of rice.

The Prison Directorate will look into the issues, said DG Prisons, Upadhyay, while appreciating their efforts.

## Farmers left in lurch

**RAJ KUMAR SHARMA ■ JHARSUGUDA**

Acute shortage of urea has left many small farmers of Jharsuguda district helpless as they claim that due to the arrival of the fertiliser in small quantities, their requirement is not being met.

On behalf of the farmers' community, former presidents of Tilia Cooperative Samiti Bhonath Badhei and Hemant Patel and Kumbharbandh Maa Samlei Regional Farmers Organisation secretary Lingaraj Badhei demanded immediate action by the Government.

They have appealed to the district authorities to check black marketing of fertiliser in open market by some

unscrupulous traders.

The shortage of urea is hitting the farmers hard and its unavailability can result in losses to farmers.

As stated by the farmers of Tilia, Rampela, Kumbharbandh and Piplikani Panchayats under Tilia Cooperative Society of Zilla Parishad Zone 3, most families maintain their livelihood from agriculture.

This year, against the requirements of 1,700 quintals of urea in the cooperative society, only 900 quintal urea has been supplied. As a result, many farmers have been deprived of their requirement of urea fertiliser.

They said shortage of urea was breaking the backbone of the farmers as urea was highly needed for the paddy crop.

Farmers alleged that in some places, traders taking

advantage of the situation have stocked up the fertiliser and selling them at high rates.

The urea is now sold at open market at Rs 450 to Rs 550 instead of its Government rate of Rs 266. Unless the genuine problem is solved, most farmers will not hesitate to launch large scale agitation against the Government, warned the farmers.

In a memorandum submitted to the district Collector, the district Congress leaders have alleged that due to shortage of urea in the district, the farmers were facing monetary losses.

Deputy Agriculture Officer Balbir Singh Sawaiyan admitted that there was shortage of urea but said the district was going to get adequate quantities of the fertiliser in one or two days.

# Section 144 clamped in Sambalpur town

## To contain virus infections

**PNS ■ SAMBALPUR**

The district administration on Wednesday clamped Section 144 of CrPC in as many areas of Sambalpur town to curb the surge in coronavirus infections.

The areas are Hatli Chowk, Badbazar, Hirakud Colony (Adarsh Nagar), Jhaduapada (Sradhakara Supkar Gali), Haragouripada,

Panchgochhia, Jagannath Mandir Colony, Housing Board Colony, Sibanagar, Dhanupali, Explosive Colony, in front of VSS Stadium, Motijharan, Nuapada, Bareipali, and Kansaripada.

Only essential activities would be allowed in the areas. There would be no movement of people in or out of the restricted zones except for medical emergencies and for maintaining the supply of essential goods and services. No person would be allowed to enter within 100 metre radius of the above restricted zone, an official said.

The order would remain in force from August 12 to 16 or till it is revoked.

# Micro compost centre set up in Kendrapada

## 5 tonne compost to be produced from waste Per day

**PNS ■ KENDRAPADA**

The Kendrapada Municipality authority has set up a micro composting centre at city's garbage dumping ground in Hajaribagicha, where heaps of garbage were littered over the years, with an aim to prepare organic compost which will be sold to farmers and locals.

In the absence of a solid waste management plant, the city's garbage was earlier being dumped at the site for last several years, turning the lives of the nearby residents into a



nightmare.

Meanwhile, the municipal authority has set up 14 big waste taps at the dumping yard in order to produce 5 tonne compost per day. About 42 days will be taken to produce 5 tonnes compost, informed municipality EO Debabrata Bal.

The civic body has already spent Rs 50 lakh for the infra-

structure whereas plans are afoot to purchase spreader machine, grinding machine and screening machine for the micro composting centre. A sum of Rs 30 to 40 lakh will be required for the purpose.

The compost later will be sold in packets at Rs 5 per kg to the farmers and locals through SHGs.

# Jawan drowns in Mahanadi during training

**PNS ■ BOUDH**

An Indian Reserve Battalion (IRB) jawan drowned in the Mahanadi in Boudh district during a routine training activity on Wednesday.

The deceased Pradyumna Panda (30), who was working with the IRB 5th Battalion at Balasinga in the district, had entered the river water with a lifejacket and an oxygen cylinder during the training programme near the Boudh bridge. However, he went missing in the river at around 11.30 am after being washed away by the strong



water current in the presence of other jawans of the battalion.

Receiving information, an ODRAF team and Fire Services personnel reached the spot and launched a rescue operation. But till the filing of this

report, the whereabouts of the IRB jawan were to yet be known.

Locals said that as excess water is being released from the Hirakud Dam, the river is flooded.

# Lagna for Aug 23 Nuakhai festival finalised

**PNS ■ SAMBALPUR**

The Lagna (propitious moment) for offering Navanna (new rice) to Goddess Samaleswari on the auspicious occasion of Nuakhai has been finalised.

The Navanna will be offered to the goddess between 9.35 am and 9.50 am on August 23, announced Brahmapura Temple Trust Committee on Wednesday.

The Nuakhai festival will be celebrated in western Odisha after offering of Navanna to Goddess Samaleswari, the presiding deity of Sambalpur district.

Every year, the exact timing for celebrating the most popular festival in the region is decided by the Brahmamandap Pandit Mahasabha at the Brahmapura Temple in Sambalpur district a day after Jannmashtami (birthday of Lord Krishna).



On the auspicious occasion, all households of the district offer Navanna to their presiding deity and Goddess Lakshmi as mark of gratitude

for a good harvest, rain and favourable weather for farming.

Nuakhai, an agrarian festival, is celebrated with pomp and gaiety across the western

Odisha districts of Sambalpur, Sundargarh, Kalahandi, Balangir, Bargarh, Subarnapur, Deogarh, Jharsuguda and Boudh.

# Dug-well scheme irregularities galore in N'pada

## Beneficiaries paid less than approved sum

**AJIT PANDA ■ NUAPADA**

Pansingh Paharia of Golabeda village in Nangalbod gram panchayat under Sinapali block is a beneficiary of dug-well scheme under MGNREGS.

According to information available in the MGNREGA website, an amount of Rs 61,388 has been spent for the construction of a well, where a total of 35 persons have worked in nine job cards and 206 person days have been generated.

The total estimated cost for a dug well under the scheme is Rs 1.6 lakh, thus the work status in the MGNREGA website still shows "ongoing", which means more funds can be spent for completion of the project.

Now let us see what is the output of the spent fund.

Pansingh shows a small well of 8 ft diameter located in front of his house and says "this is the well". "I was paid Rs 14,304 for the work," he adds. Although Pansingh could not say clearly how much he spent in the construction, he claimed that he needed to be paid the full amount under the scheme.

"The Sarpanch has assured me that full amount will be released," he informed. Pansingh further revealed that he hired a JCB machine to dig the well.

Chaityana Majhi of the village is another beneficiary of dug well scheme. The well he has constructed is a little bigger one having 25 feet depth and 12 feet wide. "I don't know how much money has been released for the construction, but I have received only Rs 17,800," says he.

Both the beneficiaries sense



corruption in the construction. "We have drawn attention of the BDO by submitting our grievance in writing; we want action," they say.

Ajaya Dharua, former ZP member and a tribal leader of the area, who conducted a meeting with the villagers to discuss about the NREGS works in the village says that there are many such irregularities in the

Panchayat.

Golabeda is a hamlet of Nangalbod village, about 35 km far from the block headquarters. Sinapali is inhabited by 30 tribal households. The village is remotely located, thus the field officials think that the corruption they do would not be noticed by higher authorities," says Kshirasindhu Saharia, RTI activist.



# 2 desi LCH deployed in Leh to guard LAC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In an effort to further strengthen operational readiness at the volatile Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh, two indigenously designed and produced light combat helicopter (LCH) are now deployed in Leh. They will back up the IAF efforts to secure the border and plug gaps if any at high altitude.

The helicopters manufactured by the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) are there to be pushed into service to support the IAF at any spot at the border at short notice, HAL officials said on Wednesday.

"It is the lightest attack helicopter in the world designed and developed by the HAL to meet the specific and unique requirements of Indian Armed Forces reflecting the crucial role of HAL in Atma Nirbhar Bharat," said R Madhavan, Chief Managing Director, HAL. Last week, Vice Chief of IAF, Air Marshal Harjit Singh Arora took part in one such operation in Ladakh along with HAL test pilot, Wing Commander Subash P John (Retired) by taking-off from high altitude location to a forward area for a simulated attack on a high-altitude target.

This was followed by a landing at one of the most treacherous helipads in the region. The LCH successfully demonstrated its quick deployment prowess to forward locations in extreme temperatures,



the HAL said.

The IAF and Army together need around 160 LCHs and the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has approved an initial batch of 15 LCHs. The IAF has since issued the Request for Proposal (RFP) for 15 Limited Series Production (LSP) helicopters (10 for IAF and five for Army) and the HAL has submitted its response.

Technical evaluation and the price negotiations have been concluded and the order is expected shortly, the HAL said adding as a proactive measure it has launched production of LSPs in anticipation of orders at its Bengaluru facility.

The indigenously manufactured helicopter is a potent weapon platform with state-of-the-art systems and highly accurate weapons capable of hitting any type of target by day or night.

Other features of the LCH include its ability to operate in the complete 'Area of Responsibility' (AOR) and altitudes and has the ability to carry adequate weapon load at high altitudes under varied conditions.

The latest deployment comes in the backdrop of the five newly arrived Rafale fighter jets now undertaking practice sorties in Himachal Pradesh's mountainous terrain. The state shares LAC with China.

After the familiarisation sorties in the rugged mountain terrain of Himachal Pradesh, the Rafales are likely to conduct practice flights in Ladakh in the coming weeks, sources said. The Rafales came to India from France on July 29 and are now undergoing paces in Indian conditions. The jets are stationed at the Ambala air base.

Given the ongoing tension at the LAC with more than three-month old stand-offs and the Chinese increasing its military strength there, the IAF has also taken measures like deploying most of its frontline fighter jets at the forward bases all along the 4,000 km long LAC. They include SU-30s, Jaguars and MIG-29s.

The newly inducted Apache attack helicopters along with Chinook heavy lift transport helicopters are also flying regular sorties near the LAC in Ladakh.

# Covid-19 infection cases in paramilitary forces touch 17K mark

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Two of the biggest paramilitary forces—CRPF and BSF have surpassed the 5,000 mark in terms of Covid infection with both recording around 5,500 cases each. The two forces have recorded 42 deaths due to the pandemic.

Total Covid infection for the five paramilitary forces—CRPF, BSF, CISF, ITBP and SSB—have touched the 17,000 mark excluding the tally of infected personnel from the National Security Guards (NSG) and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), both of which are deputationist forces drawing personnel from the paramilitary ranks. As per the last count earlier this month, the NSG had reported around 500 cases of Covid infection besides about 100 in the NSG.

The combined death toll of the five paramilitary forces is 64 and 7,287 patients in the five forces continue to be active out of a tally of 16,961 Covid-19 infections. The combined death toll of the five paramilitary forces is 64 and 7,204 patients in the five forces continue to be active. The five paramilitary forces have added over 4,000 new cases of infection in their ranks in the last 10 days.

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has recorded a tally of 5,467 cases of which 2,846 are active, which is the highest number of infected personnel in a paramilitary force. As many as

2,597 patients had recovered and 24 personnel succumbed to the infection in the CRPF. The casualty figures of the CRPF is also highest among the paramilitary forces.

The Border Security Force (BSF) has reported 5,404 cases of Covid-19 in its ranks till date including 1,912 active patients and 3,474 personnel who have recovered from the viral infection besides 18 deaths.

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has reported 2,763 cases of Covid-19 infection. Out of the 2,763 cases, as many as 774 continue to be active and 1,974 have recovered. The paramilitary has suffered casualties of 15 personnel due to the disease induced by novel coronavirus.

The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has reported 2,113 cases of infection from the pandemic including 1,170 active cases and 941 recoveries besides three deaths.

The Sashatra Seema Bal (SSB) has recorded 1,214 cases of the deadly disease out of which 585 continue to be active and 625 patients have recovered. It incurred loss of lives of four personnel due to the viral disease.

The CISF has reported 2,763 cases including 14 deaths and the SSB has 1,214 cases and four deaths.

As on August 1, the paramilitary forces, including NDRF and NSG had reported around 13,000 cases of Covid-19 infection.

# 121 cops get HM Medal for Excellence in Investigation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The "Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Investigation" for the year 2020 has been awarded to 121 Police personnel. Among the personnel receiving these awards, 15 are from CBI, 10 each are from Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra Police, eight are from Uttar Pradesh Police, seven each are from Kerala and West Bengal Police. 21 women police officers are also included in the medal list announced by Ministry of Home Affairs.

This medal was constituted in 2018 with the objective to promote high professional standards of investigation of crime and to recognise such Excellence in Investigation by investigating officers. "A thorough Investigation plays a pivotal role in delivering justice. I congratulate all the recipients of 'Medal for Excellence in Investigation-2020'. This is recognition of the outstanding service and commitment of our police personnel. India is proud of them!" tweeted Home Minister Amit Shah.



The recipients are from Constable to Deputy Commissioner of Police ranks. State Police, CBI, NIA personnel involved in the investigation duty are considered for this annual medal.

# Covid-19: SC seeks response from Centre on plea to ban disinfection tunnels

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has sought response from the Centre on a PIL seeking an immediate ban on use, installation, production and advertisement of disinfectant tunnels set up to curb the spread of coronavirus.

A three-judge bench of Justices Ashok Bhushan, R Subhash Reddy and M R Shah issued notices to the Ministry

## PIL by law student Gursimran Singh Narula

of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Science and Technology and Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare while seeking their replies.

"Issue notice to respondent Nos. 1 to 3...Counsel for the petitioner may serve a copy of the petition in the office of the

Solicitor General, who may obtain instructions. List the matter after two weeks," the bench said.

The top court was hearing a PIL filed by law student Gursimran Singh Narula seeking ban on usage, installation, production, advertisement of disinfection tunnels involving spraying or fumigation of organic disinfectants for the purposes disinfecting human beings.

# Rahul takes dig at 'Modi hai toh mumkin hai' over GDP prediction



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday took a jibe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi citing BJP's election slogan "Modi hai toh mumkin hai" while attacking the Government over reported claims that India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth may be lowest since Independence.

Taking to Twitter, Rahul shared Infosys co-founder N.R. Narayana Murthy's purported remark that "GDP growth may hit the lowest point since 1947". "Modi hai toh mumkin hai," he tweeted.

Last week, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said India's real GDP will contract in the first half of FY21 as well as full financial year.

The former Congress chief has been vociferously targeting the Prime Minister and BJP-led government over several issues including the standoff with China, economic distress, and COVID-19 handling.

Flagging fears that the country's GDP growth may even touch its lowest since independence in the backdrop of coronavirus pandemic, Murthy on Monday said the economy should be brought back on track and people should be prepared to live with the pathogen. He also pitched for developing a new system that should allow every player in every sector of the country's economy to operate at full steam with suitable precautions.

"India's GDP is expected to shrink by at least five per cent. There is a fear that we may even reach the lowest GDP (growth) since independence, since 1947," Murthy said.

Couple of days ago, Rahul had hit out at the centre over the unemployment issue accusing the Narendra Modi government of failing to meet its promises.

He accused the Narendra Modi government of failing to meet its promise of jobs for two crore people every year, and then enacting policies that "destroyed India's economic structure" and left crores without jobs. He launched the "Rozgar Do" campaign and urged young people without jobs to raise their voices, speak out and "awaken the government from its slumber".

# Recovery rate crosses 70% for Covid-19 patients in India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's Covid-19 recovery rate crossed past 70 per cent on Wednesday with 16,39,599 people having recovered from the disease so far in the country, while active cases comprise 27.64 pc of the total caseload, the Union Health Ministry said.

The case fatality rate has further declined to 1.98 per cent, it said.

The highest single-day recoveries at 56,110 are the result of the successful implementation of effective containment strategy, aggressive and comprehensive testing coupled with standardised clinical management of the critical patients based on holistic standard of care approach, said the Ministry.

The coordinated efforts of the central, state and UT governments have resulted in continuously increasing average daily recoveries, it said.

"In the first week of July, the daily average recovered cases were at 15,000 which jumped to more than 50,000 in the first week of August," it said.

"With more patients recovering and being discharged from hospitals and home isolation (in case of mild and moderate cases), the total recoveries have crossed the 16



lakh-mark and recovery rate has reached another high of 70.38 per cent," it added.

There are 6,43,948 active cases of coronavirus which is "actual caseload" of COVID-19 in the country and currently comprise 27.64 per cent of the total positive cases.

They are under active medical supervision.

With a consistent and sustained increase in recoveries, the gap between recovered patients and active COVID-19 cases has reached nearly 10 lakh, the Ministry stated.

Focus on improved and effective clinical treatment in hospitals, use of non-invasive, improved and coordinated services of the ambulances for ferrying patients for prompt and timely treatment have resulted in seamless efficient patient management of Covid-19 patients.

India's 'test, track, treat' strategy has achieved another peak with 7,33,449 tests done in 24 hours on Tuesday. This has taken the cumulative tests to more than 2.6 crore. The tests per million has jumped to 18,852, it stated.

# States advised not to chart separate ways for procuring vaccine shots once ready

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The national expert group on vaccine administration for Covid-19 which met for the first time on Wednesday to deliberate on various issues pertaining to the procurement mechanisms for the vaccine has advised all the States not to chart separate pathways of procurement of the shots whenever they are readied.

The suggestion came to ensure the central control on the distribution of the vaccine and the States do not start purchasing the vaccine at their whims and fancies as had happened in the case of the purchase of rapid antigen testing kits, some of which were later found to be faulty.

"Some States had purchased the RT-PCR and rapid antigen kits which created lots of confusion. In the matter of vaccine, we want the process to be smooth and distribution is as per requirements," said a senior official who attended the meeting chaired by Niti Aayog Member, Dr. V K Paul, with Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan as co-chair.

Three vaccine candidates are in different stages of human clinical trials in India - the Covid-19 vaccine candidate developed by University of Oxford by Pune-based Serum Institute of India, the inactivated virus vaccine by Bharat

Biotech and the DNA vaccine by Zydus Cadila.

In the meeting the group deliberated on conceptualisation and implementation mechanisms for creation of a digital infrastructure for inventory management and delivery mechanism of the vaccine, including tracking of vaccination process with particular focus on last mile delivery.

The group also deliberated on the procurement mechanisms for Covid-19 vaccine, including both indigenous and international manufacturing along with guiding principles for prioritisation of population groups for vaccination.

They discussed broad parameters guiding the selection of the Covid-19 vaccine candidates for the country and sought inputs from the Standing Technical Sub-Committee of the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI).

Besides this, it also discussed the financial resources required for procurement of the Covid-19 vaccine and various options of financing the same. Available options in terms of delivery platforms, cold chain and associated infrastructure for roll out of Covid-19 vaccination were also taken up.

India's support to its key neighbours and development partner countries for Covid-19 vaccines was also taken up.

# Govt misrepresented implications of Draft EIA Notification 2020: Ramesh

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Days after Union Environment Minister Prakash Javedekar said that the draft Environment Impact Assessment notification is yet to be finalised, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh accused the Government of "misrepresenting" the implications of the Draft EIA Notification 2020 does vis-a-vis the Environment Protection Act, 1986.

"Your claim that the clearance is not an ex post facto one as 'it is prospective in nature, and previous actions will be penalized' is contrary to how it will actually play out in reality.

"If the clearance permits the illegally constructed portion of the project to remain or the illegal operating part of the project to continue, and there is no direction for demolition of the illegal portion or reduction of the illegally enhanced capacity -- then it is not a prospective clearance. It is being granted ex post facto, and it is regularizing the illegality committed by the project proponent," he said.

"It appears from the processes proposed in Clause 22 of the Draft Notification that the government's objective is to give all the violators an opportunity to regularize their illegal activities," he alleged.

damentally flawed and makes a mockery of the prime minister's many statements on the need to protect the environment and India's leadership in this regard," he said.

The Congress leader asked how can a subordinate legislation override the parent Act from which it is derived like the Draft EIA Notification 2020 does vis-a-vis the Environment Protection Act, 1986.

"I am compelled to say that you are misrepresenting the implications of the Draft EIA Notification, 2020, on our country's environmental regulatory framework and its impact on the environment," Ramesh said, adding that he has read his reply in conjunction with the presentation made by the officials, along with the feedback received from various stakeholders.

He suggested the Government to keep the Notification in abeyance until the Standing Committee has examined it. "The notification is fun-

# Covid-19 Impact: Patients with aplastic anemia at receiving end

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Poverty, Government apathy and Covid-19 induced-lockdown restricting travel proved fatal for little Kishan, a 11-year-old boy suffering from Aplastic anemia, a life-threatening blood disorder condition in which the bone marrow and stem cells do not produce enough blood cells.

Facing severe financial constraints and waiting timely medical aid, first at Safdarjung Hospital and then AIIMS, both Government hospitals in Delhi, Kishan's life was cut short in March this year amid Covid-19 pandemic.

However, Kishan's is not a lone case. Dr Nita Radhakrishnan, paediatric haemato-oncologist at Super Speciality Paediatric Hospital, Noida, Uttar Pradesh says that as the deadly Coronavirus captured the attention of the nation in the most unprece-

dented manner, the non-Covid patients particularly those with the Aplastic anemia have suffered the most in the crisis.

She gave instances of her two teenage patients who succumbed to blood disorder in the Covid catastrophe. "Manish (name change), a 17-year-old was suffering with on-and-off fever, gum bleeding, and melena for three months, he came to us in December last year just when Coronavirus had started spreading its tentacles from China to other parts of the world."

The boy was diagnosed with severe Aplastic anemia and was recommended requisite treatment like regular hospital visit for red cell transfusion before he could be given bone marrow transplant (BMT), a life saving treatment.

"However, while the family was not able to visit our hospital in Noida due to the covid-lockdown, no blood products



were available at the hospital near to the patient's locality. In want of blood, Manish could not survive more days.

13-year-old Suresh (name change) too faced similar fate. While Government funds could not be sanctioned for his BMT in time the boy could not visit the Noida hospital for further follow-up due to travel restrictions. Two weeks later, Suresh died due to hemorrhage at his native place, lamented the doctor.

Radhakrishnan. The scenario is gloomy for the patients afflicted with the disease as they need blood transfusion almost every 20 days.

A significant proportion of patients of aplastic anemia (around 30 per cent) die before any definitive treatment is initiated. A study by AIIMS based on a recent series of patients follow-up showed that out of 1501 patients diagnosed over last seven years, only 303 ie 20 per cent received the definitive treatment modalities through either BMT or IST with ATG and cyclosporine, says Dr Radhakrishnan in her case report "Aplastic anemia: Non-COVID casualties in the Covid-19 era," published in the latest edition of Indian Journal of Palliative Care.

The doctors have sought urgent intervention. Dr Radhakrishnan says that "as we await the peak of Covid-19 in our country and possibly sec-

ondary and tertiary waves thereafter, patients with aplastic anemia who are the sickest among all hematological illnesses would benefit greatly from urgent intervention from the Government to ensure timely treatment"

"Those suffering with Aplastic anemia, there is mostly delay in diagnosis, delay in initiation of treatment due to monetary constraints, non-inclusion of the disease under government schemes such as Ayushman Bharat and NHM and delay in sanction of money from other Government schemes such as Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi, Chief

## A SIGNIFICANT PROPORTION OF PATIENTS OF APLASTIC ANEMIA (AROUND 30 PER CENT) DIE BEFORE ANY DEFINITIVE TREATMENT IS INITIATED

Minister and Prime Minister's relief fund often due to lack of proper documents, she added. Delay means, risk of contracting fungal infections and increase in drug-resistant bacterial infections increase which further hamper the treatment, point out Dr Ravi Shankar and Dr Savitri Singh in the study.

Though the Union Health Ministry, after few days of lockdown period, issued directions for continuing treatment for essential health services including reproductive and maternal health services, newborn care, severe malnutrition, and NCDs

including cancer care, palliative care, dialysis, and care of disabled, unfortunately those with Aplastic anemia got ignored.

This despite of the fact that these patients are at the highest risk of death following a break in the treatment of few weeks," notes Dr Radhakrishnan.

Because of the closure of offices and absence of staff, during the lockdown period, there was delay in sanction of usual grants due to the lockdown of offices and inability in generating documents such as income certificate from the tehsils.

"For instance, Suresh and Manish, both our patients received the Government grant after around 3-4 months of applying for the same. But both had died before they could reach the hospital for treatment," lamented the hematologist.





Send your feedback to:  
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FIRST COLUMN

Staff health is company's asset

We will survive this contagion but the key to this is adaptation. Till that happens, all firms must take care of their employees



HIMA BINDU KOTA

The pandemic has changed the way we perceive every aspect of our daily lives as we struggle to adapt to a new normal. The World Health Organisation's (WHO) statistics on the magnitude and scale of the outbreak have a mind-numbing impact. There are currently 1.97 crore active cases around the world, in 216 countries. The most disturbing aspect is that global casualties have crossed the seven lakh mark. India has 2.2 million active cases and there have been 44,000 deaths. Needless to say, some aspects of the Indian economy and the corporate landscape have changed forever, and that includes the way businesses are conducted.

The economy is in turmoil and the corporate sector is having to bend over backwards to ensure that businesses stay viable. As companies struggle to find balance in these critical times, lay-offs have become common, instilling fear and insecurity among the remaining employees who, in addition to their own work, are being piled up with the duties of their erstwhile colleagues. These conditions are stressful and a drain on the psyche of the employee as s/he fights fears of unemployment, financial insecurity and rising expenses. In these conditions, the mind and body are being stretched to their limits with major collateral damage to human health.

This staff distress is unfortunately paving the way for what is being increasingly termed as "non-Coronavirus casualties." According to data compiled by a group of researchers led by public interest technologist GN Thejesh and Kanika Sharma, 338 deaths have been recorded on account of the lockdown-spurred unemployment, financial distress and isolation. The work from home (WFH) conditions are also making it an uphill task for the Human Resource departments of firms to gauge the physical and psychological health of their staff. Sometimes problems like depression are identified too late in the day.

The Bengaluru-based Suicide Prevention India Foundation (SPIF) conducted a study on the rising spate of suicides in the country and the results are not reassuring. The study based its findings on the responses received from 300 therapists, who found that suicide ideation and self-harm intentions have risen sharply during the pandemic. Out of this, 76 per cent of the people feared job loss. Additionally, 30 per cent of the patients of the therapists have already inflicted some sort of self-harm. This data is alarming to say the least and does not bode well for the future of the corporate sector.

Recently, people have been experiencing a slew of emotions due to social isolation, change of lifestyle and loss of personal income. In a recent study of 673 workers in China, their mental health showed disturbing signs with a significant proportion recording conditions of post-traumatic stress disorder, moderate or severe anxiety, depression, stress and insomnia. Other psychiatric symptoms that are prevalent are worries about physical health, anger, discrimination during the outbreak, paranoid ideations, hallucinations, suicidal thoughts, alcohol usage and intent to hurt others. In the COVID-19 scenario, the corporate sector is already learning the ropes quickly and is trying to maintain employee health. But haemorrhaging profits and lay-offs tell a different story. There needs to be a turnaround in the manner employee mental and physical health is being managed, not only in the best interests of the company but for the larger good of the economy as well. There are a slew of measures being taken across the global corporate landscape which can have a direct relevance for India. Many businesses around the world are taking the current stressful times as an opportunity to connect with their employees and are comforting them. Health and fitness are being accorded priority over productivity. This, among other things, showcases the humane side of the management.

In order to secure the health of the employees, the Indian corporate sector must encourage its staff to share their daily exercise routines with Human Resources managers and instead of over-burdening the employees with work-related Zoom and Skype calls, they must focus on some rest and recreation interactions, too.

The critical aspects impacting the health of any employee are broadly three: Fear of job loss, financial insecurity and a rising workload. The corporate sector must design rehabilitating measures that seek to address these three issues, but for this, financial well-being of the companies is a must and this is where timely Government assistance comes into the picture.

There is no saying when this mayhem will get over. But once things start becoming clearer, would businesses return to their normal self or will the "new normal" become permanent? Although we may not like the answer, the "new normal" is likely to stay. However, humans are known to adapt. That is the underlying strength that ensures the survival of our species. We will survive this contagion but the key to this is adaptation. Till that happens, it is the responsibility of all firms to take care of the mental and physical health of their staff.

(The writer is Associate Professor, Amity University, Noida)

OUR FRIENDS WHO HAD GONE AWAY HAVE COME BACK. I HOPE THAT WE WILL DO AWAY WITH OUR DIFFERENCES AND FULFIL OUR RESOLVE TO SERVE THE STATE.

—RAJASTHAN CHIEF MINISTER ASHOK GEHLOT

POINT COUNTERPOINT



I AM PAINED BY THE KIND OF WORDS THAT WERE USED. BUT I HAVE NOT MADE ANY DEMANDS. I AM AN MLA AND I WILL DO WHATEVER THE PARTY ASKS ME TO DO.

—CONGRESS LEADER SACHIN PILOT

EVs not the best choice

The FAME policy is pumping ₹10,000 crore of taxpayer money into an industry which is strategically counter-productive. It needs a broader definition of e-mobility and innovations in sustainable storage



ARIJIT DAS

The Delhi Government recently announced its electric vehicle (EV) policy aimed at faster adoption of cleaner vehicles in the national Capital. This policy is on the same lines as the Centre's Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles or FAME-II scheme, 2019. Under Delhi's EV policy, purchase incentives will be given worth ₹30,000 for e-autos, e-rickshaws, goods carriers and up to ₹30,000 and ₹1.5 lakh for e-two-wheelers and e-cars respectively, depending on their battery capacity. This will be in addition to the existing incentives provided by the Centre.

The good thing about Delhi's EV policy is its detailing but it falls apart when it comes to fund allocation. FAME-II offers an incentive of ₹1.5 lakh to electric four-wheelers with an ex-factory price cap of ₹15 lakh and it also has a provision for an incentive of ₹50,000 for three-wheelers, including e-rickshaws and ₹20,000 for e-two-wheelers. E-buses can claim subsidy up to ₹50 lakh at a rate of ₹20,000 KWH battery capacity.

Given the incentives being offered, two questions should be considered. First, are EVs environmentally sustainable? Second, are they viable options for the Indian economy in the long-run? The answers to both these questions are debatable.

To produce an Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) vehicle, 10 metric tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> are released in the atmosphere and it is the same for an EV without the battery. Manufacturing of a 30 KWH battery releases 5.3 metric tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> while manufacturing a 100 KWH battery releases 17.5 metric tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. A petrol/diesel car emits an average of 5.2 metric tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> in a year whereas the average usage emission from EV is 2.02 metric tonnes per year. EVs are non-polluting (at the level of the vehicle), and by design, if and only if, renewables are used as the power source. This is an unlikely phenomenon in the near future as a wide spectrum of allied infrastructure needs to be built around EVs to ensure renewable use for charging.

More than 90 per cent incentives (especially for two-wheelers and three-wheelers) are availed by lead-acid type batteries and they are environmentally hazardous. These batteries were already in high demand and competitive against the fossil fuel at least for slow vehicles. Even e-rickshaws were a hit much before the FAME scheme was announced. Over-incentivising lead acid batteries can significantly harm the environment.

Coming back to the economics of EVs, FAME correctly identified that the cost of batteries is a major price differential but failed to investigate intricate details behind such a difference. It is a common mistake often made while evaluating eco-friendly solutions. EVs should not be compared with ICEVs or regular car engines in totality. EVs are a combination of an engine and life-time fuel whereas ICEVs are valued only for the engine. Anyone buying an EV is essentially pre-owning fuel for a lifetime. Both EV and ICEV engines are comparable and cost the same. Providing an incentive to EVs is against fair competition norms and gives an undue advantage to the EV producer, which ultimately is going to hurt the technological advancement of the automobile industry as a whole.

Plus, about 40-50 per cent of the cost of manufacturing an EV accounts for reliable fuel storage i.e. the Li-ion batteries. These are the best storage options available but highly unsustainable. The raw material required for manufacturing is limited and concentrated in a very few countries. Not only that,

“FOR A TYPICAL MIDDLE CLASS AND UPPER MIDDLE CLASS FAMILY, A CAR IS AN ASPIRATION AND AN INVESTMENT WITH REASONABLE RESALE VALUE. AT PRESENT EVS HAVE NO RESALE VALUE. HENCE, IT IS UNJUSTIFIED TO EXPECT A CUSTOMER TO INVEST HARD-EARNED MONEY IN AN UNTESTED, RISKY TECHNOLOGY IN THE NAME OF POLLUTION CONTROL WHILE THERE IS NO DEFINITE PROOF THAT IT IS A CLEANER ENERGY OPTION”



a significant tendency is observed to capture such reserves through mergers and acquisitions. The raw material comprises approximately 60 per cent of the total cost of manufacturing Li-ion batteries. So, the price is not likely to decline if we use more of these batteries, unlike what we had observed for other electronic items like computers, solar panels and LEDs. The price of these batteries will increase in future if demand exceeds a certain limit as the price of raw materials will rise. For instance, the price of lithium increased from \$8,500 per tonne in 2015 to \$17,000 per tonne in 2018. Similarly, the price of cobalt rose from \$30,000 per tonne to \$95,000 per tonne between 2015 and 2018. These increases were in anticipation of a growing EV market but later their price dropped on its dismal performance. India does not have any lithium reserves, supply chain or an ecosystem to manufacture Li-ion batteries in order to ensure a steady supply. So EVs are not an economically-viable option for the country.

Both FAME and the Delhi EV policy talk about setting up public EV charging stations around Delhi's congested roads. This would require vast swathes of public land to serve a handful of wealthy owners and violates the basic principles of public good. Plus, parking is a major issue in Delhi, so allowing public charging is only going to legitimise capture of sidewalks. Also, charging an EV in the blazing summer sun in Delhi is neither advisable nor safe.

**The China factor:** Li-ion batteries account for almost 50 per cent of the cost of an EV. While China has a thriving lithium chemical, battery cathode, battery cell and EV supply chain, India has none. China dominates the battery supply chain and around three-quarters of the global battery cell manufacturing capacity is in our neighbouring country. On top of that,

Chinese companies have unparalleled control over battery raw materials and processing facilities. At present, almost all Li-ion batteries used for EVs are imported from China. This means incentives aimed at Indian manufacturers are directly going to Chinese battery producers. For example, buying a ₹15 lakh EV (with Li-ion batteries) in India means a transfer of ₹7.5 lakh to China, including ₹3 lakh of the taxpayers' money. The amount could go up to ₹1 crore for an e-bus. Strategically, too, over-dependence on China is dangerous and given the current geo-political scenario, it is not advisable to take such risky steps.

**The way forward:** FAME or other State Government clean vehicle schemes are an excellent platform to promote indigenous production of EVs. They should stick to the principles of *Atmanirbhar* (self-reliant) *Bharat* to promote localised production at global standards and stop incentivising unsustainable means of storage technologies.

**Unbundling of EVs:** Separating the vehicle from its fuel, i.e. batteries, is a necessary condition for the development of the EV market in India. At present, EVs have a low-capacity engine with super-expensive fuel options. This is an absurd arrangement and makes a mockery of fair competition. It is like British Petroleum selling cars for their oil or Ford digging oil wells for their car, leading to inefficiency in both the segments.

**Make it consumer-centric:** At present, EVs are policy-centric. They hardly consider consumers as end-users and rather aim to cater to the needs of development activists. Consumers need flexibility in choosing a fuel source, mileage, durability and so on. Their mobility requirement also varies from a few kilometres to hundreds of kilometres in one run. They possess varied tastes, concerns

and limitations. Unless consumers are given such flexibility and choices, EV sales in India won't pick up. For a typical middle class/upper middle class family, a car is an aspiration and an investment with reasonable resale value. At present EVs have no resale value, hence, it is unjustified to expect a customer to invest hard-earned money in an untested, risky technology in the name of pollution control while there is no definite proof that it is a cleaner energy option.

**Competing alternatives:** The FAME policy is biased towards EVs, which might be discriminatory against other environment-friendly mobility options like hydrogen fuel cell buses. We already have experience in running CNG buses and we can run hydrogen cell variants, too. These buses can be manufactured in India without any fuel constraint as hydrogen is the most abundant element in the universe and multiple renewable sources can easily be used to generate it. Apart from being zero-emission, it does not have to face logistical challenges like EVs. In a nutshell, FAME is pumping ₹10,000 crore of the taxpayers' money into an industry which is strategically counterproductive and not even environment-friendly. This policy should immediately be replaced with a guideline which uses a broader definition of e-mobility, encourages innovations in sustainable storage that rely on the *Atmanirbhar Bharat* ethos.

The worst is the increasing tendency to use public money for the elite. If pollution is a concern, then why not give induction cookers to the poor or ban diesel generators? Automobiles do not require State backing, consumers will automatically adapt to EVs if they fit in with their requirements.

(The writer is Fellow, India Development Foundation. Views expressed are personal)

Collective effort will make India *atmanirbhar*

Self-reliance is not a short race, it is a marathon and can be completed only when all engines start firing together in the desired direction



PRIYA GUPTA

If the Centre's biggest agenda is the revival of the economy, then it can only be achieved by implementing the *Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan*. We may get some idea if we analyse the progress of our neighbouring nation, China. In 1987, its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was almost equal to India's GDP at \$279 billion. Then, in December 1978, Deng Xiaoping announced the "Open Door Policy" and it was a major turning point for the Chinese economy. Beijing experienced 15 per cent growth year on year at a time the global economy was not even growing, dipping to a rate of three per cent.

This brought China from the

32nd position in global exports to first position in 2013. The Chinese Government checked all the right boxes, whether it was a lower tax regime, industry-friendly wage rules, cheap capital, free land or even allowing the misuse of patent and knowledge laws.

When multinational corporations (MNCs) realised that manufacturing costs in the US and Europe were skyrocketing due to the high cost of manpower, land and their stringent pollution norms, they began looking for alternative locations and evaluated a few South Asian countries like Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand, China, Indonesia and many more.

They ignored India due to the Licence Raj, stiff labour laws, unclear policy on land acquisition, poor power supply, lack of skilled manpower, a closed foreign trade policy and many more such hurdles. We were one of the lowest-ranked nations on the Ease of Doing Business index.

Upon the evaluation of all South Asian countries, it was found that China was best suited for moving manufacturing business from the

US and Europe, as it had a huge population which could be skilled and brought into the workforce. It had huge tracts of land, too, for setting up manufacturing bases.

Now, given the global anger against Beijing due to the spread of the Coronavirus contagion, nations are looking to shift their manufacturing businesses and supply chains out of China. This is another opportunity for India to attract global business. But we need to check all the right boxes like Beijing did.

It might take time, maybe five-six years minimum to savour the fruits of an *atmanirbhar* (self-reliant) *Bharat* instead of the very next quarter like many people are hoping. If we want to act on self-reliance, we need to focus on all segments of manufacturing, starting from big manufacturing companies to the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), which can feed the former.

However, unless we invest in Research and Development (R&D), unless we create products that are better and more economical than products made around the world and in

China, we can't sell them in internal or global markets. If we want to make *Atmanirbhar Bharat* more than a slogan, then we need to provide capital-rich global players an equal footing for their investment and have an open and consistent trade policy; an easy land acquisition policy; cheap and skilled labour and a consistent power supply.

According to the Government, the five pillars of the *Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan* focus on the economy, infrastructure, the system, a vibrant demography and the creation of internal demand. An economy is the sum total of many small components of business, starting from the consumer, markets, traders, banks, utility companies, manufacturers, Government policies and institutions. Hence, any leakage of resources will not bring about effective use of the same.

Infrastructure always remains a talking point in our country but no one has ever worked seriously towards developing it. As a result of this, many infrastructure projects have been delayed by as much as 20-

25 years. It is difficult to believe that projects conceptualised at a cost of ₹20 crore in 1968 cost ₹200 crore in 2010 and are still pending. If we are really interested in an *Atmanirbhar Bharat*, then fiscal self-discipline is mandatory and it must start from Government departments. Plus, we need to fix responsibility for time and cost overruns in order to get work done on time. India still lacks good infrastructure and *Atmanirbhar Bharat* will not be possible if we don't connect all the dots.

Consistent Government policies on trade and taxation are key to creating any manufacturing base as it takes time to reap the benefits of the same. The Government must announce policies for 15-20 years which can't be changed by any new Government of the future. Projects of national importance must not be scrapped or altered by a new set of Ministers.

Another key component that must be aligned is demography. Though India is a democratic country and everyone has the right to follow their own free will, if we want

to make India *atmanirbhar*, then we need to have a "India First" policy.

Self-reliance is not a short race, rather it is a marathon and can be completed only when all engines start firing in the desired direction and in synchronisation with each other. Start-ups can act as a catalyst and be stakeholders in manufacturing, service delivery and a support element in creating a consensus among the masses for this mega project.

The Government will act as the agent to expedite and bind the entire process by easing policies around it. Involve all stakeholders and give adequate compensation to them. If this is implemented, then it can be the biggest employment generator, forex earner and a huge support to the Indian economy.

To achieve a \$5 trillion economy from a \$2.8 trillion one in about five years, we need to achieve a growth rate of more than 15 per cent per annum. It can be done only by firing all engines of growth, including MSME and big industries.

(The writer is Associate Professor, JNU)

FOREIGN EYE



MANY WAYS TO RESIST CHINA

Freedom of speech and of the Press, both vital to the rule of law and the city's vibrancy, are under attack. China is extending to Hong Kong the regime of media regulation and repression that it applies on the mainland. Today, it's the media. Tomorrow, who knows who will be China's next targets. But Hong Kongers will respond then, too, by demonstrating solidarity creatively. (The NYT editorial)

# Surprised that Biden picked ‘disrespectful’ Kamala: Trump

**Washington:** US President Donald Trump said he is surprised that his Democratic Party challenger for the presidential elections Joe Biden has named Indian-origin Senator Kamala Harris as his running mate despite knowing how “nasty” and “disrespectful” she has been towards him.

Harris, 55, whose father is an African from Jamaica and mother an Indian, is currently the US Senator from California.

“We’ll see how she works out. She did very, very poorly in the primaries as you know. She was expected to do well. She ended up at right around two per cent,” Trump told reporters at a White House news conference.

“She had a lot of things happening and so I was a little surprised that he (Biden) picked her. I’ve been watching her for a long time, and I was a little surprised,” Trump said, offering his first reaction to Biden’s pick of Harris.

Harris had launched her presidential campaign in January 2019. Her campaign could not take off and by the end of the year, she withdrew from the race.

Harris is the first person of colour to be selected as a vice presidential candidate and also only the fourth woman and first-ever African American and Indian American to be running for the second highest political position in the country.

Responding to questions, Trump told reporters that Harris has been nasty to Biden.

“As far as Kamala is concerned, she’s a big tax raiser. She’s a big slasher of funds for our military. And she’s got a lot of difficult things that she’s going to have to explain. Plus she was very, very nasty — one of the reasons it surprised me — she was probably nastier than even Pocahontas (Senator Elizabeth Warren) to Joe Biden. She was very disrespectful to Joe Biden,” Trump said, referring to the Democratic Party debates. **PTI**

## Harris says her mom’s advice drives her every single day

**Washington:** “Don’t sit around and complain about things, do something.”

This was the mantra given to Kamala Harris by her mother, Shyamala Gopalan, who was born in Chennai and immigrated to the US to attend a doctoral programme at UC Berkeley.

And today the 55-year-old Indian-origin Senator from California who on Tuesday became the running mate of Democratic Party’s presidential nominee Joe Biden, says, her mother’s advice is what drives her every single day.

Her father, Donald Harris, a retired professor of Stanford University, immigrated to the US from Jamaica to study economics.

Her mother told her growing up, “Don’t sit around and complain about things, do something,” which is what drives Kamala every single day, according to the Biden-Harris joint campaign website.

“The first Black and Indian-American woman to represent California in the United States Senate, Kamala Harris grew up believing in the



promise of America and fighting to make sure that promise is fulfilled for all Americans,” it says.

She graduated from Howard University and earned a law degree from the University of California, Hastings College of Law.

Kamala has been married to her husband Douglas Emhoff, a lawyer, for the past six years. She is the stepmother of two children, Ella and Cole who are her “endless source of love and pure joy,” the website says. **PTI**

## Biden ‘nailed this decision’: Obama

**Washington:** Former US president Barack Obama has joined top Democrats, including Hillary Clinton, to praise Indian-American Senator Kamala Harris’ selection as the party’s vice presidential candidate in the November election, saying Joe Biden has “nailed this decision”.

Presumptive Democratic party presidential nominee Biden on Tuesday named 55-year-old Harris as his vice presidential running mate, making history by selecting the first black woman to compete on a major party’s

presidential ticket.

Harris, whose father is from Jamaica and mother an Indian, is currently the US Senator from California.

“Choosing a vice president is the first important decision a president makes. When you’re in the Oval Office, weighing the toughest issues, and the choice you make will affect the lives and livelihoods of the entire country — you need someone with you who’s got the judgment and the character to make the right call,” Obama said in a statement. **PTI**

## ‘Harris’ nomination adds fuel to fire for China-US conflict

**Beijing:** China on Wednesday officially declined to react to US Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden’s move to pick Indian-origin Senator Kamala Harris as his running mate but the official media here said that her nomination will add “fuel to fire” to the current conflict between the two sides given her strong stand on human rights issues relating to Xinjiang and Hong Kong.

Biden on Tuesday picked Harris as his running mate, recognising the crucial role Black voters and Indian-Americans could play in his bid to defeat Trump in the US presidential election in

November.

Harris in the past called for increasing pressure on China for human rights violations against Uygur Muslims of Xinjiang and the crackdown against the pro-democracy movement in Hong Kong.

But she also rejected President Donald Trump’s tariff war on China, saying that it would hurt the business of California for which she was the Senator and increase the prices of consumer goods.

Asked for his reaction at a media briefing here on Wednesday to Biden nominating

Harris to be his vice-presidential nominee, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian declined to comment.

“The Presidential election in the US is an internal affair. We don’t have the interest to interfere,” he said, apparently referring to US official’s allegations that China, Russia and Iran may try to influence the US Presidential poll in November this year.

William Evanina, head of the National Counterintelligence and Security Centre (NCSC), in a statement last week said China “prefers that President Trump - whom Beijing sees as unre-

dictable - does not win re-election” and has been “expanding its influence efforts” ahead of the vote.

While Zhao was guarded in his reaction, state-run Global Times quoted Chinese observers as saying that Harris’ nomination won’t help end the two parties’ playing of the China card.

Harris once gave herself a Chinese name, He Jinli, which translates to “intricate and beautiful,” while the surname means “celebrate,” according to the Global Times report. But this should not be misinterpreted as goodwill toward China. **PTI**

## Over 1K detained in latest Belarus election protests

**Minsk:** Police detained over 1,000 people in Belarus during the latest protests against the results of the country’s presidential election, officials said Wednesday.

Rallies took place in 25 Belarusian cities on Tuesday and overnight, Interior Ministry spokeswoman Olga Chemodanova told The Associated Press. Thousands have demonstrated in the capital of Minsk and several other cities for three nights to contest the election results.

The Central Election Commission reported that President Alexander Lukashenko won a sixth term in Sunday’s election with 80% of the vote. Top opposition candidate Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, who had attracted massive crowds at campaign events where voters expressed frustration with the authoritarian Lukashenko’s 26-year rule, got just 10%.

Police deployed to break up the post-election protests used batons, stun grenades, tear gas and rubber bullets. One protester died Monday amid the crackdown in Minsk, and scores were injured. **AP**

## Outcry in Somalia as new bill would allow child marriage

**Johannesburg:** An outcry is rising in Somalia as parliament considers a bill that would allow child marriage once a girl’s sexual organs mature and would allow forced marriage as long as the family gives their consent.

The bill is a dramatic reworking of years of efforts by civil society to bring forward a proposed law to give more protections to women in one of the world’s most conservative countries.

The new Sexual Intercourse Related Crimes Bill “would represent a major setback in the fight against sexual violence in Somalia and across the globe” and should be withdrawn immediately, the United Nations special representative on sexual violence in conflict, Pramila Patten, said in

a statement Tuesday.

The bill also weakens protections for victims of sexual violence, she said.

Already more than 45 per cent of young women in Somalia were married or “in union” before age 18, according to a United Nations analysis in 2014-15.

Somalia in 2013 agreed with the UN to improve its sexual violence laws, and after five years of work a sexual offenses bill was approved by the Council of Ministers and sent to parliament.

But last year the speaker of the House of the People sent the bill back “in a process that may have deviated from established law” asking for “substantive amendments,” the UN special representative said. **AP**

## China blasts US for Taiwan visit while virus spreads at home

**Beijing:** A Chinese official lashed out at US Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar on Wednesday for visiting Taiwan amid an ongoing pandemic back home, accusing him of putting politics ahead of the lives of the American people.

The comments came a day after Azar accused China of failing to warn the rest of the world about the coronavirus.

“He abandoned the millions of people who are struggling with illness and visited Taiwan instead to stage a political show,” Foreign

ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said at a daily briefing.

“We don’t know how he has the confidence and courage to shamelessly criticise China’s anti-epidemic achievements.” Speaking Tuesday in Taiwan, Azar said that China’s ruling Communist Party “had the chance to warn the world and work with the world on battling the virus.” “But they chose not to, and the costs of that choice mount higher every day,” he said.

The Trump administration has repeatedly accused China of

withholding information from the World Health Organization and the international community as the virus began to take hold. China denies the charge, saying it communicated information as soon as it had it.

Azar’s trip to Taiwan angered China because it considers the self-governing island part of its territory. He is the highest-ranking official to visit since the U.S. Cut formal diplomatic ties in 1979, switching recognition to Beijing as the government of China. **AP**

## Iranian hard-liners in parliament reject president’s nominee

**Tehran:** Iranian hard-liners in parliament on Wednesday voted against President Hassan Rouhani’s nominee for trade minister in the first showdown between the rival camps since the house resumed work in May despite the struggles to curb the spread of the coronavirus.

According to the parliament’s website, lawmakers rejected Hossein Modares Khiabani’s nomination for minister of trade and industries.

Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said the vote was 140-104 against the nominee. There were 254 lawmakers at the session and 10 abstained. The parliament has 290 seats.

The vote marked the first serious confrontation between the newly elected house, dominated by conservatives and the bloc of supporters of the relatively moderate Rouhani. Under the law, Rouhani must introduce new nominees to his Cabinet in the next three months. **AP**

## Iran’s president, FM lash out at new US push on arms embargo

**Tehran:** Iran’s president and foreign minister lashed out on Wednesday at a revised proposal by the US that would extend a UN arms embargo on Iran indefinitely, the latest in the Trump administration’s maximum pressure policy against Iran.

The US on Tuesday circulated the revised draft at the UN, seeking to gain more support in the 15-member Security Council where veto-wielding Russia and China have voiced strong opposition.

The revised draft, which eliminated some provisions from the earlier version that diplomats said went beyond the extension of the arms embargo, may be put to a vote as early as Friday. Still, with Russia and China sharply critical of the US effort to indefinitely extend the arms embargo, the two will

likely use their veto powers even if the draft got the minimum nine “yes” votes in the council, which appears unlikely. The US push to make the arms embargo permanent follows President Donald Trump’s 2018 withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear deal between major world powers and Tehran, aimed at preventing Iran from developing nuclear weapons.

Tehran has repeatedly insisted it does not seek to produce a nuclear bomb. The nuclear deal, endorsed by the Security Council, includes a provision lifting the arms embargo on Iran on October 18.

Rouhani lambasted the revised draft, saying its “initiators will be responsible for the consequences” if the Security Council adopts the new resolution. He did not elaborate on what steps Iran could take. **AP**

## Around the Globe

**London:** British Transport Police say three people died and six were taken to hospital after a passenger train derailed in northeast Scotland amid stormy weather. The train’s driver was among the dead in Wednesday’s incident, which occurred after heavy rain.

**Skopje:** Police in North Macedonia say they have discovered 148 migrants, including Indians and Pakistanis, crammed into trucks in two separate operations in central and northern parts of the country, and have arrested two men on suspicion of trafficking migrants.

**Johannesburg:** Mauritius says it is seeking compensation from the owners of a Japanese ship that spilled oil after it grounded in the shallow waters off the Indian Ocean island nation, while urgent efforts continue to pump out the remaining fuel.

**Beijing:** China and Nepal should firmly support each other’s core interests and major concerns, a senior Chinese official said on Wednesday as the two countries held their annual diplomatic consultations.

**Phnom Penh:** A construction crane in Cambodia’s northwestern city of Poipet on the border with Thailand collapsed Wednesday, killing at least five people and injuring four others.

**Lahore:** Former Pakistan prime minister Nawaz Sharif’s daughter Maryam is among over 300 Opposition PML-N leaders and workers who were booked by Lahore police on Wednesday for hooliganism and attacking law enforcement officers.

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E-RFP INVITING NOTICE NO. - 04(Cons.) / 2020-21								
1-	OFFICER INVITING BIDS		: CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER , Bihar State Building Construction Corporation Ltd. Patna.					
2-	PERIOD AND PLACE OF SALE OF BID DOCUMENT LAST DATE AND TIME		: DATE <b>25.08.2020 to 15.09.2020</b> up to 03.00 PM					
3-	TIME, DATE AND PLACE OF PRE-BID MEETING (Virtual Online)		: DATE <b>27.08.2020</b> , TIME 03.00 PM PLACE: Bihar State Building Construction Corporation Ltd., Patna					
4-	LAST DATE AND TIME FOR SUBMISSION OF BID.		: DATE <b>16.09.2020</b> up to 3.00 PM					
5-	PLACE OF SALES/RECEIPT OF Bid Documents		: Only on website <a href="http://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in">www.eproc.bihar.gov.in</a>					
6-	TIME AND DATE OF OPENING TECHNICAL BIDS		: DATE <b>17.09.2020</b> Time: 15.00 Hour / (03.00 PM).					
7-	TIME AND DATE OF OPENING FINANCIAL BIDS		: After disposal of Technical bid by Competent Authority					
8-	LAST DATE OF BID VALIDITY		: 120 days from Last date of Bid submission					
9-	Following work:-							
Sl. No.	Dist	Name of the work	Consultant Fee for Preparation of DPR	Cost of Bid document (In Rs.)	Bid Processing Fee	Time of completion of work	Name Of PIU	
1	2	3	4	6	7	8	9	
1	Patna, Buxar, Kaimur, Gaya, Darbhanga, Bhagarpur, Munger	<b>RFP - Selection of Consultant for Preparation of DPR for THEME PARK, UPGRADATION OF MUSEUM AND ITS INFRASTRUCTURE IN DIFFERENT SEVEN (7) LOCATIONS IN BIHAR</b> <b>1)</b> Theme park depicting the life of the Jana-Nayak Karpoori Tahkur, environment and ecology of rural Bihar in the campus of the Smriti Sangrahalaya <b>2)</b> Heritage Theme park in Taradih, Bodhgaya <b>3)</b> Theme based Landscaping & beautification of Museum of Maharaja Lakshmeshwar Singh Museum, Darbhanga <b>4)</b> Theme based Landscaping & beautification of Museum of Sita Ram Upadhyay Museum, Buxar <b>5)</b> Theme based Landscaping & beautification of Bhagalpur Museum and its Up gradation of Museum Design, Museum Infrastructure depicting customs, tradition and local art and culture of rural Bihar <b>6)</b> Museum Design, itsInfrastructure and development of Art Gallery representing customs, tradition, local art and culture of Munger Museum, Munger <b>7)</b> Construction of a Theme park ,Based on the concept of Shailasraya Theme at Kaimur District (H.Q.)  * In financial bid rate quoted by consultant is lamp sum basis for each work (Including of GST)	As per offer	₹5,000.00	₹1180.00	<b>04</b> (Four) Months	Patna,	
10-	Registration certificate from Council of Architecture of Principal / Partner / Director and also of other Architects in the firm.							
11-	Evaluation of technical details of the firm to base on eligibility criteria.							
12-	Evaluation of technical documents shall be done by the evaluation committee. Bidder found responsive in technical bid shall be invited to make presentation in before jury member. Financial proposal of the successful Bidder shall be opened in presence of the bidder/their representative.							
13-	Details regarding e-RFP can be procured from Help-Desk, 1 <sup>st</sup> floor, Plot no. M/22, road no. 25. Sri Krishna Nagar, Bank of India Compound, Patna 800001. Ph. no. 9939035696, 06122523006.E-tendering invitation notice can be seen fro state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar also.							
14-	Interested bidders should have to get registered with <b>E-Procurement</b> , details of which are available on the website. Bidders need to procure DSC (Digital Signature certificate). Bidders can participate in the E-tendering process with user id, password, DSC and internet connection.							
15-	The bidders need to upload the technical documents pertaining to the firm on the website. The date and time of opening of RFP or any correction in the regard will be published on the website <a href="http://www.bsbccl.bih.nic.in">www.bsbccl.bih.nic.in</a> .							
16-	The RFP documents fee (Non-refundable) should be in form of bank draft drawn on any nationalizedbank in favour of <b>DGM BSBCCL, Patna (PIU)</b> payable at <b>Patna</b> , and submitted in original in the office of <b>DGM BSBCCL, Patna (PIU)</b> , G.M.(SOUTH) BSBCCL, Patna , C.G.M. BSBCCL, Patna before the date and time of opening of Technical bid..							
17-	The RFP shall pay the Bid processing Fee including GST through Internet Payment Gateway (Credit / Debit Cards) or Internet Banking or NEFT / RTGS Challan to be credited to Bid processing Fee Account of BSEDC prior to the last date & time of down loading the tender document. It is mandatory failing which the tender shall not be considered.							
18-	RFP is available on the website <a href="http://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in">www.eproc.bihar.gov.in</a> in the view format. The RFP Document Fee in Demand Draft ( <b>original is mandatory</b> ) to be submitted in the office of <b>DGM BSBCCL, Patna (PIU)</b> , G.M.(South), BSBCCL, PATNA., C.G.M. BSBCCL, PATNA before the date and time of opening of Technical bid.							
19-	<b>BSBCCL</b> reserves the right to cancel all the tenders without any information.							
20-	For any additional information bidder may contact to Sr. Architect, BSBCCL, Patna AND Tender related issues may contact to dgm (gaya), Mobile no-9264493032							
<b>Chief General Manager</b> <b>Bihar State Building Construction Corporation Ltd. Patna</b>								
<b>PR. No. 004735(Ni.Ni.) 2020-21</b>								
नौबत कोरोना के संबंध में विस्तृत जानकारी एवं सहयोग हेतु  Toll Free No.: <b>104</b> पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं। स्वात सम्ग्री- संबंधी किसी तरह की जानकारी अवगत चुनाव हेतु दूरभाष संख्या 0612-2217636 पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।								

<b>CANCELLATION OF SPECIAL TRAINS DUE TO LOCKDOWN IN WEST BENGAL ON 20/08, 21/08, 27/08, 28/08 &amp; 31.08.2020</b>	
In view of lockdown declared on <b>20/08, 21/08, 27/08, 28/08 &amp; 31.08.2020</b> in entire West Bengal by State Govt, following trains will remain <b>canceled</b> on those days : <b>(1) 02024/02023 Patna-Howrah- Patna Special</b> (JCO 20/08, 21/08, 27/08, 28/08 & 31.08.2020), <b>(2) 02302 New Delhi-Howrah AC Special</b> (JCO 19/08, 20/08, 26/08, 27/08 & 30.08.2020), <b>(3) 02301 Howrah-New Delhi AC Special</b> (JCO 20/08, 21/08, 27/08, 28/08 & 31.08.2020), <b>(4) 02308 Jodhpur-Howrah Special</b> (JCO 18/08, 19/08, 25/08, 26/08 & 29.08.2020), <b>(5) 02307 Howrah-Jodhpur Special</b> (JCO 20/08, 21/08, 27/08, 28/08 & 31.08.2020), <b>(6) 02377/02378 Sealdah-New Alipurduar-Sealdah Special</b> (JCO 19/08, 20/08, 21/08, 26/08, 27/08, 28/08, 30/08 & 31.08.2020), <b>(7) 02303 Howrah-New Delhi Special</b> (JCO 29.08.2020), <b>(8) 02304 New Delhi-Howrah Special</b> (JCO 30.08.2020), <b>(9) 02381 Howrah-New Delhi Special</b> (JCO 20/08 & 27.08.2020), <b>(10) 02382 New Delhi-Howrah Special</b> (JCO 21/08 & 28.08.2020), <b>(11) 02201 Sealdah-Bhubaneswar Special</b> (JCO 21/08, 28/08, & 31.08.2020), <b>(12) 02202 Bhubaneswar-Sealdah Special</b> (JCO 22/08, 29/08 & 01.09.2020), <b>(13) 02357 Kolkata-Amritsar Special</b> (JCO 18/08 & 25.08.2020), <b>(14) 02358 Amritsar-Kolkata Special</b> (JCO 20/08 & 27.08.2020). Passengers are requested to plan their journey accordingly. Inconvenience is regretted.	
<b>Chief Passenger Transportation Manager</b> <b>EASTERN RAILWAY</b>	

<b>PIONEER AGRO EXTRACTS LIMITED</b> <b>Regd Office- Chhoti Nehar Malakpur Pathankot-145025 (Punjab)</b> <b>www.pioneeragro.co.in</b> <b>CIN : L15319PB1993PLC012975</b> <b>Telephone No. : 0186-2345352/53/55. E-mail : complianceofficer@pioneeragro.co.in</b> <b>Extract of unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter ended June 30, 2020</b>				
(Rs. in lakhs)				
S. No.	Particulars	Year Ended 31.03.2020	30.06.2020	Quarter Ended 30.06.2019 31.03.2020
1	Total income from operations	67.97	8.34	8.65 43.23
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before exceptional items and tax)	37.12	(0.67)	(0.96) 35.40
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after exceptional items)	37.12	(0.67)	(0.96) 35.40
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after exceptional items)	31.93	(0.67)	(0.96) 30.21
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	31.93	(0.67)	(0.96) 30.21
6	Equity Share Capital	435.85	435.85	435.85 435.85
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as show in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year	50.00	50.00	50.00 50.00
8	Earning per share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)			
	- Basic	0.74	0.00	0.00 0.70
	- Diluted	0.74	0.00	0.00 0.70
<b>Notes:</b> The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly / Yearly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and other Disclosure Requirements) Regulation, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Financial Results are available on the website of the Stock Exchange <a href="http://www.bseindia.com">www.bseindia.com</a> and on the Company's website <a href="http://www.pioneeragro.co.in">www.pioneeragro.co.in</a>				
<b>On behalf of the Board of Directors, (Jagat Mohan Aggarwal ) Managing Director</b> <b>Din : 00750120</b>				
Place : Pathankot Dated : August 12, 2020				



# LOAN RECAST NBFCs’ refinancing needs likely to increase: Report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

With the Reserve Bank allowing restructuring of loans that are facing stress due to the Covid-19 pandemic, non-banking finance companies are likely to see an increase in their refinancing requirements, says a report.

Last week, RBI gave permission to lenders to go for one-time restructuring of corporate and personal loans facing stress due to the disruptions caused by coronavirus.

“The Reserve Bank of India’s decision allowing lenders to restructure loans would increase their refinancing requirements, especially for non-banking banking companies (NBFCs),” India Ratings and Research said in a report.

“This is in view of their large contractual debt repay-

ments, as scheduled cash inflow gets deferred, though the severity of the same would depend upon the proportion of loan portfolio restructured and terms of restructuring (i.e complete moratorium vs partial payments),” it added.

A higher quantum of restructured assets would clearly reflect higher asset quality challenges for NBFCs and can restrict their ability to mobilise funds from banks and capital markets, it said.

At the end of June 2020, a substantial portion of loan book of NBFCs was under moratorium. Housing loans had the least portion of the book under moratorium, while wholesale lenders had the maximum portion of their loans under moratorium, the report said. Collection efficiency, reflecting the repayment

behaviour of customers, has improved since April 2020 with easing of lockdown restrictions.

However, regional lockdowns did impact collections during July 2020. Collection levels across asset classes/segments were far below pre-COVID levels.

Businesses still did not generate cash flows sufficient enough to make their timely debt repayment, the agency said. “We believe a high proportion of loans to certain segments such as real estate developers, commercial vehicle owners and micro small medium enterprises will be restructured, given the weakness in these sectors,” it said.

The report said 70-80 per cent of real estate loans were under moratorium at end-June 2020.

# Sensex snaps 4-day rally as bulls take a breather

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The BSE Sensex snapped its four-session winning run to close marginally lower on Wednesday as investors pocketed gains in finance, banking and consumption stocks amid mixed global cues.

After touching a low of 38,125.81 during the day, the 30-share BSE Sensex pared most losses to end 37.38 points or 0.10 per cent lower at 38,369.63.

On similar lines, the NSE Nifty slipped 14.10 points or 0.12 per cent to close at 11,308.40. Kotak Bank was the top loser in the Sensex pack, skidding 2.10 per cent, followed by Sun Pharma, Bajaj Finserv, L&T, Bajaj Finance, TCS and Titan.

On the other hand, HCL Tech, SBI, Tech Mahindra, Maruti, M&M and UltraTech Cement were among the gainers, climbing as much as 4.86 per cent.

According to traders, market sentiment was weak following lacklustre macroeco-

nomc data and concerns over rising coronavirus cases.

India’s industrial production declined by 16.6 per cent in June on account of disruption in normal business activity following the outbreak of coronavirus’ pandemic, government data showed on Tuesday.

The number of cases around the world linked to Covid-19 has crossed 2.02 crore, with India breaching the 23-lakh mark.

“The encouraging response to the fundraising by the lending firms has boosted the investors’ sentiment towards the banking stocks... Helping the benchmark to sustain at the higher levels while other sectors are taking a breather after a substantial rally.

“Since we’re largely mirroring the global markets, further developments on the stimulus package announcement and US-China trade tension would be actively tracked by the participants for cues. Traders should maintain their

focus on the selection of stocks as we’re still seeing enough opportunities across the board,” said Ajit Mishra, VP - Research, Religare Broking.

BSE healthcare, consumer durables, metal, realty, telecom and FMCG indices fell up to 1.46 per cent, while auto, utilities, power, IT and teck closed higher.

Broader BSE mid-cap and small-cap indices slipped up to 0.29 per cent. Global equities were largely positive despite deadlock over fresh stimulus in the US and the UK slipping into its deepest recession in the June quarter.

Bourses in Hong Kong, Tokyo and Seoul ended with gains, while Shanghai settled in the red.

Most stock exchanges in Europe were trading on a positive note in early deals.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 1.48 per cent higher at USD 45.16 per barrel. In the forex market, the rupee slipped 5 paise to close at 74.83 against the US dollar.

# Tesla stock up 7% after car maker announces 5-1 share split

IANIS ■ SAN FRANCISCO

Elon Musk-run Tesla has announced a five-for-one split of its common stock that goes into effect on August 21.

The move that could help smaller investors afford Tesla stock resulted in Tesla stock surging 7 per cent in the extended session on Tuesday.

“The Board of Directors has approved and declared a five-for-one split of Tesla’s common stock in the form of a stock dividend to make stock ownership more accessible to employees and investors,” Tesla said in a statement.

Each stockholder of record on August 21 will

receive a dividend of four additional shares of common stock for each then-held share, to be distributed after close of trading on August 28.

“Trading will begin on a stock split-adjusted basis on August 31, 2020,” said Tesla.

Tesla shares have gained 229 per cent this year.

Apple has also announced a 4-for-1 stock split after shares of the iPhone maker surged more than 80 per cent in the past year.

Tesla reported profits for the fourth straight quarter last month

Making \$6 billion in revenue and \$104 million in net income in its June quarter even as the Covid-19 pandemic shut its factories.

# ₹ drops 5 paise to 74.83 against \$ on weak IIP data

PTI ■ MUMBAI

coronavirus pandemic.

The rupee declined by 5 paise to close at 74.83 against the US dollar on Wednesday due to losses in equity markets and weak industrial production data.

Forex traders said the rupee traded in a narrow range as muted domestic equities and weak industrial output data weighed on investor sentiment while sustained foreign fund inflows supported the unit.

The local unit opened flat at 74.78 at the interbank forex market but later lost ground to settle at 74.83 against the US dollar, down 5 paise over its last close of 74.78. During the session, the domestic unit witnessed an intra-day high of 74.77 and a low of 74.93 against the greenback. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback’s strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.03 per cent to 93.59.

India’s industrial production declined 16.6 per cent in June on account of disruption in normal business activity following the outbreak of

# PM to launch ‘transparent taxation’ platform

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday will unveil the next phase of direct tax reforms aimed at easing compliance and rewarding honest taxpayers, as the government looks to rebuild the pandemic-hit economy.

“The Prime Minister will launch the platform for ‘Transparent Taxation – Honoring the Honest’ via video conference on August 13, 2020,” an official statement said on Wednesday.

While the statement did not give details of the reforms to be unveiled, the launch of the platform is expected to further carry forward the journey of direct tax reforms undertaken during last six years.

The reforms include reduction in corporate tax last year to 22 per cent from 30 per cent for existing companies and 15 per cent for new manufacturing units, scraping of dividend distribution tax and faceless assessment.

“The focus of the tax reforms has been on reduction in tax rates and on simplification of direct tax laws. Several initiatives have been taken by the CBDT for bringing in efficiency and transparency in the functioning of the I-T Department,” it said.

The Budget for 2020-21 fiscal unveiled on February 1, had announced a ‘taxpayer charter’, which is expected to have statutory status and will empower citizens by ensuring time-bound services by the Income Tax department.

The charter will ensure trust between a taxpayer and the administration and reduce harassment, as well as increase efficiency of the department, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharman had said her Budget speech.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), which is the apex decision making body in direct tax matters, administrators personal income tax and corporate tax.

# Bharat Forge posts ₹127.3 crore loss in April-June

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Bharat Forge on Wednesday reported a consolidated loss of 127.3 crore for the quarter ended June 30.

The company had posted a consolidated profit of ₹171.9 crore in April-June period of the previous fiscal, Bharat Forge said in a filing to the BSE. The company’s income during April-June period declined to ₹1,199.2 crore from ₹2,372.7 crore in the year-ago period.

The spread of Covid-19 has severely impacted business in many countries, including India, and there has been severe disruption to regular business operations due to lockdown and other emergency measures, Bharat Forge said.

The group has made assessment of liquidity, recoverable values of its financial and non-financial assets, including carrying value of its subsidiaries, and has concluded that there are no material adjustments required in the interim financial results.

# Tata Power June quarter profit grows 10 % to ₹268 crore

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tata Power on Wednesday said its consolidated net profit rose by 10 per cent to Rs 268 crore for quarter ended June on the back of reduced expenses.

The company had posted a net profit of ₹ 243 crore during the same period a year ago, Tata Power said in a BSE filing. During April-June, the company reported a total income of ₹6,540 crore as compared to ₹7,874 crore in the year-ago quarter. Total expenses during the quarter under review stood at ₹ 6,555 crore as against ₹7,228 crore in the year-ago period.In a separate statement, the company said, it was able to maintain stable performance despite lower profits from Solar EPC businesses mainly on account of lower financing cost and stable performance across all clusters.

“All our business clusters have reported robust performance despite the challenges

# Vodafone India Foundation launches portal on digital literacy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Vodafone India Foundation, the CSR arm of mobile service provider Vodafone Idea, on Wednesday launched a portal to help marginalised communities become digital literate and self-reliant. The portal, Digisakshar.Org, which has been developed in partnership with IT and business consulting services firm CGI and NASSCOM Foundation, was launched at a virtual event.

In addition to offering digital literacy to communities, Vodafone India Foundation said that the self-learning portal also drives them towards better job and entrepreneurship opportunities helping them become self-reliant.

The free to use portal provides over 40 courses in both Hindi and English, designed for all age groups and curated to cover basic.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is publically notified that I am the owner of Plot No. 356, Block-A, Sector-46, Noida. That the original registered General Power of Attorney of the above said plot vide Reference No. 20013 dated 23-11-2011 and challan No. 115401 dated-06-10-2010 which has been put into a White Cloth Bag has been lost somewhere and not traceable till date inspite of my best efforts. I have lodged an eFIR vide eFIR No. 057505/2020 dated 10-08-2020. If any one will recover the same hel/she may contact at my above noted address.

**Bhushan Lal Bajaj**  
**A-356, Sector-46, Noida**  
**Ph. No. 9910037349**

**CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS**

**OPEN TENDER**

**No. COS/CRJ/PUB/e-Tender/19/0162 Date : 10.08.2020.** The following e-Tenders can be accessed under the link **www.ireps.gov.in**. Offers for such e-Tender can be submitted only electronically by accessing the link **www.ireps.gov.in → login → E-Tender Stores/ Supply**. Vendors may also contact the following officials to obtain clarification regarding particular tender or IREPS related information if any, Dy. CMM/HQ/CLW/Chittaranjan, 0341-2525594 or SMM/CON/HQ, 0341-2535631. **Sl. No.;** **Tender No.;** **Brief Description of Item;** **Quantity.;** **Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees);** **Tender Closing Date & Time (IST):** **[1]; 83200052A;** SET OF ROLLER BEARING EACH SET CONSISTING OF 01 NO. OF ROLLER BEARING NU 224E/C4, 01 NO OF ROLLER BEARING NJ219E/C4 and 01 NO. THRUST COLLER HJ219 E TO CLW'S SPECN. NO. 4TMS.096.065 (LATEST VERSION); **136 set;** **1,26,780;** **03.09.2020 at 11:00 am.** **OFFICE ADDRESS :** **D y . C M M - H Q / C L W / Chittaranjan, 9163340711 or SMM/HQ, 9163340704.** **Principal Chief Materials Manager AD76 - 066 CLW/Chittaranjan** **Like us on : www.facebook.com/chtrrailways**

# Reliance Foundation partners with W-GDP, USAID to bridge gender gap

**New Delhi:** Under the Womens Global Development and Prosperity (W-GDP) Initiative, a new partnership between the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and Reliance Foundation will bridge the gender and digital divide in India. The partnership was announced at a W-GDP event on Tuesday, hosted by US Deputy Secretary of State Stephen Biegun along with special guest, Ivanka Trump, Advisor to the US President, and Deputy USAID Administrator Bonnie Glick.

Ivanka Trump said: “The W-GDP Fund was created to source and scale the most innovative programs to advance women’s economic empowerment. We are leveraging the resources and expertise of the U.S. Govt and the private sector so that activities have enduring, deep effects on the communities they reach.”

# Global cues, profit bookings closed equity market lower

IANIS ■ MUMBAI

The Indian equity market closed marginally lower on Wednesday after six consecutive sessions of gains.

Analysts opined that profit booking, along with negative global cues, depressed the market. Sector-wise, the top gainers included BSE Auto, Power and IT indices, whereas BSE Healthcare, CD, Metal and Realty indices lost ground.

Globally, major Asian markets have closed on a mixed note. However, European indices like the FTSE and CAC ended higher.

Index-wise, the NSE Nifty50 closed at 11,308.40, down by 14.10 points, or 0.12 per cent, from its previous close. The Sensex closed at 38,369.63, lower by 37.38 points, or 0.10 per cent, from the previous close of 38,407.01.

It had opened at 38,321.13 and touched an intra-day high of 38,414.37 and a low of 38,125.81 points.

# DLW achieves record production of 31 locomotives in July

**Varanasi:** Under the leadership of General Manager YP Singh, Thirty One electric locomotives have been produced by Diesel Locomotive Works, Varanasi in July, 2020. Despite low progress at the beginning of month due to restrictions imposed to contain spread of Covid-19, DLW achieved record production of 31 Electric Locomotives in the month of July, 2020. The achievement becomes more significant because same was achieved after following all guidelines of Central and State Government to contain spread of Covid-19. During the production, all steps like regular sanitization of work place, social distancing were taken to safeguard staff against spread of Covid-19.

On this occasion, General Manager Shri Y.P. Singh congratulated all the Heads of Departments and their staff.

Due to the lockdown announced by the Government of India, to contain spread of Covid-19, production of DLW has also been affected like other industries. But DLW is leaving no stone unturned to make up the deficit in production caused by lockdown. In the current financial year 2020-21, DLW has manufactured 28 electric locomotives till June, 2020. The production of 31 locomotives, in July alone, is a milestone in itself.

## SEARCH OF MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one person (depicted in the photo), **Namely:** Gambhir, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** H.No. WZ-3355, Rajouri Garden, Delhi, **Aged:** 39 years, has been missing from ISBT Anand Vihar, Delhi since January 2015. In this regard a case vide **DD No. 61A, Dated 29.07.2020, has been lodged at P.S. Patparganj Ind. Area, Delhi.** His physical description is as under:

**Height:** 5'10" Feet, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Round, **Physique/Build:** Thin, **Clothing:** Pant, Shirt and Chappal in feet.

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

Gambhir

S.H.O

**P.S. Patparganj Ind. Area, Delhi**  
**Tel. 011-22146491, 22146492**

DP/152/ED/2020.

## SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one boy namely **Vicky S/o Lt. Lalan Jha** R/o C-226 SS Nagar WPIA, Delhi, has been missing/kidnapped from the area of P.S. Ashok Vihar, Delhi since 18.07.2020. In this regard, a vide **DD No. 52-A, dated 24.07.2020 has been registered at P.S. Ashok Vihar Delhi.** The description of the missing boy is as under.

**Age:** 20 Years, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Height:** 5' 6", **Face:** Round, **Wearing:** White Colour Shirt Blue Colour half pant & hawai chaapal in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out him but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing boy then please inform P.S. Ashok Vihar, Delhi at following Tel No. / e-mail: **cic@cbi.gov.in** and Website: **http://cbi.nic.in**

**Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641**  
**Fax No. 011-24368639**

Sd/- S.H.O.

**P.S. Ashok Vihar, Delhi**  
**Ph: 011-27243066**

DP/301/NW/2020



VICKY

**Govt. of Bihar**

**OFFICE OF THE SENIOR PROJECT ENGINEER**

**BIHAR RAJYA PUL NIRMAN NIGAM LTD.**

**EXTERNAL PROJECT DIVISION NO.- 02, KISHANGANJ**

**Short Notice Inviting Tender on EPC Mode**

**National Competitive Bidding**

**(Only through e-tendering system on Website (www.eproc.bihar.gov.in))**

**NIT No.-BRPNNL/KNG/C00 / 799**

Bihar Rajya Pul Nirman Nigam Ltd (BRPNNL), A Government of Bihar undertaking, invites Proposals in two Bid System (Technical and Financial) from eligible Firms/Contractors/Agencies or Companies registered in appropriate category with RCD, Govt. of Bihar/BRPNNL/MES/CPWD/Railways or Central Government/ any State Government or any PSU for the following work on EPC Mode. Those not registered with BRPNNL will have to get registered with BRPNNL after issue of LOA and before executing the agreement.

Sl.No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of Bid Document (Rs.) (Non Refundable)	Earnest Money (Rs. In Lacs)	Bid Processing Fee (Rs) (Online Payment) (Non Refundable)	Time of Completion of work
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Construction of (1) Boundary wall (2) Main Entrance Gate and Guard Room- One Unit (3) Toilet Block with all facilities - One Unit (4) One no. of High mast lighting, 6 unit of street lighting pole and 12 lights (5) Road development (PCC Main Road and foot path from main gate) (6) Drainage and Cross Drainage (7) Covered Chabutra- One Unit (8) Staff Quarter- One Unit (9) Tube Well- One Unit (10) Hand pump- One Unit (11) Notice Board- One Unit (12) Silapat- One Unit work etc. of Krishi Bazar Samiti, Thakurganj, Phase- 1 (As per AA)	465.52	10,000.00	9.31	17,700.00	6 Months

2. Document Download Start DateDate 17-08-2020 to 22-08-2020 till 3.00 pm from [www.eproc.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in)

3. Pre-bid Meeting19-08-2020 at 3.00 pm (HQ, BRPNNL, Patna)

4. Last Date & Time for submission of bid (Bid closing date)Date 23-08-2020 till 3.00 pm can be submitted on [www.eproc.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in)

5. Technical Bid Opening Date & TimeDate 25-08-2020 at 3.30 pm on [www.eproc.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in)

6. Financial Bid Opening Date and TimeTo be intimated later

7. Contact person:- Sri Munindra Thakur, P.E., Ext. Project Division No.-02, Kishanganj, Mob No.- 9006371769

For further details please visit website [www.cproc.bihar.gov.in](http://www.cproc.bihar.gov.in) or [state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar](http://state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar) For clarification and further enquiry, if any, regarding e-tendering process and registration, the bidder may contact e-procurement Helpdesk, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, M/22, Bank of India Building, Road No. 25, S.K. Nagar, Patna- 800001 (Tel 0612-2523006, 7542028164)

**Note: Bidders are requested to keep themselves updated with the website www.brpn.bih.nic.in. on regular basis for any Amendment / Clarification / Notification in respect of this NIT.**

For further details please visit website **[state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar](http://state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar)**

**Sr. Project Engineer**  
**Bihar Rajya Pul Nirman Nigam Ltd**  
**External Project Division No.-02, Kishanganj**

**PR. No. 004698 (Ni.Ni.) 2020-21**

**नौकर कोरना के संबंध में विस्तृत जानकारी एवं सहायता हेतु Toll Free No.:- 104** पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं।  
**स्वात सामग्री- संबंधी किसी तरह की जानकारी अथवा सुचना हेतु दूरभाष संख्या 0612-2217636 पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।**



## Trend Blazer

### Sara pens special note for mom

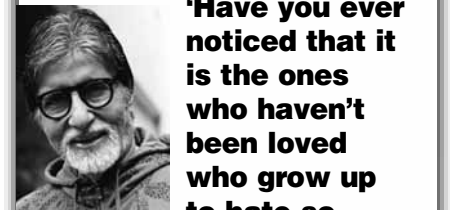
On turning 25, actor **SARA ALI KHAN** penned a special message for her mother **Amrita Singh**.

She shared a couple of throw-back pictures of Amrita on Instagram, which reflects her love for dogs.

“Quarter Century

*Ho Gayi!!* From being a Pup Mommy to a Human Mommy... Love you Maa,” Sara captioned the pictures.

Sara turned a year older on Wednesday, and she had a low-key celebration with her brother Ibrahim Ali Khan in Goa. Taking to Instagram, Sara posted a couple of pictures and videos from her birthday celebrations.



**‘Have you ever noticed that it is the ones who haven’t been loved who grow up to hate so**

**much? I believe in the emancipation of women but not at the cost of one’s home. For in their emancipation, women are losing what has always made them emotionally superior to men — their tenderness and essential warmth of heart.’**

**—Amitabh Bachchan**

Actor-comedian **VIR DAS** all set to debut an unscripted home-grown comedy special, *Inside Out*, created from his 30 virtual shows during the lockdown.



Das said, “Week on week, the encouraging response kept pouring in and we knew there was enough material to make a special. We recorded all the virtual shows in advance. I decided to talk about our collective fears and give it a light touch. In such times when we don’t know when is our next physical gig or shoot, we thought it’d be a way to work with the changing times. This isn’t the new normal but this is a novel alternative, for now.”

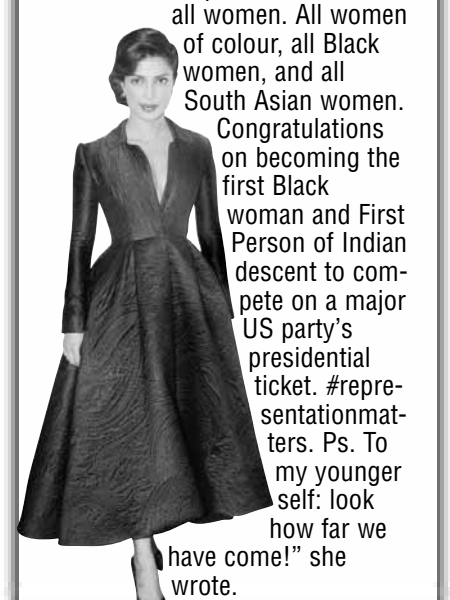
### Priyanka lauds Kamala Harris

Actor **PRIYANKA CHOPRA JONAS** has congratulated the US Democratic vice-presidential candidate **Kamala Harris** on becoming the first person of Indian descent to achieve that honour.

Priyanka took to Instagram and posted a picture of Harris.

“This is a historical, transformational, and proud moment for all women. All women of colour, all Black women, and all South Asian women.

Congratulations on becoming the first Black woman and First Person of Indian descent to compete on a major US party’s presidential ticket. #representationmatters. Ps. To my younger self: look how far we have come!” she wrote.



In the list of major events and people of 2020, a new name has been added — Binod — which has become the buzzword for netizens and social media users. The trend began after a video by the YouTube channel, Slayy Point, in which its creators Abhyudaya Mohan and Gautami Kawale are seen roasting the comments section of popular videos, went viral. Titled, *Why Indian Comments Section is Garbage*, it highlighted how even asinine and silly entries get hits and “likes”. In this case, a user called Binod had simply typed in his name in the commentary chat and had still elicited seven likes. And then Binod trolled several notable social media handles with what can best be described as mumbo jumbo but still got noticed. So much so that it generated memes.

The #Binod memes so hogged the limelight that even brands like Airtel, Paytm, Netflix and Tinder didn’t leave any stone unturned in making it their new marketing word. While the dating app tweeted, “Yes, Binod is on Tinder,” the digital payment app changed its Twitter username from Paytm to Binod for a short period. Food-ordering app Swiggy tweeted, “We think Binod will be the first person to call and wish us at 12 tonight,” celebrating its birthday. Reality show Bigg Boss’ Twitter handle also posted, “Now who’s saying Binod is a contestant this year?” Other handles such as Mumbai Police, Nagpur Police and Jaipur Police used the word for awareness of traffic rules and safety.

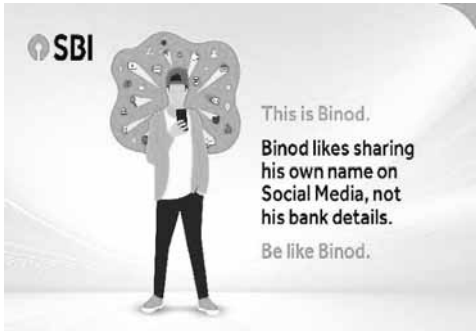
Well, it isn’t the first time a bizarre trend has got unprecedented attention from netizens. Who wouldn’t remember the viral “*Selfie Maine Le Li Aaj*” by Dhinchak Pooja or “*Hello friends, chai peelo!*” or even trends like #IHaveAJoke and #MyQuarantineInSixWords! But why does such content grab attention? “Yes, there have been bizarre trends in the past. However, I think that things that strike a chord among the audience grabs their attention. For instance, Binod has just a 30-second presence in our video. Even then, not the rest of the video but ‘Binod’ grabbed eyeballs. It completely depends on the viewers. We present a platter but it could be just one thing that grabs their attention or it could be the entire video as well,” says Abhyudaya, who never thought that after this video, rappers like that DJ Snake and Honey Singh would be using the term for comments.

With Coronavirus being the permanent trending hashtag on social media over the past few months, hashtag Binod certainly came as a clutter breaker and social disruptor. For Gautami, Binod became an “emotion” for people in lockdown, a byword for an alternate universe, or a flighty fun exercise to de-stress themselves. Says she, “If one is sad, s/he is using Binod. One is typing Binod to wish someone good morning! There’s absolutely no head or toe to this. This has really been a clutter breaker as brands and celebrities too accepted ‘Binod’ to communicate. Personally, we really liked Airtel India’s tweet,



# AGENT BINOD

The term perhaps became more viral than the Coronavirus. Trend creators **ABHYUDAYA MOHAN** and **GAUTAMI KAWALE** of the YouTube channel, Slayy Point, explain how. By **TEAM VIVA**



“Receive every call with ‘Haan #Binod bol’.”

The YouTube video also took a dig at the outlandish comments to show how trashy they are, with the creative team pressing all the keys of the keyboard at once so that it typed random alphabets. The 100-word paragraph of alphabets was then posted in comments

of a video, which, in turn, surprisingly grabbed even more bizarre comments.

Is this, then, the new theatre of the absurd? Says Gautami, “There’s no formula or tutorial about how to go viral or how to start a trend. It depends on the audience, their preferences and likes and when we see the audience talking about it constantly, that’s when the

content trends. I think platforms like Twitter and YouTube play a huge role in spurring the growth of such trends among the masses.”

So why is it important to note what comments are being posted? Is it any kind of marketing strategy? Abhyudaya refuses. He says, “Well, no! It’s not any kind of marketing strategy. Binod’s

comments were solely for entertainment because there is no such thing as trend marketing.”

Binod even raided the Prime Minister’s Twitter handle. What did the disruption mean? He adds, “We heard about it and checked PM’s Live. People were commenting ‘Binod’ everywhere. We could then say that’s the power of Binod (laughs). I think Binod for them came as a voice of licentiousness in these times of lockdown. We are overwhelmed that it’s a trend and people are communicating through Binod rightfully, meaning that it’s in the ‘Janta’s hands’ (in hands of the citizens). We are just the medium.”

Well, the #Binod raids have even reached the comments section of some international artists and Nasa Live sessions! But beyond grabbing eyeballs, a few laughs and generating some revenue for creators, is there any point to this dumbed down pursuit of time-kills?

## POWER OF THE YOUNG

Choreographer **ASHLEY LOBO** says that the International Youth Day this year has helped young people find balance without their peers and props at home.

By **TEAM VIVA**



For choreographer, Ashley Lobo, there is no energy as that of youth on his dance floor. He loves their moves, their hope, and the vibrancy they bring to any class. On International Youth Day, Ashley stressed that it is the youth which is embracing the ‘new normal’ and helping the not-so-savvy world adjust to the digital age, which has swamped all of us.

He says, “Being at home and not with their peer group is not how the youth would have ever imagined their lives but given their proximity to gadgets and the online world, they are doing a pretty good job. I miss their vibrancy in my studio since offline classes are stopped. But when youngsters dance, it is obvious that they like to be free and that spirit is visible in whatever they do.”

The pandemic has affected youngsters profoundly, for better or for worse. Through videos and virtual means, youth across



the country have been expressing themselves in unique ways and it is believed that the performing arts are only helping to liberate them even more. For Ashley, in the art form of dance, there is, after all, no perfection, only being one with the self and realising one’s true emotions and passion by dancing from the heart. “I have seen students over the years feel relaxed and happy after a dance session. This is because during the class, stress levels drop and the endorphins take over. This, in turn, makes the mind calm. It can be an extremely therapeutic and spiritual experience. When one dances, one connects to the music and to the self. In that one moment, you become one with yourself and the universe and that strain is the best mantra to get over the pandemic blues,” adds he.

Ashley, who has choreographed for Bollywood films such as *Dhoom*, *Jab We Met*, *Cocktail*, and many others, feels it is important for the youngsters to be guided properly and the importance of discipline should be instilled early. “And then, be it a crisis, pandemic, or any other trouble, you will always see the young rise above and show the discipline in every facet of life,” he says.

The current imbroglia which has stopped dancers worldwide from running riot on the dance floor and forced to channelise their energy online is seeing quite a bit of heft in the youth. Despite being confined to their homes and missing their friends, the youngsters are doing wonders with dance and the arts. “They will become stronger once this is all behind us because even now the youth in my online classes can find balance in dance through the turbulence of the global pandemic. That is the power of the young and restless,” says Ashley.



## Shawn and *The Boys*

Gearing up for a more diabolical season two of the series, *The Boys*, it is all set to introduce an intriguing character — Lamplighter, into the Supes’ universe. A former superstar and one of the original members of *The Seven*, Lamplighter will be played by *X-Men* fame Canadian television and film actor, Shawn Ashmore.

Speaking on roping in Shawn, showrunner and executive producer, Eric Kripke said, “We were thrilled that Shawn, who is, let’s be honest, an OG superhero, wanted to play the crucial part of Lamplighter. He brings so much depth, menace, and world-weary humanity to this former member of *The Seven*. Shawn is a really good guy. We’re grateful to have him join our bloody little family.”

Having mysteriously been replaced by our very own Starlight (played by Erin Moriarty) in season one, the new season will unravel what truly happened with the fire inducing Supe and *The Boys* previously. Their tragic history will be in shambles as Lamplighter enters again and dredges up painful memories, poke at their raw nerves and change everything.

*The Boys 2* will premiere on Amazon Prime Video with the first three episodes on September 4. New episodes will be available



each Friday, culminating in an epic season finale on October 9. This season, the series will also have an after-show titled, *Prime Rewind: Inside The Boys* hosted by Aisha Tyler, which will debut on August 28.



# PEACE, PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY

A series of road and highway projects is on the cards to give impetus to growth in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. By ASHOK TANDON

Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee, founder of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh (predecessor of the present day Bharatiya Janata Party), sacrificed his life spearheading a nationwide Satyagrah (non-violent agitation) demanding complete integration of the state of Jammu & Kashmir into the Indian Union. Dr Mookerjee had defied the entry-permit order of the government on the J&K border on May 10, 1953 and courted arrest chanting: *Ek desh mein do vidhan, do pradhan aur do nishan nahin challe* (There can't be two constitutions, two prime ministers and two flags in one nation).

He was taken to Srinagar jail, where he died under mysterious circumstances on June 23, 1953. Little would have Dr Mookerjee then realised that his mission would be accomplished when a second generation party leader from Gujarat will lead the party.

The NDA government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 5, 2019, revoked the special status granted to the state of Jammu & Kashmir under Article 370 of the Indian Constitution. It enabled people of the state to access all central government programmes and laws including right to reservation for disempowered, right to education and right to information, besides Minimum Wages Act and Minority Act.

The historic presidential order nullifying all the provisions of autonomy granted to the state was followed

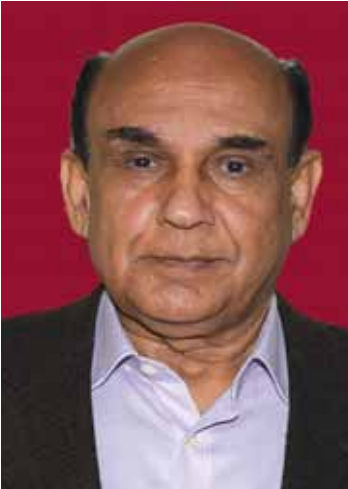
by another landmark and strategically significant State Reorganisation Act, 2019, dividing the state into two Union Territories — Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

Since then the NDA government, over the last one year, has been grappling with a series of challenges on various fronts, including border security, constructive engagement with international community on the J&K issue and domestic political resistance to converting the state into two union territories. And then there was stupendous challenge of fast-tracking all round development ensuring peace, prosperity and welfare of the people and providing corruption free governance in all the three regions.

The central government converted these challenges into an opportunity to undo the betrayal inflicted upon the people of J&K as well as Ladakh in the name of Article 370 by the family-run political parties who ruled the state for most of the last seven decades.

PM's personal appeal to the youth in the region, particularly the misguided elements in the Kashmir valley, "to be a part of this historic journey and walk together for a greater cause" has shown tangible results on the ground.

With both J&K and Ladakh as union territories (Jammu & Kashmir not permanently) directly under the centre, the Modi government unfolded an ambitious roadmap of peace and progress ushering in a new era of inclusive development and transpar-



ent governance in the entire region.

The Team-Modi adopted an integrated approach to build a state-of-the-art infrastructure and unleashed fast-track social welfare and employment generation schemes, especially among the Small, Medium & Micro Enterprises (MSME), including cottage, handicraft, handloom and horticulture enterprises.

Good quality all-weather roads and national highways enhancing the hitherto lacking inter-region and intra-region connectivity has gone a long way in promoting and creating fresh employment opportunities in the post-bifurcation period.

A region-wise performance audit of the promises made, over the last

one year, gives a fairly good account. Although a complete transformation in the landscape of this beautiful region will be on canvas once all the ongoing projects, especially several strategically important national highways, including tunnels in the tough terrains, become operational capable of coping with extreme weather conditions.

## KASHMIR

The Road Transport and Highways Ministry, with its arms like the NHAI and NHIDCL, in concert with the BRO and the state PWD, are currently engaged in completing a series of projects which will give impetus to growth and help the start-ups in establishing producer companies with focus on further development of sericulture, cold water fisheries, woodwork, cricket bats, saffron, handicrafts and horticulture produce.

The ongoing projects include Srinagar-Jammu-Lakhanpur highway, the Qazigund-Banihal tunnel and Srinagar ring road.

## JAMMU

Jammu, with rapidly growing rail and road connectivity, including the Jammu ring road, is getting a huge boost to its economy with flourishing religious tourism and start-ups in businesses like wood grain work, mills, basmati rice trade, rice mills, carpets, electronic items and electric goods.

## LADAKH

Ladakh is witnessing an unprecedented boost to the infrastructure development with all-weather roads and highway network coming up in a big way in difficult terrains and strategic locations. Domestic and international tourism promotion has been given a big push.

Sky seems to be the limit of central financial packages to Ladakh resulting in a phenomenal growth in its farm-based economy through enhanced agriculture and livestock activities. An augmented irrigation facility for horticulture and cash crops has improved productivity putting additional money in farmers' pocket.

Last but not the least, the abrogation of Article 370 and bifurcation of the state into two union territories has given the local communities in all three regions greater sense of participation in public discourse. It is discernible with the youth in the valley joining security forces and civil services and excelling in the field of education and sports.

Today there is greater awareness about women rights and girls education in Kashmir as well as in Ladakh. People are coming forward to join hands with local administration in isolating anti-social elements and exposing Pakistan-sponsored attempts at radicalisation of youth.

(The author is a senior journalist and a member of Prasar Bharati Board.)



## DDA goes digital

In order to facilitate the public interface, Land Disposal department of Delhi Development Authority (DDA) is successfully implementing e-mutation (Online Mutation Application System) under the computerisation project "IDLI System" for plotted properties.

Now, they are introducing two more public services namely e-conversion (online system for conversion from leasehold to freehold of plotted properties) and e-EOT (online application for extension of time).

In order to contain the spread of novel Coronavirus, this initiative will also help in applying and monitoring DDA's online public services without visiting offices. This service would be inaugurated and opened to public today by Anurag Jain, Vice Chairman, DDA. It will reduce the time of processing and bring in transparency. It will be easy to apply, process and monitor the property conversion and extension of time application online from anytime and anywhere.

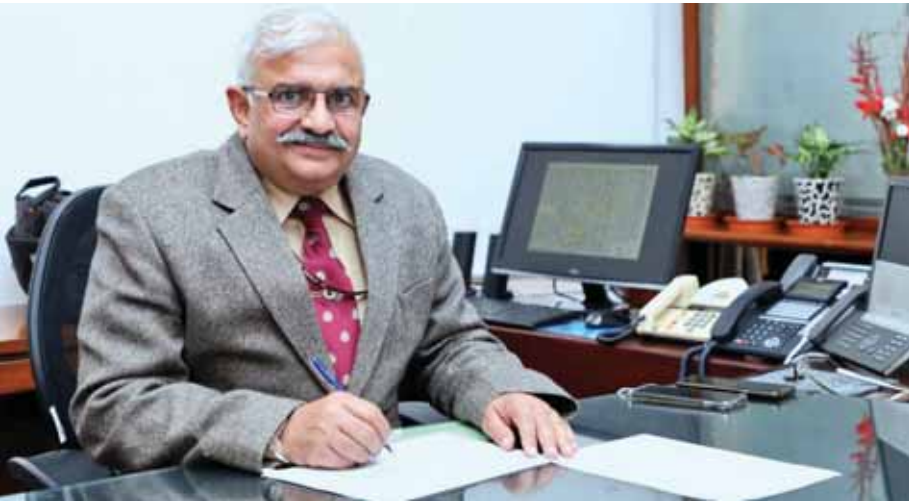
No offline application for conversion and EOT (extension of time) of plotted properties

will be entertained. It is the first end to end public service interface of DDA, which is conceptualised and executed by Subu R. Commissioner (Land Disposal) of DDA.

All the three services can be availed through single username and password.

For applying online conversion application, applicant have to register with DDA public services portal of LD department. An one time password will be sent on the registered email and mobile of the applicant for login. After that, applicant will fill applicant's detail, relation with allottee, property detail, uploading the scanned copy of requisite documents and making online payment of initially conversion charges/processing fee. A registration ID of e-conversion and e-EOT will be sent through an auto generated e-mail for future reference. Stage-wise alerts will be sent to applicant.

IDLI System is also working on e-restoration (restoration of cancelled lease of plotted properties) and e-appointment (online public appointment).



## GM Northern Railway holds performance review meeting

Rajiv Chaudhry, General Manager Northern & North Central Railways held a performance review meeting with the departmental heads of Northern Railway through video conferencing. Among other things special emphasis was given on train operations during the rainy season. The running of trains has its own challenges in the monsoons which includes water logging, inundation and collection of mud and pebbles on the tracks. He advised everyone to be active and vigilant to maintain top operational capabilities. He also added that intensive checking of tracks, major and minor bridges and crossings

should be thoroughly checked by increasing patrolling.

He also called upon the concerned department to clear vegetation from the embankments of the track. Due to the rainy season, the fast growth in vegetation, infringing the tracks and overhead electric wires is another major issue. The divisions have taken permission from the civil authorities and the Forest Department for tree chopping wherever required.

Indian Railways is focusing on increasing the mobility of the passenger and freight trains under the project 'Raftaar'. Sections have been defined in all zones where infrastructure

is to be upgraded to facilitate running of trains upto 160 kmph. GM emphasised on the need of periodic overhauling of the rolling stock i.e. locomotives, coaches and wagons to increase their working abilities. Doubling and electrification of high density routes are to be taken up, for this Detailed Project Reports (DPR) should be prepared and submitted on priority.

Taking note of the working of the Business Development Units of the five divisions, GM lauded their efforts. He stated that freight transportation, both inter and intra state, should be targeted upon.

As a part of the observance of the 'Atma Nirbhar Week', three facilities of Ordnance Factory Board were dedicated to the nation by the Minister of Defence. They are:

□ Manufacturing facility for sighting devices for T-90 Tanks at the Opto Electronics Factory, Dehradun.

The facility comprises ISO-6: Class 1,000 and ISO-7: Class 10,000 level clear environment rooms for the production of var-

## OFB ENHANCES EFFICIENCY

ious high end Opto Electronics and electronics assemblies/sub-assemblies of T-90 systems and Stabilised Remote Controlled Gun (SRCG) project.

□ The automated assembly line for the production of Pinaka Rockets at the Ordnance Factory, Chandrapur.

The system has been conceptualised and devel-

oped indigenously by OF Chanda with M/s Godrej and Boyce, Mumbai. The automated assembly will not only enhance the production capacity but would also be more efficient as it seeks to do away with most of the manual operations. The assembly line has automated safety features and facilities for monitoring the quality of production.

□ The assembly and test-

ing facility of SRCG at the Ordnance Factory, Tiruchirappalli.

The SRCG is a 12.7 mm M2 NATO standard Machine Gun for marine applications. The modern facility with specialised buildings and equipment is for the assembly and for conducting factory acceptance tests of this gun.

These modern, indigenously conceptualised facilities will go a long way in enhancing productivity, quality and efficiency.

## LIC revives lapsed policies

To encourage continuation of risk cover in the current circumstances of high risk, LIC brings an opportunity for its policyholders to revive their lapsed policies. It has decided to launch a Special Revival Campaign from August 10 to October 9 for its customers to revive their individual lapsed LIC policies.

In view of the prevailing circumstances, no concessions are being

offered in medical requirements and the same are limited to late fee only; under plans other than term assurance and other high risk plans.

Under this campaign, policies of specific eligible plans can be revived within five years from date of the first unpaid premium subject to certain terms and conditions. Policies which are in lapsed condition during the premium paying

term and not completed policy term as on the date of revival are eligible to be revived in this campaign.

The campaign is launched to benefit those policy holders who were not able to pay premiums due to unavoidable circumstances and their policy lapsed. It always makes better sense to revive an old policy to restore insurance cover.

## LOVE FOR WRITING

deal with IRS Officer, Neha Chakravarthy.

A science graduate, Chakravarthy has an insatiable passion for writing and considers it as a medium to connect with inner soul. Her passion has increased manifold since

she started to scribble. She is now ready to make a mark with her two poetry collections, *Impressions* and *Reflections*.

In the words of Nitish Raj, Co-Founder, Litteria Insight, "We are delighted to sign Chakravarthy who

brings a huge amount of talent and unparalleled creativity in her writings. She is surely going to be one of the doyens of the literary fraternity in future and we are more than happy to pitch her masterpieces with Big Foot Publications."

## Max Bupa introduces ReAssure insurance plan

Max Bupa — one of the standalone health insurers, has introduced 'ReAssure' — a comprehensive health insurance plan that provides unlimited sum insured for any type of hospitalisation including the ones related to COVID-19. This allows consumers to make as many claims as required for themselves or for family members covered in the same policy, for same or different illness in a year, at no additional cost. A single claim under ReAssure benefit will be payable up to the base sum insured amount. In a nutshell, the customers will never fall short of coverage which is critical to protect against unforeseen medical expenditure towards all kinds of diseases, including COVID. Even in case of critical illnesses like kidney dialysis or cancer, when patients often need hospitalisation multiple times in the same year, unlimited coverage in the product will prove to be extremely useful.

For instance, a family of four are insured with Max Bupa ReAssure policy with ₹10 lakh floater sum insured. In case one of them gets diagnosed with COVID or any other disease covered in the policy and needs hospitalisation, then s/he can



claim coverage up to ₹10 lakh along with the ReAssure benefit getting triggered. Next claim onwards an additional amount of ₹10 lakh per claim for as many number of claims as needed will be available for any insured or any illness in the same year. The benefit will be triggered from the first claim, even if two family members get hospitalised at the same time.

The product comes with a 'Booster Benefit' that doubles the sum insured in just two claim free years. If no claim was made during the year, then for the next year the sum insured will increase by 50 percent. If in the second year also there is no claim, then there will be another 50 percent increase in sum insured which amounts to a total 100 percent increase in sum insured in just two years. Moreover, in case a claim is

made only for COVID in a year, there will be no impact on Booster Benefit which means sum insured will not be impacted and will still increase by 50 percent; up to a maximum of 100 percent.

Commenting on the launch of ReAssure Health Insurance Plan, Krishnan Ramchandran, MD & CEO, Max Bupa Health Insurance said, "ReAssure Health Insurance promises our customers three things which are relevant in times of COVID — Assurance in the form of multiple customer benefits; Accessibility through our quality network across the country and Affordability through the various financial benefits available under the product. The Max Bupa Covid-19 survey shows that 71 percent people now realise the benefits of

health insurance and 57 percent have a strong preference for comprehensive health insurance plans for protection against any unforeseen medical emergencies."

Dr Bhabatosh Mishra, Director — Products, Underwriting & Claims, Max Bupa Health Insurance said, "India is one of the most under penetrated health insurance markets globally, with people either having no health insurance cover being inadequately covered. Considering this, we have launched ReAssure which has the potential to revolutionise how people perceive and utilise health insurance in the country. Each product benefit has been conceptualised with the intent that every customer is adequately covered at any given point in time. At Max Bupa, we acknowledge that people want to be financially secured in these difficult times, hence we have designed a truly cashless product that will ensure there is no financial burden on them once they opt for this policy."

The ReAssure plan is available on individual and family floater basis, with sum insured ranging from ₹3 lakh up to ₹1 crore.

## HARYANA CM INAUGURATES PLASMA BANK

Manohar Lal Khattar, Chief Minister of Haryana & Santosh Kumar Gangwar, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Labour & Employment, Govt of India inaugurated plasma bank at ESIC Medical College and Hospital, Faridabad (Haryana) through video conference from Haryana Bhawan on Friday.

Heera Lal Samariya, Secretary, Govt of India, Anuradha Prasad, Director General, ESIC and officers of MoLE, ESIC & Govt of Haryana also graced the occasion.

Khattar informed about the efforts of Haryana Govt in combating COVID-19 pandemic. He also briefed about the starting of plasma therapy at three different locations — Panchkula, Rohtak and Gurugram. At the end, he made an appeal to the COVID recovered patients to come forward and donate their plasmas to save the lives of others.



During his address, Gangwar informed that the ESIC has been working to provide social security to its insured persons. In the last 67 years of journey, that day, the services of ESIC have expanded to about 566 districts out of 722 and about 12 crore beneficiaries are receiving ESI facilities.

In this crisis situation, 21 ESIC hospitals have been converted into dedicated COVID hospitals. More than 2,400 isolation beds, 550 ICU/HDU beds with 200 ventilators have been made available. Quarantine facility (1300 Beds) has been made

functional in four ESIC hospitals at Alwar (Rajasthan), Bihta, Patna (Bihar), Gulbarga (Karnataka) and Korba (Chhattisgarh). Besides, Covid-19 testing facility has been made available at ESIC hospital, Faridabad (Haryana), Basaidarapur (New Delhi) and Sanathnagar (Hyderabad). Plasma therapy is also being provided at ESIC Hospitals, Faridabad and Sanathnagar for the treatment of serious COVID patients. Gangwar commended the efforts being made by ESIC, an organisation under his Ministry, to combat COVID-19.

## IN SHORT



Kolkata Metro has been observing cleanliness week from August 10 to 16. Special focus has been given to cleanliness of track, station offices, platform and adjoining areas, toilets, railway colonies, drains, water vending points, work sites and hospital. Emphasis is being given to the collection and disposal of plastic wastes in these areas.

As per the directive of the Railway Board, under Swachh Rail Swachh Bharat, special cleanliness drive is being organised in the Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW). It will be carried out in all the offices and workshop premises. It will also be carried out in the Dankuni Unit of CLW.



GAIL (India) Limited has been included in the international FTSE4Good Index Series for the fourth time in a row, affirming the company's commitment towards Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) practices in the oil and gas sector. The index series measures the performance of companies demonstrating strong ESG practices. The



FTSE4Good indexes are used by a wide variety of market participants to create and assess responsible investment funds and other products. GAIL Chairman & Managing Director Manoj Jain said, "I am pleased that the company has been included in the series for the fourth year. This is a proof of our commitment towards sustainable development while also doing business responsibly and focusing on our stakeholders."



Government-owned Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC), a NBFC, signed a MoA with District Administration, Siddharthnagar, Uttar Pradesh for construction of two modular operation theatre rooms in the district hospital. Under the MoA, PFC will provide financial assistance of close to ₹94 lakh to the District Administration under its CSR initiative. M Prabhakar Das, CGM (CSR&SD), PFC and Dr Dinesh Kumar Chaudhary, Dy CMO, Siddharthnagar signed the agreement on behalf of respective organisations. The pact is intended to provide support to the Siddharthnagar District Administration to develop the necessary infrastructure to reduce Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR).





Indian captain Sunil Chhetri with his Bangladeshi counterpart PTI

## No action for Blue Tigers this year

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian football team will not see any action this year with the Asian qualifying matches for the 2022 FIFA World Cup on Wednesday getting postponed to 2021 owing to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Asian Football Confederation postponed all men's qualifiers scheduled in October and November for the 2022 World Cup and the 2023 Asian Cup. India's last international match was the joint qualifying round match against Oman in Muscat in November last year, which they had lost 0-1.

Though out of contention for a place in the next round of World Cup qualifiers, India are still in the reckoning for a spot in the 2023 Asian Cup. They were scheduled to play Qatar at home on October

8 followed by matches against Afghanistan (home) and Bangladesh (away) in November.

A third-place finish in the group will help India get a direct berth in the third round of the qualifiers for the 2023 Asian Cup.

Both FIFA and AFC stated that the decision was taken keeping in mind the safety of all participants during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The games will be rescheduled in 2021.

India are currently fourth in Group E with three points from five games. Qatar top the table with 13 points with Oman a point behind them in second.

Eight group winners and four best runners-up will progress to the continent's 12-team final qualifying stage for the World Cup.

## LATE WINNER

Ocampos' 88th minute header break Wolves hearts; Shakhtar thump Basel to reach semis

AFF ■ DUISBURG

Sevilla qualified for the semi-finals of the Europa League on Tuesday after Lucas Ocampos' late header broke Wolverhampton Wanderers' hearts, while Shakhtar Donetsk thumped Basel 4-1 to join the Spaniards in the last four.

Five-time competition winners Sevilla face Manchester United in Cologne on Sunday thanks to a brilliant header from Argentine Ocampos with less than two minutes left on the clock which gave them a deserved 1-0 win, while Shakhtar take on Inter Milan on Monday in another intriguing tie.

Sevilla dominated their English opponents over the course of the match, as a tired-looking Wolves'



Sevilla players celebrate after Lucas Ocampos scores Spanish club's first goal against Wolves Europa League/Twitter

dreams of European glory ended with a whimper.

"I am very proud of my players. We needed to have lots of patience against a very good team," said Sevilla coach Julen Lopetegui, whose team are now unbeaten in 19 matches in all competitions, to *BT Sport*.

"We have ambition we work very hard... but we are going to play against Manchester United... the biggest team in world football."

Premier League outfit Wolves thought they were set to make the perfect start in the 11th minute when

Adam Traore set off on a sensational surge towards goal from his own half and was chopped down in the area by Diego Carlos.

However, Raul Jimenez, who had scored all of his previous eight penalties for Wolves, sent a weak spot-kick towards Yassine Bounou, who could hardly believe his luck as he batted the Mexican's tame shot aside.

There were claims that Bounou had left his line while Sevilla players seemed to enter the area before the

penalty was taken, but in any case, that was to be Wolves' last shot on target of the match as chances became hard to come by.

In Gelsenkirchen, Shakhtar booked their spot in the last four with a commanding win over Basel that will give Inter Milan something to think about ahead of their semi-final clash on Monday.

"I'm feeling amazing because we have worked hard and we trust we can reach the final," said goalscorer Junior Moraes.



## Serena sets Venus clash in Top Seed Open

AFF ■ LEXINGTON

Sloane Stephens in their opener.

This week's tournament — the first WTA event in the US since the Covid-19 pandemic — is taking place without spectators.

Williams, 38, later revealed that the sedate surroundings had suited her game. "It was a really calm atmosphere, it was really chill," Williams said. "I can't say I disliked it. I didn't mind it at all. I've been through so many things in my career and this was totally different. I think I won today because I was calm for once in my career. Kind of reminds me of junior days. Something nostalgic about that. I kind of enjoyed it."

The 23-time Grand Slam singles champion looked to be flirting with an early exit in the second set, but recovered from 0-40 down at 4-4 before holding and eventually winning the set.

"I just knew I could do better," Williams said. "It was an interesting game. I just had to get used to her game a little bit. She played really well."



## National hockey camps to resume on Aug 19

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The training camps for India's national hockey teams will go ahead as scheduled from August 19 in Bengaluru despite half a dozen men's team players, including skipper Manpreet Singh, being hospitalised after testing positive for Covid-19.

Both the men's and women's teams will resume training at the Sports Authority of India (SAI) South Centre in Bengaluru.

"...The Indian men's and Indian women's hockey teams are scheduled to resume sports activities from, Wednesday 19th August 2020, following the completion of their 14-day quarantine period," the SAI said in a statement on Wednesday.

The decision was taken after a discussion with the game's stakeholders, including Hockey India officials and chief coaches of both the teams.

"...After giving the utmost priority to the safety and well-being of all the athletes, it has been decided that the sporting activities will be resumed at SAI's National Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru, as scheduled earlier."

The camp for male hockey players was uncertain after six of them tested positive for Covid-19. The women's camp, however, was never in doubt



after all of them tested negative for the dreaded virus.

Currently, 33 male and 24 female players are in Bengaluru for the camp.

The light intensity national camp is expected to continue till September 30.

Men's hockey team chief coach Graham Reid said the health and wellbeing of the players and support staff will be the top priority during the camp.

The six Covid positive players will be integrated into the

## CSK expect Dhoni to play until 2022

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Chennai Super Kings CEO Kasi Vishwanathan feels their talisman Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who has not played any competitive cricket since last year's World Cup semifinal, will be part of the franchise in 2021 and 2022 IPLs.

The 39-year-old Dhoni is set for a return to competitive cricket in the upcoming IPL, to be played in the UAE from September 19 to November 10.

"We can expect MS Dhoni to be part of both (IPL 2020 and 2021) and probably for even the next year

— 2022," Viswanathan was quoted as saying by *indiatoday.in*.

"I am getting updates through the media only, saying he has been training in Jharkhand in indoor nets. But we don't have to worry about the skipper, boss. We don't worry about him at all.

"He knows his responsibilities and he will take care of himself and the team."

N Srinivasan, the vice-chairman and managing director of India Cements, owners of the CSK franchise, in January said that Dhoni would be retained by the team for



## Sri Lanka, UAE kept as back up for 2021 WT20

**NEW DELHI:** Sri Lanka and United Arab Emirates are the two back-up countries being zeroed in on by the ICC, in case India is unable to host next year's T20 World Cup.

While there is still one year to go before the mega event which was set to be held in Australia this year but got postponed due to Covid-19.

According to a report in *ESPN Cricinfo*, "Sri Lanka and the UAE are among the back-up venues for the 2021 men's T20

World Cup, should the Covid-19 pandemic make India an untenable host."

The ICC confirmed last week that India will host next year's tournament as scheduled in the original FTP while this year's postponed edition in Australia goes ahead in 2022.

However it is a standard protocol to have back-up venues listed for any global event.

"Identifying potential back-up venues is standard practice for every ICC event, but it takes

## RR fielding coach tests virus +ve

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Rajasthan Royals' fielding coach Dishant Yagnik has tested positive for Covid-19, the IPL team announced on Wednesday, making it the first such case among the league franchises ahead of their departure next week to this year's tournament venue, the UAE.

Yagnik is currently in his hometown Udaipur and has

been advised to get admitted to hospital for his 14-day quarantine.

"Post 14 days, Dishant will be undergoing two tests as per the protocols of BCCI. On return of two negative reports, he will be allowed to join the team after self isolating for 6 days and receiving 3 further negative tests upon his arrival in the UAE," said Royals in a statement.

## Eng will sweep Pak series: Vaughan

**SOUTHAMPTON:** Former England captain Michael Vaughan predicted the hosts will sweep the three-test series against Pakistan despite the absence of talismanic all-rounder Ben Stokes for the last two matches.

"He (Stokes) plays a big, big role in that dressing room," Vaughan wrote in a blog, although he had no doubts about the depth in the England squad. "Even though Ben Stokes is out I think England will be too strong. England will win the series 3-0, that's my prediction."

He also felt England might rest veteran quick James Anderson in the second Test beginning on Thursday.

"I'd be surprised if he plays back-to-back games, so I think he will be rested. Maybe Sam Curran will come in for him or Mark Wood," he added. "Zak Crawley will probably come in for Ben Stokes." **Agencies**

tweeted a picture of himself with an elderly lady from the golf course adjacent to the team hotel despite strict instructions that they shouldn't interact with anyone outside the bubble.

A source close to the Pakistan team said Hafeez's breach of protocol had upset everyone as all players had been told specifically to avoid interaction with anyone outside the bio secure bubble, since the course is open to the public in Southampton. Hafeez put himself in trouble when he posted a tweet of himself and the lady termed her as inspirational.

The ECB medical team is aware of the breach of protocol and Hafeez will most likely have to isolate himself for five days and then undergo two negative Covid-19 tests before he rejoins the team again.

The ECB is taking any breach of the biosecurity protocol very seriously and fast bowler Joffra Archer was also reprimanded and was dropped for the second Test against West Indies after he also breached the biosecurity bubble by going to his apartment in Brighton.

he will get back into it pretty soon, but fitness is an important thing," the coach said. According to the report, Sri Lanka Cricket chief executive Mohan de Silva said the two boards have reached an agreement on Bangladesh's departure date, which has been set as September 24.

But there are still discussions over whether it will be a two or three-match Test series after the BCB requested a three-match T20I series in addition to the original schedule.

Shakib is set to start training at the BKSP facility ahead of his return to competitive cricket.

Domingo, however, added



"If you want to test yourself, you have to play against teams at this high level."

The Ukrainian side got off to a flyer thanks to Brazil-born Moraes, who headed home Marlos' corner with less than two minutes on the clock, and they never looked back from that point on.

Taison put Shakhtar two ahead 20 minutes later when his deflected shot flashed past Basel's bamboozled goalkeeper Dorde Nikolic.

Alan Patrick put the result beyond doubt from the penalty spot with 14 minutes left after Taison's burst into the box was ended by a clumsy challenge from Basel defender Yannick Marchand.

Shakhtar rounded off a fine display in the 88th minute when right-back Dodo combined with Tete before smashing home a superb finish.

Ricky van Wolfswinkel's close-range strike for Basel a minute into stoppage time made no difference to a thumping defeat for the Swiss.



Sevilla players celebrate after Lucas Ocampos scores Spanish club's first goal against Wolves Europa League/Twitter

## SINGLES

**3 INDIANS IN LPGA EVENT FOR FIRST TIME**

**NORTH BERWICK:** In a first for Indian women's golf, three leading players — Aditi Ashok, Diksha Dagar and Tvesa Malik — will tee up at an LPGA event together, the Ladies Scottish Open, starting on Thursday. Diksha plays with Stephanie Kyriacou and Yu Liu at 7.15 am while Aditi plays with Scottish star Carly Booth and South African Lee-Ann Pace at 9.58 am. Tvesa has been drawn with Yealimi Noh and Emily Pedersen, and they tee off at 12.22 pm.

**BARCA PLAYER TESTS CORONA POSITIVE**

**BARCELONA:** A Barcelona player has tested positive for the novel coronavirus after reporting back for pre-season training, the La Liga side said in a statement on Wednesday. Barca said the player was isolating in his home and was asymptomatic, adding that he had not been in contact with any of the players who are to travel to Lisbon for the Champions League Final Eight tournament.

**LIVERPOOL SET FOR RECORD DAY**

**LIVERPOOL:** Liverpool will receive a record 175 million pounds payout for winning the Premier League after all 20 clubs in England's top-flight agreed to postpone any reductions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. *The Times* reported on Wednesday that teams will receive their entire payout for last season and rebates to broadcasters, which could amount to 330 million pounds.

**DELHI'S SUDEVA FC TO PLAY IN I-LEAGUE**

**NEW DELHI:** Sudeva FC will become the first ever football club from Delhi to play in the I-League as the All India Football Federation (AIFF) on Wednesday approved the city side's participation in the second-tier domestic competition from the upcoming season. The AIFF also announced Visakhapatnam side Sreenidhi FC's entry into the I-League from 2021-2022 season.

**SPURS SIGN SOUTHAMPTON'S HOJBJERG**

**LONDON:** Tottenham Hotspur have signed Denmark midfielder Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg from Southampton on a five-year deal with full back Kyle Walker-Peters moving in the opposite direction on a similar contract. Financial details of the transfer were not disclosed but British media reported that Spurs have paid Southampton an initial fee of around 15 million pounds to sign the 25-year-old Hojbjerg who had a year left on his contract. **Agencies**

## Unacademy to fight for IPL title sponsorship rights

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Education technology company *Unacademy*, which is already one of IPL's sponsors, is eyeing the league's title sponsorship rights now and is set to submit its bid to replace

Chinese mobile phone company Vivo this season.

A BCCI official confirmed that *Unacademy* has picked up the bid papers but refrained from making any comments beyond that.

"I can confirm that *Unacademy* has shown interest and picked the bid papers. I have heard they will be submitting a bid and are pretty serious. So *Patanjali* if they

bid, will have competition," the senior official told *PTI*.

Vivo, which annually paid ₹440 crore, dropped out as title sponsor this year due to the Sino-India border stand-off.

The BCCI is now looking at a lesser value — between ₹300 to 350 crore

— for a period of four months and 13 days.

The official said *Unacademy* is a part of IPL's central sponsorship pool with other companies like *Dream11* and *Paytm*.

"Yes, *Unacademy* is already in IPL's central sponsors' pool from 2020 to 2023," the BCCI official said.



## Hafeez breaks bio-bubble



Mohammad Hafeez tweets picture with a 90+ year old lady at Golf course

PTI ■ KARACHI

The Pakistan Cricket Board is furious at former captain Mohammad Hafeez for his apparent breach of the biosecurity protocol imposed by the England and Wales Cricket Board for the ongoing away series.

The former skipper, who is not a part of the Test squad is there for the limited overs leg. On Wednesday, Hafeez

## Robinson replaces Stokes for 2nd Test

**PTI ■ SOUTHAMPTON**

Fast bowler Ollie Robinson replaced Ben Stokes as England on Wednesday named a 14-member squad for the second Test against Pakistan, starting Thursday at The Ageas Bowl.

The 26-year-old trained with the squad during the West Indies series and took

eight Hampshire wickets during his subsequent appearance in the Bob Willis Trophy.

But whether he makes a Test debut at Ageas Bowl on Thursday could depend on how the England attack that played in a three-wicket win in the first of a three-match series recovers from their exertions at Old Trafford last week.

## Shakib could return during SL tour

**DHAKA:** Serving a ban for not reporting corrupt approaches, Bangladesh's premier all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan is likely to return to the national fold for a tour of Sri Lanka later this year, with his suspension ending on October 29.

The southpaw was banned for two years, one year of it was suspended, for failing to report corrupt approaches by an alleged bookie during the IPL.

Bangladesh's tour of Sri Lanka is more or less confirmed and given the schedule, Shakib could feature in the proposed three-match T20 series.

"I think Shakib being out for a year is not that much different to the rest of our squad

who have been out for six or seven months as well," Bangladesh head coach Russell Domingo was quoted as saying by *ESPNCricinfo*.

"We are hoping all the players are fit. Obviously, there are standards that they need to attain in terms of fitness level. We have to organise a bit of game time for Shakib, as well as for all the players."

The all-rounder's fitness will be taken into consideration before picking him. "It is very difficult to get into international cricket without any sort of cricket. I think we need to try to find some opportunities for him to play some games. He is a world-class player so I am sure

## All 6 players shifted to hospital

**BENGALURU:** Five Covid-19 positive hockey players have been shifted to a hospital in Bengaluru as a precautionary measure after striker Mandeep Singh was transferred to the facility following a dip in his blood oxygen level, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) said on Wednesday.

"...The Sports Authority of India decided to shift the other five players, to SS Sparsh Multi-speciality hospital in Bengaluru on Tuesday afternoon, as a precautionary measure," the SAI said.

"The decision to hospitalise them was taken so as to ensure that the players were attended to at all times and could be given the best possible treatment. All six athletes are in good health and recovering well." **PTI**

group once they recover from the virus.

"They are in good spirits, and are looking forward to a quick recovery. Once recovered and after following protocol of quarantine, we look forward to have them back with us," Reid said.