WORLD 8

SURPRISED THAT BIDEN PICKED

'DISRESPECTFUL' KAMALA: TRUMP

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SARA PENS A SPECIAL NOTE FOR MOM

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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 after police opened fire to quell a mob that went on a rampage in a locality Bengaluru rirked over a Facebook post put out by a Congress MLA's relative, with the Government terming the violence as a "wellplanned act."

"Three people have died (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



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

ACTIONS-REACTIONS

- 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

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 riot-

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'

demanding release of the Instead of releasing him back

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

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

have signed the petition now, but he is still in Kraal.

as per direction of the Forest

The activists have alleged Several elephant lovers that the elephant is tortured in world over, including Dr the zoo. "His health and leg Biswajit Mohanty from Odisha, injuries seem to be improved

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

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 relat-

ing to industries. At a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, the Cabinet decided to amend the Factory Act 1948 to ers 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

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 secu-

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

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 crore were also

Revenue Spl Secy in Vig net

PNS BHUBANESWAR

Acting on complaints of acquisition of assets disproportionate to his known sources of income has Burney 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 on his office room and houses at many places to detect assets possessed by him and his fam-



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, thee flats in his name, two in Bhubaneswar and one in Puri, were traced. The raids were in progress, informed an official

State Covid recovery, tatality rates higher in country

The elephant "Rakesh" was

captured in January and kept at

PNS BHUBANESWAR

PNS BHUBANESWAR

 $E_{\text{Day was observed on}}^{\text{ven as the World Elephant}}$

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 Tripahy 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 dis-

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

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.

to the wild or a sanctuary, dis-

cussions are going on to tame

(cruel way of training) him to

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

The fear for the disease 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

captivity of the elephant is

against provisions of the

Wildlife Protection Act

Day's highest 297 in Khordha

PNS BHUBANESWAR

Nine more persons suc-cumbed to Covid-19 on Wednesday, breaching the 300mark 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 48year-old woman, a 57-year-old man, a 74-year-old woman and a 57-year-old man. The deceased of Rayagada

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

were both 65-year-old men.

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, Mayurbhani 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

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 Village; two of Unit-4 near RBI Cuttack, 120 in Koraput and Colony; two of Salia Sahi; and 100 in Puri.

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

PNS BHUBANESWAR

s many as 187 new Covid-As many as 107 new 2011.

19 positive cases were registered under the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) area on Wednesday. With this, the city's total case rose to

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 Chandrasekharpur; four 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

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

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

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 Malgodown Jalua Sahi, 13 from institutional quarantine, 27 from home quarantine and 21 local contact

OPINION 6 POLITICS OF **DEFECTION**

ne pioneer BHUBANESWAR | THURSDAY | AUGUST 13, 2020

Virus at peak in | 70.21% clear +2 Sc exams; boys outshine girls Khordha, decline in Ganjam

Khordha district appears to be at peak of the coron-avirus 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.

25K get 1stDiv; 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).

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 Second Division 18,260 Third Division. As many as 137 students have secured above 90 per cent

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

Nayagarh has recorded the highest pass rate of 86.51 per

cent, while Jharsuguda record-

ed lowest pass rate of 40.71 per

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

Total 97,377 stu-

dents had appeared for the examinations

held in March.

Examination to

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

Target: 1 lakh tests a day

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 anti-

gen tests will be increased significantly and contact tracing will be emphasised for early isolation of the Covid-19-infected persons," said Dr

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,

Puri seer launches coconut sapling distribution

30K saplings to be distributed in Puri dist

PNS PURI

Tagadguru 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 sampling 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



Shreemandir Muktimandap member Bichitrananda Mishra also graced as the occasion as

Volunteers like Bhabagrahi

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

Bhasha secretary Jayanti

The coconut distribution work would end on Gandhi Jayanti on October 2, said OIC

Healthy ageing conf held in city

Experts talk about sound living

PNS BHUBANESWAR

n international conference, A'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 cogni-

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

+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 cri-

sis 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

CUO webinar: New Edu Policy hailed

on 'National Education Policy 2020: Perspectives on Excellence in Higher Education' on August 10. Vice-Chancellor Prof I

Ramabrahmam inaugurated

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-cul-

said implementation of the policy is a major challenge and can happen when everybody commits to perform and participate in key interven-

Assam Science and Technology University, Guwahati VC Prof Dhiraj University, 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 He welcomed the proposearly childhood education and The Central University of Odisha (CUO), Koraput, al of 6 per cent of GDP expenditure on education and other secondary education into the Right to Education Act, which

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 chal-

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'

PNS CUTTACK

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

"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

SUCI(C) urges Govt 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 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 HAL, NALCO, DRDO, NAD, NMDC, RSPL, VSPL, JK Paper, Utkal Alumina would be the potential sponsors of their

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/execu-

For I-Day celebrations Weekend shutdown relaxed in 4 dists

PNS BHUBANESWAR

Kingdom, supported

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 Special Relief Commissioner's Office, the weekend shutdown imposed in Ganjam, Khordha, Gajapati and Cuttack districts and the 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



¬wo 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 corruptionaccused 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

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

Control to govern British India

iointly, the Crown holding the

successfullly 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 randed 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 business-

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 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 ooard was presided over by the president, who soon effectivebecame 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 author-

ity 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

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 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 leg-endary Mughal Emperor Akbar who had kept all communities happy by his great governing skills and secular principles

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After Beirut blast

State seeks explosive storage info from factories

 $F^{\text{ollowing the massive blast}}_{\text{in Lebanon's capital Beirut,}}$ 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

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

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 facto-

Jumbo dead on Elephant

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 oaming 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

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

No livelihood, man attempts selfimmolation

JAJPUR: A 33-year-old man on Wednesday allegedly attempted to immolate himself in Dasarathpur panchayat in Jajpur district as his livelihood

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 autorickshaw purchased by him through a loan was not fetching him adequate income due ing 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 con-

JSPL 1st Indian firm **INBRIEF** 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.

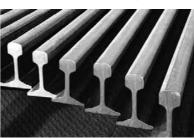
The became the first Indian company to

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 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 highspeed rail track projects, including Kolkata Metro corridors," said JSPL MD VR

advantage of the situation have stocked up the fertiliser and

The urea is now sold at

open market at Rs 450 to Rs

550 instead of its Government

rate of Rs 266. Unless the gen-

uine problem is solved, most

farmers will not hesitate to

launch large scale agitation

against the Government,

mitted to the district Collector,

the district Congress leaders

have alleged that due to short-

age of urea in the district, the

farmers were facing monetary

In a memorandum sub-

warned the farmers.

selling them at high rates.

JEEVAN BINDU BLOOD DONATION CAMP



Keonihar: 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 Sabyasachi 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

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

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 villages in Jharsuguda. The saplings distributed under the company's livelihood programme Jeevika Samridhhi

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 Ñovel 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

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

self esteem of the inmates through various efforts. Authorities are promoting Authorities are promoting leafy vegetables, pulses and other consumables are produced in a big way throughout

> The jail campus is having a huge garden and all the year 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 produc-ing 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.

Urea crunch hits agri ops in Jharsuguda

Farmers left in lurch

RAJ KUMAR SHARMA ■ JHAR-

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

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

Section 144 clamped in Sambalpur town

To contain virus infections

PNS ■ SAMBALPUR

The district administra-tion on Wednesday clamped Section 144 of CrPĆ in as many areas of Sambalpur town to curb the surge in coronavirus infec-

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

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

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.

Bareipali, Kansaripada.

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

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 compositing 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

Famers can

PNS ■ BOUDH

Indian An indian 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 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

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

Lagna for Aug 23 Nuakhai festival finalised

PNS ■ SAMBALPUR

The Lagna (propitious I 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

Krishna).

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 Janmashtami (birthday of Lord



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 festi-

val, is celebrated with pomp and gaiety across the western

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

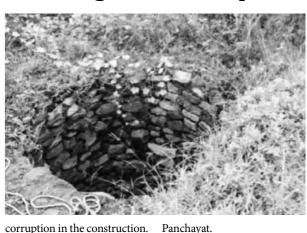
Dug-well scheme irregularities galore in N'pada

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

Chaitanya 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

Both the beneficiaries sense



Golabeda is a hamlet of "We have drawn attention of the Nangalbod village, about 35 BDO by submitting our grievance in writing; we want action,

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

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,

2 desi LCH deployed in Leh to guard LAC

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

"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 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

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-ofthe-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

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

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 precau-

shrink by at least five per cent.

There is a fear that we may even

reach the lowest GDP (growth)

since independence, since

had hit out at the centre over

the unemployment issue accus-

ing the Narendra Modi gov-

ernment of failing to meet its

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 with-

out jobs. He launched the "Rozgar Do" campaign and urged young people without

jobs to raise their voices, speak

out and "awaken the govern-

ment from its slumber".

He accused the Narendra

Couple of days ago, Rahul

1947," Murthy said.

promises.

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

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 Chinack heavy lift transports.

with Chinook heavy lift transport helicopters are also flying regular sorties near the LAC in

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

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

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 th 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

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

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

121 cops get HM Medal for Excellence in Investigation

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 jusrecipients of 'Medal for Excellence in Investigation-Constable 2020'. This is recognition of the outstanding service and commitment of our police

The recipients are from Commissioner of Police ranks. State Police, CBI, NIA personnel involved in the inves-

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

personnel. India is proud of

them!," tweeted Home

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $T^{\text{he Supreme Court has}}_{\text{sought response from the}}$ 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

"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 fumigation of organic disin-

fectants for the purposes disinfecting human beings.

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



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

 $F^{ormer\,Congress\,chief\,Rahul}_{Gandhi\,on\,\,Wednesday\,took}$ a jibe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi citing BJP's election slogan "Modi hai toh 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 BIP-led government over several issues including the standoff with China, economic distress, and COVID-19 handling.

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

Tndia's Covid-19 recovery rate Lcrossed 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

The case fatality rate has further declined to 1.98 per cent, it said. The highest single-day

recoveries at 56,110 are the mentation 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 med-

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.

plan for such patients.

per million population of child-

hood aplastic anemia in India

and other Asian countries is

higher than what is observed in

the West," explains Dr

States advised not to chart separate ways for procuring Vaccine shots once ready PNS NEW DELHI Biotech and the DNA vaccine

he 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 pened 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

Radhakrishnan. The scenario is

gloomy for the patients afflict-

ed with the disease as they need

blood transfusion almost every

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 vaccina-tion 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 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 (NŤAGI).

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

Union after 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 on the country's environmental regulatory framework and its impact on environment calling it "fundamentally flawed.

In a letter to Javadekar, Minister, said the Standing Committee met on August 7 and was apprised by officials on the Draft EIA Notification

"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-

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,

'Your claim that the clearance is not an ex post facto one as 'it is prospective in nature, penalized' is contrary to how it will actually play out in

"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.

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

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Poverty, Government apathy and Covid-19 inducedlockdown 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 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 unprecedented 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 suc-cumbed 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

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 covidlockdown, no blood products



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

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 tal located near the country's either BMT or IST with ATG capital. Several have gone unreand cyclosporine, says Dr ported. The Government has Radhakrishnan in her case no policy nor any long-term report "Aplastic anemia: Non-COVID casualties in the "The prognosis of severe Covid-19 era," published in aplastic anemia in our country the latest edition of Indian Journal of Palliative Care. is dismal. The incidence of 4–6

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

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

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 from money Government schemes such as

Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi, Chief

Minister and Prime Minister's relief fund often due to lack of proper documents, she added. Delay means, risk of con-

tracting 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 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

COVID-19 OUTBREAK

TN: 5,871 +ve, Jawan hurt as terrorists target QRT 119 die on Wed convoy on Srinagar-Baramulla highway

¬amil Nadu on Wednesday diagnosed 5,871 new persons with Covid-19 while 119 patients succumbed to the pandemic during the 24 hours that ended at 6 pm on Wednesday, said a medical bulletin issued by the

Department of Health. There were 52, 929 active cases as on Wednesday evening all over the State. Number of patients subjected to testing on Wednesday saw an increase as 69, 697 persons were tested across the State thanks to the 133 laboratories.

Till Wednesday, the State has tested 3.14 lakh positive cases while 2.56 lakh has been cured of the pandemic.



Number of Covid-19 patients in the cluster involving Chengalpet, Chennai, Kancheepuram Thiruvallur districts remained high compared to other dis-

Chennai had 993 patients on Wednesday while Chengalpet had 439 patients. Kancheepuram (371) and Thiruvallur (407) did not show any signs of abatement of the

ment of security convoys. Meanwhile, in another anti-

injuring one soldier.

coming days.

stretches of different highways

and interior road links across

Jammu & Kashmir to prevent any

major strike by terrorists or IED

attack on security convoys in the

sniffer dogs have been pressed into

service along with road opening

parties to thoroughly sanitise the

road networks ahead of the move-

Quick reaction teams and

of the security forces eliminated a In the run up to the Independence day celebrations local commander of pro-Pakistan terror outfit Hizbul Mujahideen in Kashmir valley, terrorists on while one jawan of the Indian Wednesday targeted a Quick Army sacrificed his life during the Reaction Team (ORT) of the operation in Kamrazipora area of

Pulwama. The terrorist killed in the operation has been identified as Hizb-ul-Mujahideen commander Azaad Lalhari.

Police said, "Azaad Lalhari was involved in the killing of police head constable Anoop Singh on 22 May 2020 at Prichu Pulwama where he fired at a naka

At least six FIRs were registered against him for different terrorist related incidents of violence in the area.

According to Srinagar based Defence Spokesman, Col Rajesh Kalia, "Terrorists fired at a Quick Army on wednesday. The QRT was moving from Baramulla towards Gulmarg on the Srinagar-Baramulla National Highway near Trumgund Hygam crossing. One Army soldier was injured. Search

operation in progress".
Sharing details of Operation
Kamrazipora, Pulwama, Col Kalia
said, "One terrorist was killed. 01 AK along with grenades, pouches & other war like stores recovered. One soldier laid down his life in the line of duty'

He said the martyred army jawan has been identified as 25 years old Sowar Jilajeet Yadav of Jaunpur district in Uttar Pradesh.

Before dispatching his mortal remains to his native village, Lt Gen BS Raju, Chinar Corps Commander and all ranks paid homage to the braveheart.He is survived by his wife, Punam Devi.

Covid positive to virus negative for a price?

Operators' salary withheld August 7, he was found positive with coro-

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

The Health Department has transformed the corona era into an opportunity for corruption. The data operators posted here are wrongly entering the name-address, mobile number after taking bribe from the people. ACM-2 Ranjit Singh has revealed the data operators posted at Deendayal Hospital to have a breach in records at the time of sampling of a jeweler's son. One month salary of three operators has been withheld. They have also been given notices. This action has caused panic in the health department.

The case relates to a jewelers family running a jewelery shop near Meenakshi Bridge. The family hails from Prayag Mill Compound. Saraf and his wife and one son underwent antigen test at Deendayal Hospital on August 4. In this test, husband and wife were found to be infected, while the son was found to be negative. On this, the couple was sent on home isolation and the son's sample was sent for RTPCR investigation. On

na virus. It is said that on this, the administration tried to find him based on the records, but the mobile number written in the record started going off. A person with that name was also not found at the address. On DM's order, ACM-2 Ranjit Singh started investigation. This made the data operators nervous and corrected the young man's name on the record. On 10 August, the young man was caught. During interrogation of the youth, it was revealed that the father had misnamed his son's name with the help of the data operators. He was sent to grand mother's house when the report came positive.

According to ACM-2, one month's salary of accused data operators Shivam, Ravi and Tarun has been withheld. The matter is very serious. They have been given notices. All three are on contract. Along with this, two lab technicians Pushpendra and Omar have also been found to be doing negligient work in registering name, address and mobile number. A warning has been given to them for such negligience and carelessness in the

Gold bars imported as Qurans, alleges Kerala BJP chief

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

¬wo serious allegations have been made by two prominent Opposition leaders in Kerala against the CPI(M)-led Government. K Surendran, BJP State Chief alleged that the consignment from UAE Conuslate received by KT Jaleel, higher Education Minister who is also the former SIMI leader, were gold bars and not Qurans.

The Minister had claimed from day one onwards that the boxes contained Quran for distribution in the State. But the UAE Embassy officials in New Delhi had made it clear that the West Asian country never sends Quran to other countries as a

The Customs officials who inspected the C APT (Centre for Advanced Printing and Training), a Government of Kerala organisation that comes under the Higher Education Department had found that the consignment was brought to this office before it was sent to other places in the State in Department Vehicles.

Surendra said that the gold smuggling through diplomatic channel was the handiwork of big sharks and not small fish. 'Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan knows who are the persons behind the massive gold smuggling syndicate as many people in his office were associated with it," said Surendran while addressing a virtual rally at Palakkadu.

Ramesh Chennithala leader of opposition, while addressing reporters at the State capital said that the situation in Kerala due to Covid-19 was pathetic because the Chief Minister and his council of Ministers failed to tackle the spread of the pandemic.

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Kerala Government has managed to bring down the number of new coronavirus patients on Wednesday to 1,212 according to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

Briefing the media on Wednesday, the Chief Minister said that 880 persons were cured of the pandemic and discharged from hospitals. But out of the 1,212 persons tested positive on Wednesday, 1,068 contracted Covid-19 through local contact. 45 persons who tested positive failed to give the details of the source from where they contracted the pandemic," he

The Chief Minister said that though some regions showed abatement of the pandemic, situation in most districts remained critical.

The superintendents of police in the districts are devising strategies to counter the pandemic and it will definitely bring down the Covid-19 in the State," said

He said 28, 664 samples were tested during the last 24 hours while five persons succumbed to the pandemic. Thiruvananthapuram which tested 266 positive cases remained the district with the highest num-

According to Vijayan, Kerala continued to be the State with the best Covid-19 management and

1,212 new cases in Kerala | People coming out to support three-language formula in TN

lose on the heels of Prof E Balagurusamy, former Vice-Chancellor, University, who lambasted the Tamil Nadu Government and the Dravidian parties for their opposition towards the threelanguage formula proposed by the Centre in its National Education Policy, more social activists, educationists and parents have come out questioning the propriety behind the resistance to introduce other languages in Tamil Nadu. An educationist has called for a referendum on the issue of introducing a three-language for-

Vanathi Srinivasan, vicepresident, Tamil Nadu BJP who has been fighting to get the impeded irrigation projects

region going, charged the Dravidian politicians who play with the future of the children. "None of them send their children to Government Schools but to public schools which charge exorbitant fees where Hindi, Sanskrit are all compulsory. But these politicians make sure that Hindi is not taught in Government -run schools because they want to keep students from poor and rural families in perpetual ignorance," said Srinivsan. An apolitical person like

ijayashree Ramesh, lawyer and activist, pointed out that Chennai is the headquarters of Dakshin Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha because the founder, Mahatma Gandhi, wanted students in Tamil Nadu as well as other South Indian States to learn Hindi. "Interestingly, the owners and proprietors of private schools which teach Hindi as a compulsory subject are the ones who oppose the intro-duction of Hindi or three-language formula in the State. It is sad and shocking that students in Tamil Nadu do not get the opportunity to learn in Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya. The opposition to Hindi by the Dravidian political parties are causing havoc in the lives of poor students in Tamil Nadu," said Ramesh.

Srinivasan said the opposition of Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswai was only because of DMK president Stalin's opposition to Hindi. "Palaniswami fears that if he supports Hindi, he may lose out to Stalin in the race for Chief Minister's chair in the next assembly election," she

Mizoram to boost Covid testing capacity

Aizawl: The Mizoram Government will Purchase 10,000 more rapid antigen kits to boost the states Covid-19 testing capacity, Chief Minister Zoramthanga said on Wednesday.

The Chief Minister made the announcement at a meeting with officials of the state government, NGOs, churches and doctors, according to an official.

Every citizen should take precautionary measures as community transmission can take place at any time. The preventive measure is for our safe-

ty against the pandemic. Testing should be done in a massive way and more rapid antikits will be purchased, Zoramthanga was quoted as saying by the

It was agreed at the meeting that the existing safety protocol will be enforced more strictly in the wake of the spurt in cases, the official said.

Funerals with maximum 50 people will henceforth be held either at church halls or community halls but not in private residences to ensure that social distancing is

87 infected in Nagaland, tally rises to 3,118

Kohima: Nagaland on Wednesday reported 87 New Covid-19 cases while 129 people recovered from the virus in the state, an official of the Heath department said.

With the 87 fresh cases, the state's Covid-19 tally has increased to 3,118 of which 1,991 are active cases as 1,113 disease, eight have died and six have migrated to other states, the official said.

"87 new +ve cases of Covid-19 have been detected out of 614 samples tested. 48 in Dimapur, 35 in Kohima, 3 in Zunheboto & 1 in Wokha. Necessary contact tracing have activated. Wear Mask, Keep Distance, Stay Safe," Nagaland Health minister S Pangnyu Phom tweeted.

Additional Director, Health and Family Welfare, Dr Denis Hangsing said 129 Covid-19 patients tested negative for the virus on Wednesday, taking the total number of recovered people to 1,113.

This has improved the recovery rate of the state to 35.69 per cent from Tuesdays 32.49 per cent, he said.

On August 6 the state had reported the highest number of 134 recoveries. Nagaland reported the first three Covid-19 cases on May 25 while the highest single-day spike was recorded on August 4 with 276

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horticulture Technology invites Expression of Interest in Seal cover from Institutes, public sector undertaking, private entrepreneur, agenesis. Project from Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India New Delhi "Establishment of Biotechnology, Ministry Martin Control of Programment of Programment of Programment of Biotechnology, Government of Biotechnology, Government of Biotechnology, Martin Martin Control of Programment of Biotechnology, Martin Control of Progra KISAN Hub at IHT Mandira Assam ' Banana micro propagation unitWe invite the EOI companies interested to quote on Turnkey basis. Including all material, as per our work plan details available on our website .Total duration of completion of project is 20 days of from date of order, the sealed Expression of interest should be submitted to this institute on or before in21 days from the date of publishing of this EOI, the technical bid will be open at the same date at 11:00 am and financial bid next day at 11:00 am in the office of Institute of Horticulture Technology Mandira, Kamrup -781127. The sealed envelopes technical and commercial big separately and 2% EMD of THE project cost, in technical bid envelop should be mentioned the project name

Administrative officer Institute of Horticulture Technology Email Id: enquiry@iht.edu.in

Assam flood: 3 districts remain submerged

Guwahati: Dhemaji, Baksa and Morigaon Districts of Assam continued to remain submerged on Wednesday, even as floodwaters receded from most parts of the state,

according to an official bulletin.

At present, 14,205 people are suffering due to the deluge in these three districts while 7,009 hectares cording to the daily flood bulletin of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA)

Dhemaji is the worst-hit district with 12,908 people affected, followed by Baksa where 1,000 people are suffering, and Morigaon with 297 people hit by the calamity. On Tuesday, 13,800 persons were reported to be affected across the three districts.

The total number of people losing their lives in this year's flood and landslide stands at 136 across the state. Of them, 110 persons were killed in flood-related incidents and 26 died in

Maha records spike with 344 deaths, 12,712 +ve cases

Breaching the 300-fatality mark on the third occasion during the current month, Covid-19 claimed 344 more lives and left 12,712 others infected in various parts of Maharashtra on Wednesday

Maharashtra, which had witnessed 334 pandemic deaths on August 5 and 390 deaths on August 9, recorded 344 deaths on Wednesday, thus taking the total number of deaths to 18650.

number of infections in the state jumped to 5,48,313. Of the 344 deaths reported on Wednesday, Mumbai accounted for 50 deaths, followed by 41 deaths in Pune and 33 in Thane

Apart from deaths reported in Mumbai, Pune and Thane, there were 29 deaths in Nagpur, 28 deaths in Nashik, 19 in Kolhapur, 16 each in Jalgaon and Latur, 14 in Sangli, 13 in Palghar, 11 in Solapur, and 10 in Nanded, 8 deaths in Satara, 7 each in Parbhani and Osmanabad, 6 in Ahmednagar, 4 each in Nandurbar and Amravati, 3 each in Raigad, Dhule, Aurangabad and Jalna, 2 each in Ratnagiri, Beed, Akola and Gondiya and death each in Hingoli, Yavatmal, Buldhana, Washim, Bhandara and Chandrapur. In addition, two persons from other states died in Maharashtra.

With 50 fresh deaths, Mumbai's Covid-19 toll rose from 6,893 to 6,943, while the total number of infected cases rose by 1,132 to touch 126,356 now.

In a related development, as many as 13408 patients were discharged from hospitals in the state after full recovery, taking the total number of patients discharged from various hospitals after full recovery since the second week of March this year to 3,81,843. The mortality rate in the state is 3.4 per cent. The state health authorities pegged the number of "active cases" in the state at 1,47,513

Pune, which has emerged as the second worst-affected district in terms of spread of the pandemic, has recorded 1,19,628 infections and 2865 deaths till now.

With 108399 infected cases and 3125 deaths, Thane continued to be the third-worst

hit district in Maharashtra. Out of 29,08,887 samples sent to laboratories, 5,48,313 have tested positive (18.84 per

cent) for COVID-19 until Wednesday.

Currently, 10,15,115 people are in home quarantine while 35,880 people are in institutional quarantine.

days, Opposition sees politics **SAUGAR SENGUPTA** ■ KOLKATA

The Bengal Government on Wednesday rescheduled the bi-weekly lockdown dates for the third time in the past two weeks triggering strong criticism from the Opposition parties some of which called it

a "Tughlaqi system at work" while others like the BJP Chief Mamata Banerjee for "planning community-based political lockdown? Under the new scheme

there will be no lockdown on August 28. Earlier in order to break the corona chain the State Government had ordered lockdowns on August 20, 21, 27, 28 and 31 which was in addition to the two lock downs in the first week of this month.

A Government circular said, "Several communications have been received citing difficulty to conduct of businesses and banking operations because of 2-days lockdown during Thursday and Friday in the last week of August 2020 followed by one-day lockdown on the following Monday."

Bengal reschedules lockdown

This would lead to lockdowns for five consecutive days which would hamper banking services, officials

Hence "State Government has considered the requests for relaxation of lockdown as would be necessary and essential. Lockdown on Friday 28 August 2020...is hereby withdrawn and statewide complete lockdown shall now be observed on: Thursday 20 August; Friday 21 August; Thursday 27 August and Monday 31 August," the order said.

Meanwhile, coming down heavily on the Government for running a "Tughlaqi sys-

tem," Congress leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Chowdhury said "it is difficult to understand how an elected government can work like this... The Chief Minister herself sat several occasions with her officers to plan out things in the presence of the media... in spite of so many qualified people including the Chief Minister working decide on the exact dates and had to change the days five

"It is ridiculous. More so because while the Government is struggling with scheduling and rescheduling the lockdown days the corona virus is attacking more and more people. The doctors are dying, nurses are doing, policemen are dying, the private hospitals have been left to loot the people at will and they are scheduling and rescheduling the lockdown days."

5-year-old girl raped, admitted in critical condition to Raj hospital

Kota: A five-year-old girl was admitted to hospital in a critical condition after she was raped allegedly by a 19-year-old man in Rajasthan's Baran district, police said on Wednesday.

The incident took place in Shahabad area on Tuesday evening, they said. According to Shahabad Circle Officer Kajodmal, the girl was profusely bleeding after the incident and was rushed to Baran district hospital on Tuesday night.

Later, she was referred to Jay Kay Lon hospital in Kota, the

The girl underwent one surgery on Wednesday afternoon and there would be two more surgeries, he said. The

detained, said Shahabad SHO Hariprasad Rana. The girl, who belongs to a tribal community, had gone outside to attend nature's call at around 5 pm on Tuesday when the suspect, who was in an ine-

briated condition, allegedly

attacked her, the station house

accused in the case has been

CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY KANKE, RANCHI-834006 (JHARKHAND) NOTICE

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

officer said.

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Director

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Women legal heirs

SC allows daughters to claim their rights on parental property with retrospective effect in a landmark ruling



iving hope to millions of women, who have traditionally been denied a share in their parental property owing to the cultural preference for a son and the idea of "keeping the wealth within the family", the Supreme Court has said that daughters now have a birthright to parental property with retrospective effect. In essence, this allows women to challenge past injustices, coercion and denials and claim restoration of their economic rights. A three-judge Bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra ruled that a Hindu woman's right to be a joint heir to the ancestral property does not depend on whether

her father was alive or not when an old segregatory law was amended in 2005. The Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005 gave Hindu women the right to be coparceners or joint legal heirs with men but did not clarify whether it could apply retrospectively. Not only does the ruling take away the gender bias from inheritance, one that has disempowered girls socially and led to their differential upbringing and value systems, the court also lauded daughters as more suitable and responsible heirs who deserve a share of parental legacy. "A son is a son till he takes him a wife...a daughter is a daughter all of her life," Justice Arun Mishra said while reading out the order. "A daughter remains a loving daughter throughout life," he added, emphasising the compassionate nature of women as care-givers. This also clears the decks for settling countless appeals on the issue that have been pending before different High Courts and subordinate courts on whether the amendment would be time-bound or not. Now that its applicability is crystal clear, this will not only open the floodgates for thousands of ancestral property-related disputes that had been put to rest but will also give women and their children, especially those who are not too well-heeled or financially independent, a fallback cushion. Traditionally, women have been denied a share in their fathers' property in the belief that a girl's share is given to her in the form of dowry and that one day she would inherit the property of her in-laws. Some enlightened families may have been reformist of their own accord but this has largely been the accepted social code. Yet it has been erroneous, for most women have been denied a share in the in-laws' ancestral property after the husband's death. Another drawback among women so far has been their poor or no legal awareness of their status as rightful stakeholders in family affairs. Even if they were aware of their rights, most women have been hesitant to claim their share in family estates as that would have meant going against their own flesh and blood for a piece of land or house. Plus, with most women in India brought up in a patriarchal society, they were made to believe that in case of a marriage going south or their single status, they would be supported by their father and in his absence, by the brother. Hence, most of them, over the years, have meekly given up their rights on property in exchange for this familial anchor. While mindset changes will only come with time, the ruling of the apex court unfetters those who are willing to stand up for their coparcenary rights.

It is no secret that access to property empowers women economically, provides them with a sense of security and self-worth and strengthens their decision-making powers. Research shows that ownership of property by women has reset the asymmetry in gender relations, resulting in reduced domestic violence, both physical and psychological. Owning assets also gives women caught in abusive relationships an exit route, which they might not have had otherwise, particularly if they are not financially independent. All in all, this judgment is a reassertion of the constitutional value of equality to women in personal law without any pre-conditions. However, one aspect that is being largely ignored in the media over the jubilation on this ruling is that there is a flip side, too. Coparcenary right is an undefined liability and any liability of the father, including the family debt and other dues, will be extended to daughters as well. So, it is not just about the right, it is about inheriting responsibility as well. Besides, what of women in other religious communities, who are governed by separate personal laws in several matters, including inheritance rights? While Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists and Jains are governed by laws on property rights codified in the amended Hindu Succession Act of 2005, Christians and Parsis are governed by the Indian Succession Act, 1925. Property rights of Muslims — both Shias and Sunnis — are yet to be codified. Till we uniformly address gender inequalities in the area of inneritance and have a representative civil rights framework for women across the spectrum, they would be subjected to abuse.

Kamala blooms

Kamala Harris is the third woman to stand for Vice-President of the US. Can she do better than the earlier two?



amala Harris' selection as the running mate of Democratic presidential candida: Biden is a momentous one. She is just the third woman to stand for Vice-President of the United States after Geraldine Ferrero in 1984 and Sarah Palin in 2008 but the first woman of colour to do so. This, four years after Donald Trump unexpectedly defeated Hillary Clinton, the first female US presidential candidate for the White House. In India, too, Harris' nomination is being celebrated since her mother was a Tamilian. Yet, it's not her origin but what she represents that might just tilt the scales.

Biden has been less than charismatic and Harris' activism and focussed campaigns on the Afro-American cause give the Democrats a sales pitch to fall back upon, that of upholding civil rights. Not new really, but tested enough. And likely to find some resonance when race relations have taken centrestage following the killing of George Floyd by a White officer. Besides, the Black community has been the worst affected by Trump's selective pandemic management. In all issues, be it of race, gender, healthcare and law enforcement, Harris has maintained a centrist record. But her drive has helped her push walls so far. Which is why Trump made his discomfort very much visible by calling her "extraordinarily nasty." He also accused her of being "the meanest, most horrible" of all US Senators.

With the US extremely fractured today, Harris possibly stands the best chance ever of having a woman occupy one of the top offices. That said, everyone expected Hillary Clinton to win in a landslide in 2016 and we all saw what happened. With Biden's mental acuity being questioned by many and Trump mobilising the Republican base, it would be fatal for the Democrats to take things for granted, particularly in some crucial battleground states which Trump snatched unexpectedly. While Harris was brought up single-handedly by her mother, after her parents divorced when she was five, and her father, the Jamaican-born economist Donald Harris, did extensive work in India, she identifies herself as a "Black" woman to build her political capital. Despite several in the Indian community urging her to recognise her heritage, she has consistently sought to downplay it. Incidentally, she is distantly related to India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. So while many in the Indian diaspora will celebrate her nomination, her politics is more often than not at variance with Indian interests. Indeed, she is as guilty as several other politicians of making some major policy flip-flops over the years. But with global geopolitics undergoing a sea change over the past few years and with China increasingly asserting itself, her views on India might change as well.

opanion

Politics of defection

MLAs jumping ship and resort politics are condemnable. There's a lot that our elected representatives need to learn from what Gandhi had expected of them



JS RAJPUT

ne can easily recall umpteen instances of MLAs changing their ideological and political loyalties for reasons best known to them. Leaders who defect justify it as "the wish of the people." When the floor-crossing happened for the first time in Haryana, when an MLA switched party thrice in a day, the term, Aaya Ram Gaya Ram (party-switching) gained prominence in the political discourse — right from the chaupals to the Central Hall of Parliament — but was brushed aside as an "aberration." Slowly but steadily, the practice gained ground. Who can forget Bhajan Lal, the former Chief Minister of Haryana, who migrated to the then newly-elected ruling party at the Centre, lock, stock and barrel and retained his position?

The practice was subsequently polished and upgraded by leaders of all hues. One could go on counting the number of luxury hotels that have been used by parties to house their MLAs on numerous occasions. What happened in Rajasthan says it all. The MLAs, who enjoyed a comfortable stay in hotels at different locations in Haryana, Rajasthan and Gujarat, were convinced that if they went to their home State and their constituencies, they would not be able to resist the temptation of lucrative offers that would be waiting outside to change hands.

What normally should be considered as a humiliating slur by any dignified individual is now taking shape as an "unwritten" but "acceptable" code across the board and has become a parliamentary practice in Indian democracy. Every major political party has tried this on several occasions. One wonders how these MLAs would react if Mahatma Gandhi walked into their room and asked them, "kaise hain aap? (How are you?)" The Raiasthan episode is almost over and nobody condemned the happenings, not even those who have risen on several occasions to express their concern regarding the attack on constitutional values. I find their silence amazing.

What's even more surprising is that those, who usually come up with joint statements expressing concerns about what they consider "Constitutional impropriety, an attack on secular values and ethical lapses", never come up practice that makes fun of democracy and lowers the esteem of the elected representatives themselves. It is a shameless strategy that should not find a place in a vibrant, functional

Why isn't there all-round condemnation of the Rajasthan drama of



MLAs being herded from one hotel to the other — under strict State security — as unconstitutional, unethical and immoral? Even known groups of retired bureaucrats — who suddenly appear on the scene to showcase their concerns about the erosion of social cohesion, religious amity and constitutional proprinever thought it fit to condemn this derogatory practice of herding of elected representatives. Do they find this practice to be in sync with the Constitutional framework and in consonance with moral and ethical considerations?

In 1922, Gandhiji had written in a letter that Swaraj would not bring happiness to his people. He had said that four things would weigh heavily against it. Three of them were injustice, burden of administration and treachery of the rich. The fourth, that surprised me the most when I came to know about it, related to "defects of elections." How could he write about defections in 1922? I was told the Mahatma had studied the British election system very thoroughly. Gifted with a prophetic futuristic vision, he things so accurately.

I often wonder whether the MLAs in Rajasthan, who enjoyed a comfortable allexpenses-paid stay in luxury hotels, even remember that they are inheritors of the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi, Lal Prasad and other stalwarts of the freedom struggle. These worthy elected representatives are, in fact, panch parmeshwars of democracy. They are occupying a seat, the incumbent of which is bound to the Constitution by an oath of affirmation. One wonders how many of

them are aware of that eternal eye-opener sentence by Mahatma Gandhi: "If, instead of insisting on rights, everyone does his duty, there will immediately be the rule of order established among mankind." Are such herded stays part of the duty of the elected representatives? Do they not realise that they are being presented in public as weaklings, who would not be able to resist monetary temptations if allowed to move out of the hotel? If these worthies could sit

together with their family members, including their children, and seek their opinion on being made a part of the "pliable group", one is confident they would get the right advice. No child would like his parent to be treated as a saleable commodity. Many of them may have read erences were made to a query put before Mahatma Gandhi: What is your message to the people? He replied, "My life is my message." Would our MLAs be in a position to tell their children that they could derive strength from their experiences? It appears that everyone right from the Chief Minister to the Speakers; the party in power to those in the Opposition; and all others who matter — have their interpretations of the Constitution and Constitutional propriety. It is worthwhile to recall that under the Government of India Act of 1935, elections were held in 1936-37 in various provinces and provincial Governments were formed. All Ministers of the then Congress Government had resigned in November 1939. Gandhiji was ever vigilant, he consistently expressed his opinion on how legislators and Ministers should be performing their new duties and they should always think about the welfare of the people. He was, in a way, educating the legislators and Ministers in those days when his overarching presence on the scene itself was a deterrent against anyone breaking the norms: "The holding of any office in the Congress Government must be in the spirit of service, without the

Our distinguished legislathoughts: "There is a beauty and an art in simplicity which he who runs may see. It does not require money to be neat, clean and dignified. Pomp and pageantry are often synonymous with vulgarity." It is indeed a pity that our young ones are

slightest expectation of person-

witnessing a political world in which — exceptions apart — elected representatives, Ministers and legislators have forsaken the Gandhian philosophy, ideas and dreams. They are doing all this knowing it fully well that it would hurt the Mahatma's memory.

When reports emerge of legislators' assets multiplying by a factor of say 500, the common man's reaction is obvious it would definitely be devoid of respect, confidence or a connect. In 1937-39, those who became legislators and Ministers were men and women who had entered the freedom struggle - not a political party but a national movement that offered only sacrifice, toil, sufferings and jail terms. Elections and legislative positions came just by chance. But allurements were still there and senior leaders were alert to guide and to "examine the utility value of the

And for the Ministers, the guidelines were: "The Ministers are [the people's] servants. They can do nothing against the express wishes of the people. They will not stay in office a day longer than the people wish." There is much more for the Chief Ministers, Ministers and the legislators to ponder over. Are the Gandhian ideas totally out of bounds for those who still swear to be the inheritors of his legacy? If not, how could they ignore Gandhiji's words and deeds? "This office-holding is a step towards either greater prestige or its total loss. If it is not to be a total loss, the Ministers and the legislators have to be watchful of their own personal and public conduct. They have to be, like Caesar's wife, above suspicion in everything. They may not make private gains for themselves or their relatives or friends."

The least people expect from their legislators is that they do not surrender courage of conviction that a citizen can be proud of, particularly those who are in public life and are expected to enjoy the trust and confidence of their electors. They must ultimately be true to the people. They must not subjugate themselves to the whims and fancies of those who wish to retain power or gain power at any cost.

There is a lot for the elected representatives to whom gate to themselves greater knowledge than those experienced men who do not happen to occupy the ministerial chairs." Obviously, this applies equally to every elected person.

(The writer works in education and social cohesion)

UNDBITE

I have known Harris for a long time. She is more than prepared for the job. She's spent her career defending our Constitution and fighting for folks who need a fair stake.

Former US President —Barack Obama



This whole insider vs outsider debate was not supposed to be an ugly witch-hunting battle. It was supposed to be debate, a conversation

—Sandhva Mridul



With Harris as his political living will, he (Biden) is surrendering control of our nation to the radi cal mob with promises to raise taxes, cut police funding and annease socialist dictators

American consultant –Katrina Pierson



Every cricketer goes through a rough patch. I am sure this break would have helped us hoth unwind and chalk out a plan. It's a matter of time before we click.

Indian cricketer



LETTERS **EDITOR**

Clear old accounts

Sir — There are huge amounts in unclaimed deposits at post-offices and many of these account holders may have even died. There are chances of fraud happening, with unscrupulous persons staking claim to such deposits. The Department of Posts should send letters to account holders who have not operated their accounts in, say, the last three years and give them reasonable time to either renew or close them. If no response is received, all such unclaimed money may be frozen in some fixed account, which may be allowed to be withdrawn by legal heirs after careful verifica-

Madhu Agrawal

Long road ahead

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Atmanirbhar raksha" (August 11). With a view to boost defence manufacturing in India, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh announced a ban on a range of defence imports. Defence manufacturing under the Atmanirbhar Bharat scheme

Language discrimination n the repeated invocation of culture in the National

Education Policy, (NEP) — the distaste of its frequent repetitions apart — one finds a long-term strategy to resurrect a particular culture in India. The civilisation that flourished between 3300 BCE and 1300 BCE in South Asia, popularly called the Harappan or the Indus Valley civilisation, is an important era in our recorded history. And 600-700 years after the Harappan civilisation waned, a new culture evolved with the arrival of the Eurasian Steppes pastoralist groups. A new language and lifestyle emerged. The Vedic culture and the ancient Harappan civilisation were unlike each other in every aspect. Researchers have converged on the view that the present-day gods, religion, literature and traditions in most of India are adaptations from the Brahminical Vedic culture, which was rooted in caste system and rituals, and not from the ancient Indus Valley civilisation. There are, therefore, reasons to doubt the loud advocacy of culture, heritage and traditions in

The NEP professes, "the three-language formula will continue to be implemented while keeping in mind the Constitutional provisions, aspirations of the people, regions and the Union and the need to promote multi-lingualism as well as promote national unity." The catch here is. "the three languages learned by children will be the choices of States, regions and, of course, the students themselves



so long as at least two of the three languages are native to India." This eliminates English as the second language automatically as it is not treated as a language native to the country. Incidentally, both English and Hindustani (Hindi and Urdu) belong to the Indo-European language family. This prescription puts South India at a great disadvantage. English has been the link language for this region for over a century, though Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam are of the Dravidian language family. The phenomenal growth of the knowledge-based industry in the South is credited mostly to its proficiency in English. The three-language formula, with a prescription tagged to it, would be detrimental to economic growth.

Haridasan Raian Kozhikode

field guns and caused fatalities. The French company that manufactures Rafale fighter planes had expressed doubts about the manufacturing quality of Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL) during the defence deal. HALmade Jaguar and Mirage-2000s have caused many fatalities. While defence manufacturing under Atmanirbhar Bharat looks ambitious to make India selfreliant in defence manufacturing, there's a long way to go. The Government must overcome existing challenges.

Wake-up call

Sir — Back-to-back fire cases at COVID-19 facility centres are a wake-up call for the Government. All such tragic events have proved that those bearing the responsibility of safety regulations have paid lip service. Exemplary action is the need of the hour, or else such cases will continue to occur. Aman

Via email

Venu GS

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

is estimated to save about four lakh crore rupees. No matter how lofty the goals appear, the fact is that India's defence sector suffers from a few drawbacks. Already, projects worth ₹3.5

India scheme are stuck in the pipeline. Projects are often not completed on time. Recently, India became a global exporter of arms but we ranked 23rd in

lakh crore under the Make in

for 2015-2019 and 19th for 2019.

Another grey area is the quality of products. The ammunition supplied by the Ordinance Factory had damaged tanks,

the list of major arms exporters

FIRSTCOLUMN

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



he 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

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 layoffs 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

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

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

analysis

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**



A POWER



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

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

→ he 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-

riers 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 oelectric 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-ricktive 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? he answers to both these questions are debatable.

To produce an Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) vehicle, 10 metric tonnes of CO2 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 CO2 while manufacturing a 100 KWH battery releases 17.5 metric tonnes of CO2. A petrol/diesel car emits an average of 5.2 metric tonnes of CO2 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. cantly 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 ecofriendly 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,



MIDDLE CLASS AND UPPER MIDDLE CLASS FAMILY, A CAR IS AN **ASPIRATION** AND AN INVESTMENT **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 WHILE THERE



IS NO DEFINITE

PROOF THAT

CLEANER

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. Îndia does not have any lithium reserves, supply chain or an ecosystem to manufacture supply. So EVs are not an economically-

ENERGY 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 unparallel control over battery raw materials and processing facilities. At present, almost all Liion 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 sce-nario, it is not advisable to take such risky 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 prodards 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 superexpensive 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 mid-dle 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 hardearned 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 CNC buses. 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 unieasily 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

▼f 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

This brought China from the

32nd position in global exports to US and Europe, as it had a huge popfirst 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 corpora-

tions (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 ulation 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 capitalrich 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

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 2025 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,





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)

he pioneer



Surprised that Biden picked 'disrespectful' Kamala: Trump

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 con-

"She had a lot of things happen ing 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 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.

OFFICER INVITING BIDS

LAST DATE AND TIME

(Virtual Online)

LAST DATE AND TIME FOR

TIME AND DATE OF OPENING

TIME AND DATE OF OPENING

LAST DATE OF BID VALIDITY

SUBMISSION OF BID.

TECHNICAL BIDS

FINANCIAL BIDS

Following work:

SI. No.

Dis

Buxar

Gava.

Bhagarpur

Munger

PR. No. 004735(Ni.Ni.) 2020-21

PERIOD AND PLACE OF SALE OF BID DOCUMENT

TIME, DATE AND PLACE OF PRE-BID MEETING

PLACE OF SALES/RECEIPT OF Bid Documents

of the Smriti Sangrahalava

culture of rural Bihar

Munger Museum, Munger

Name of the work

RFP - Selection of Consultant for Preparation of DPR for

INFRASTRUCTURE IN DIFFERENT SEVEN (7) LOCATIONS IN

1) Theme park depicting the life of the Jana-Nayak Karpoori

Tahkur, environment and ecology of rural Bihar in the campus

3) Theme based Landscaping & beautification of Museum of

4) Theme based Landscaping & beautification of Museum of

5)Theme based Landscaping & beautification of Bhagalpur

Museum and its Up gradation of Museum Design, Museum

Infrastructure depicting customs, tradition and local art and

6) Museum Design, itsInfrastructure and development of Art

7) 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

Gallery representing customs, tradition, local art and culture of

Maharaja Lakshmishwar Singh Museum, Darbhanga

THEME PARK LIPGRADATION OF MUSEUM AND ITS

2) Heritage Theme park in Taradih, Bodhgaya

Sita Ram Upadhyay Museum, Buxar

for each work (Including of GST)

11- Evaluation of technical details of the firm to base on eligibility criteria

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 Indianorign Senator from California who on Tuesday became the running mate of Democratic Party's presidenital nominee Joe Biden, says, her mother's advice is what drives her every single

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

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

"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.

Biden 'nailed this decision': Obama

CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER, Bihar State Building Construction

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

बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम लि०, पटना

(बिहार सरकार का उपक्रम)

E-RFP INVITING NOTICE NO. - 04(Cons.)/2020-21

Corporation Ltd. Patna.

DATE 25.08.2020 to 15.09.2020 up to 03.00 PM

DATE 27.08.2020, TIME 03.00 PM

PLACE: Bihar State Building Construction

: DATE 16.09.2020 up to 3.00 PM

Only on website www.eproc.bihar.gov.in

DATE 17.09.2020 Time: 15.00 Hour / (03.00 PM).

: 120 days from Last date of Bid submission

Consultant

Fee for

of DPR

As per

After disposal of Technical bid by Competent Authority

(In Rs.)

₹5,000.00

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

Time of

of work

04

(Four)

Months

Fee

₹1180.00

Of

PIU

'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 Indianorigin 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

Harris in the past called for increasing pressure on China for human rights violations against Uygur Muslims of Xinjiang and the crackdown against the prodemocracy movement in Hong

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

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

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 unpre-

tion" and has been "expanding its influence efforts" ahead of the

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.

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 spokeswoman 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

Police deployed to break up the postelection 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.

Sexual The 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

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

New Zealand scrambles to find source of new infections

Wellington: Health authorities in New Zealand were scrambling on Wednesday to trace the source of a new outbreak of the coronavirus as the nation's largest city went back into lockdown.

Authorities had confirmed four cases of the virus in one Auckland household from an unknown source and were awaiting the test results of four more people they suspect have infections — two work colleagues and two relatives of those in the house.

The cases this week were the first known local transmission of the virus in New Zealand in 102 days.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said more than 200 people with connections to those in the house were contacted Wednesday.

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 antiepidemic 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,"

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

London: British Transport Police

Around the

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 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.

enforcement officers.

Iranian hard-liners in parliament reject president's nominee

Tehran: Iranian hard-liners in parliament on Wednesday 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

ly. 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

even if the draft got the mini-

mum nine "yes" votes in the

council, which appears unlike-

nuclear deal, endorsed by the Security Council, includes a provision lifting the arms embargo on Iran on October 18.

www.pioneeragro.co.in

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

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

Registration certificate from Council of Architecture of Principal / Partner / Director and also of other Architects in the firm $\textbf{12-} \ \ \textbf{Evaluation of technical documents shall be done by the evaluation committee}. \textbf{Bidder found responsive in technical bid and the property of the evaluation committee and the property of the evaluation of the evalu$

 $shall\ be\ invited\ to\ make\ presentation\ in\ before\ jury\ member.\ Financial\ proposal\ of\ the\ successful\ Bidder\ shall\ be\ opened$ in presence of the bidder/their representative. Details regarding e-RFP can be procured from Help-Desk, 1st 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. Interested bidders should have to get registered with E-Procurement, details of which are available on the website. Bidders need to procure

 $DSC \ (Digital \ Signature\ certificate).\ Bidders\ can participate in the \ E-tendering\ process\ with userid, password, DSC\ and internet\ connection.$

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 www.bsbccl.bih.nic.in The RFP documents fee (Non-refundable) should be in form of bank draft drawn on any nationalizedbank in favour of DGM BSBCCL, Patna (PIU) payable at Patna, and submitted in original in the office of DGM BSBCCL, Patna (PIU), G.M.(SOUTH) BSBCCL, Patna, C.G.M. BSBCCL, Patna before the date and time of opening of Technical bid..

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.

RFP is available on the website www.eproc.bihar.gov.in in the view format. The RFP Document Fee in Demand Draft (original is mandatory) to be submitted in the office of DGM BSBCCL, Patna (PIU), G.M. (South), BSBCCL, PATNA., C.G.M. BSBCCL, PATNA before the date and time of BSBCCL reserves the right to cancel all the tenders without any information

For any additional information bidder may contact to Sr. Architect, BSBCCL, Patna AND Tender related issues may contact to dgm (gaya),

Chief General Manager Bihar State Building Construction Corporation Ltd. Patna

नोवल कोरोना के संबंध में विस्तृत जानकारी एवं सहयोग हेतु 🚁 TOII Free No.: 🕇 🛈 🛂 पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं। खाव सामग्री– संबंधी किसी तरह की जानकारी अथवा सुझाव हेतु <mark>दूरभाष संख्या</mark> 0612–2217636 पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।

CANCELLATION OF SPECIAL TRAINS DUE TO LOCKDOWN IN WEST BENGAL ON 20/08, 21/08, 27/08, 28/08 & 31.08.2020

In view of lockdown declared on 20/08, 21/08, 27/08, 28/08 &

31.08.2020 in entire West Bengal by State Govt, following trains will remain cancelled on those days: (1) 02024/02023 Patna-Howrah Patna Special (JCO 20/08, 21/08, 27/08, 28/08 & 31.08.2020) (2) 02302 New Delhi-Howrah AC Special (JCO 19/08, 20/08, 26/08 27/08 & 30.08.2020). (3) 02301 Howrah-New Delhi AC Special (JCO 20/08, 21/08, 27/08, 28/08 & 31.08.2020). (4) 02308 Jodhpur-Howrah Special (JCO 18/08, 19/08, 25/08, 26/08 & 29.08.2020) (5) 02307 Howrah-Jodhpur Special (JCO 20/08, 21/08, 27/08, 28/08 & 31.08.2020). (6) 02377/02378 Sealdah-New Alipurduar-Sealdah Special (JCO 19/08, 20/08, 21/08, 26/08, 27/08, 28/08, 30/08 & 31.08.2020). (7) 02303 Howrah-New Delhi Special (JCO 29.08.2020). (8) 02304 New Delhi-Howrah Special (JCO 30.08.2020). (9) 02381 Howrah-New Delhi Special (JCO 20/08 & 27.08.2020). (10) 02382 New Delhi-Howrah Special (JCO 21/08 & 28.08.2020). (11) 02201 Sealdah-Bhubaneswar Special (JCO 21/08, 28/08, & 31.08.2020) (12) 02202 Bhubaneswar-Sealdah Special (JCO 22/08, 29/08 & 01.09.2020). (13) 02357 Kolkata-Amritsar Special (JCO 18/08 & 25.08.2020). (14) 02358 Amritsar-Kolkata Special (JCO 20/08 & 27.08.2020). Passengers are requested to plan their journey accordingly. Inconvenience is regretted.

Chief Passenger Transportation Manager Place: Pathankot Dated : August 12, 2020

Regd Office- Chhoti Nehar Malakpur Pathankot-145025 (Punjab) CIN: L15319PB1993PLC012975

Telephone No.: 0186-2345352/53/55. E-mail: complianceofficer@pioneeragr.co.in

Extract of unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter ended June 30, 2020

S.	Particulars	Year Ended	Quarter Ended		
No.		31.03.2020	30.06.2020	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 pervious year	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
8	Earning per share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)				
	- Basic - Diluted	0.74 0.74	0.00 0.00	0.00 0.00	0.70 0.70

Notes: The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly / Yearly Financia 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 www.bseindia.com and on the Company's website www.pioneeragro.co.in

> On behalf of the Board of Directors (Jagat Mohan Aggarwal Managing Director Din : 00750120

EASTERN RAILWAY

LOAN RECAST ——

NBFCs' refinancing needs likely to increase: Report

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-

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

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

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

Sensex snaps 4-day rally as bulls take a breather

PTI ■ MUMBAI

 $T^{\text{he BSE Sensex snapped its}}_{\text{four-session winning run}}$ 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 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 macroeconomic 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, gov-ernment data showed on

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

"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

Most stock exchanges in Europe were trading on a posive 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

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

IANS ■ SAN FRANCISCO

 $E^{lon\ Musk-run\ Tesla\ has}_{announced\ a\ five-for-one}$ split of its common stock that goes into effect on August

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

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.

229 per cent this year.

Tesla reported profits for the fourth straight quarter last Making \$6 billion in rev-

enue 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

The rupee declined by 5 paise to close at 74.83against 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 green-

back. The dollar index, which

gauges the greenback's strength

against a basket of six curren-

cies, 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

The decline in factory output was widespread across the sectors, including manufacturing, mining, power generation, capital goods and consumer durables, according to the data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. The BSE Sensex snapped its four-session winning run to close marginally lower due to profit booking. Sensex ended down 37.38 points or 0.10 per cent at 38,369.63. The NSE Nifty slipped 14.10 points or 0.12 per cent to close at 11,308.40. Foreign institutional investors were net buyers in the capital market as they purchased shares worth Rs 1,013.66 crore on Tuesday, according to provisional exchange data. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, rose 0.99 per cent to USD 44.94 per barrel. Meanwhile, the number of cases around the world linked to COVID-19 has crossed 2.02 crore, and in India, the num-

ber of infections topped the 23-

USAID to bridge

gender gap

PM to launch 'transparent taxation' platform

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $P^{\text{rime Minister Narendra}}_{\text{Modi on Thursday will}}$ 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.

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 The Central Board of

Direct Taxes (CBDT), which is the apex decision making body in direct tax matters, administers personal income tax and

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Bharat Forge on Wednesday reported a consoldiated 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

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

 $T^{
m ata\ Power\ on\ Wednesday}_{
m said\ its consolidated\ net}$ profit rose by 10 per cent to Rs 268 crore for quarter ended June on the back of reduced 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 perform a n c e despite the

challenges

demic. We aim to continue our progress in our low carbon journey by achieving 50 per cent generation from clean and green sources by 2025 and set new benchmarks in operational efficiencies," Tata Power CEO and MD Praveer Sinha

"The proposed renewable InvIT (investment trust), will be the growth engine and we intend to grow this to be India's largest renewable InvIT. At present, it has about 2.6 GW (gigawatt) of operating plants and 1.5 GW of capacity in the pipeline taking the total capacity to 4.1 GW. This InvIT provides the option to recycle capital once the assets are operational." Besides adding capacity in the renewable generation space in the next five years, the company will also be scaling the solar cells and modules manufacturing business along with the solar EPC busi-

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

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

(Rs.) (Non

(Rs. in

Lacs)

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

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 digtal 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.

Fee (Rs)

(Online

Payment)

fundable

17,700.00

PUBLIC NOTICE Reliance Foundation

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 he/she may contact at my above noted address

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



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 Dy.CMM-HQ/CLW Chittaranjan, 9163340711 or

Principal Chief Materials Manager AD76 - 066 CLW/Chittaranjan

SMM/HQ, 9163340704.

partners with W-GDP,

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, USAID

and Deputy USAII 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 | DLW achieves record closed equity market lower

IANS ■ MUMBAI

The Indian equity market L 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.

P.S. Patparganj Ind. Area, Delhi

Tel. 011-22146491, 22146492

SEARCH OF MISSING

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

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.

Height: 5'10" Feet, Complexion: Wheatish, Face:

Round, Physique/Build: Thin, Clothing: Pant, Shirt

His physical description is as under

DP/152/ED/2020.

"Technically, while the Nifty has ended lower, the underlying short term trend remains up. The uptrend could accelerate once the immediate highs of 11,322 are cleared," said Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research at HDFC Securities.

"Crucial supports to watch for any trend reversal are at 11,130."According to Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services: "Indian benchmark indices closed out a volatile day, flat, with a negative bias. Global cues added to the uncertainty with doubts emerging about the expected US stimulus measures and continuing US-China tensions.

"Profit booking continued in the Pharma sector. Markets are reacting uncertainly to global cues and this uncertainty is expected to continue. Downside looks limited but investors are advised to remain cautious, considering the valuations of some of the stocks."

production of 31 locomotives in July

Varanasi: Under the leadership of General

staff against spread of Covid-19. On this occasion, General Manager Shri Y.P. Singh congratulated all the Heads of Departments and their staff.

stone in itself.

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

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 mile-

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)

2. Document Download Start Date

3. Pre-bid Meeting

Silapat- One Unit work etc. of Krishi

Bazar Samiti, Thakurganj, Phase -1

foot path from main gate) (6)

Drainage and Cross Drainage (7)

Construction of (1) Boundary wall (2)

Room- One Unit (3) Toilet Block with

all facilities - One Unit (4) One no. of

High mast lighting, 6 unit of street

development (PCC Main Road and

lighting pole and 12 lights (5) Road

Main Entrance Gate and Guard

issue of LOA and before executing the agreement.

4. Last Date & Time for submission of bid

(Bid closing date)

5. Technical Bid Opening Date & Time 6. Financial Bid Opening Date and Time

S.K. Nagar, Patna - 800001 (Tel 0612-2523006, 7542028164)

19-08-2020 at 3.00 pm (HQ, BRPNNL, Patna) Date 23-08-2020 till 3.00 pm can be submitted on www.eproc.bihar.gov.in

Date 25-08-2020 at 3.30 pm on www.eproc.bihar.gov.in

Date 17-08-2020 to 22-08-2020 till 3.00 pm from

To 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.eproc.bihar.gov.in or 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, 1st Floor, M/22, Bank of India Building, Road No. 25

www.eproc.bihar.gov.in

 $\textbf{Note: Bidders are requested to keep themselves updated with the website \verb|www.brpnn.bih.nic.in.||} in. \textbf{And the model of the bidders are requested to keep themselves updated with the website \verb|www.brpnn.bih.nic.in.||} in. \textbf{And the model of the bidders are requested to keep themselves updated with the website \verb|www.brpnn.bih.nic.in.||} in. \textbf{And the model of the bidders are requested to keep themselves updated with the website \verb|www.brpnn.bih.nic.in.||} in. \textbf{And the website with the websi$ on regular basis for any Amendment / Clarification / Notification in respect of this NIT.

For further details please visit website state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar Sr. Project Engineer

PR. No. 004698 (Ni.Ni.) 2020-21 External Project Division No.-02, Kishanganj नोवल कोरोना के संबंध में विस्तृत जानकारी एवं सहयोग हेतु 🔯 тон Free No.: 🕇 🛛 🛂 पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं।

Bihar Rajya Pul Nirman Nigam Ltd

ावाय सामग्री- संबंधी किसी तरह की जानकारी अथवा सुझाव हेतु **दूरभाष संख्या** 0612-2217636 पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।

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

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

Fax No. 011-24368639 DP/301/NW/2020

Sd/- S.H.O. P.S. Ashok Vihar, Delhi Ph: 011-27243066

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

Age: 20 Years, Complexion: Wheatish,

Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641





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 throwback 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-kev 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 homegrown 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. #representationmat-

ters. Ps. To my younger self: look how far we have come!" she

In the list of major events and people of 2020, a new name has been added — Ripod which I 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

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 #IHaveAloke 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 destress 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



Mumbai Police 🕗 Dear #binod , we hope your name is not your online password. It's pretty viral, change it now! #OnlineSafety

"Receive every call with 'Haan #Binod

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 YOUN

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



 $F^{or\ choreographer,\ Ashley}_{Lobo,\ there\ is\ no\ energy\ as}$ 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-sosavvy 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 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." ever 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,"

Ashley, who has choreo-raphed 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 imbroglio 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 levision and film actor, Shawn

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 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

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

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

r 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 chalenge (There can't be two constitutions, two prime ministers and two flags in one

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.

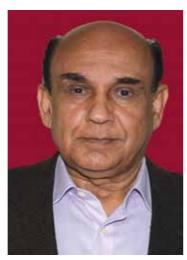
The historic presidential order nullifying all the provisions of autonomy granted to the state was followed by another landmark and strategically significant State Reorganisation Act, 2019, dividing the state into two Union Territories — Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

Since then the NDA government, over the last one year, has been grap-pling 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-ofthe-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

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, 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

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'

Last but not the least, the abroga tion 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



DDA goes digital In order to facilitate the public interface, Land Disposal department of Delhi face of DDA, which is concept.

Development Authority (DDA) is successfully implementing emutation (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 end to end public service interface of DDA, which is conceptualised and executed by $Su\bar{b}u$ 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 appoint-



GM Northern Railway holds performance review meeting

North Central Railways held a 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

ited sum insured for any type of

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

 $R_{\rm Manager\ Northern\ \&}^{\rm ajiv\ Chaudhry,\ General\ by\ increasing\ patrolling.}$ is to be upgraded to facilitate running of trains upto 160 running of trains upto 160 He also called upon the kmph. GM emphasised on the of the rolling stock i.e. loco motives, 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,

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

ious high end Opto Electronics and electronics assemblies/sub-assemblies Stabilised Controlled Gun (SRCG)

The automated assembly line for the production of Pinaka Rockets at the Factory, Ordnance 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 testing facility of SRCG at the Ordnance 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.

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

As per the directive of the Railway Board, under Swach Rail Swach 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



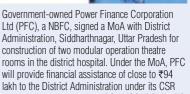
fourth time in a row, affirming the company's towards Environmental, Social and



Governance (ESG) practices in the oil and gas sector. The index series measures the performance of companies demonstrating 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 Jair 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."

SIGNS TO CONSTRUCT MODULAR OPERATION THEATRES



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).

Policies which are in lapsed condibetter sense to revive an old polition during the premium paying

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 In view of the prevailing circum-

stances, no concessions are being

Lacted as a torchbearer

for the society. Whether it

be the intellectual renais-

sance or the dark phases

when everything seems to

go haywire, literature has

been the soothing soul. At

this juncture when literary

fraternity needs fresh voic-

es who can act as a doyen,

literary agency, Literia

Insight signs a two book

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

LIC revives lapsed policies

of specific eligible plans can be revived within five years from date October 9 for its customers to revive of the first unpaid premium subject

term and not completed policy term as on the date of revival are eligible to be revived in this cam-The campaign is launched to

benefit those policy holders who were not able to pay premiums due to unavoidable circumstances and

VE FOR WRITING deal with IRS Officer, Neha she started to scribble. She brings a huge amount of is now ready to make a talent and unparalleled cre-A science graduate, mark with her two poetry ativity in her writings. She collections, Impressions and is surely going to be one of the doyens of the literary Reflections.

Chakravarthy.

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

Raj, Co-Founder; Literia Insight, "We are delighted

In the words of Nitish to sign Chakravarthy who

fraternity in future and we

are more than happy to pitch her masterpieces with Big Foot Publications."

Heera Lal Samariya, Prasad,

Khattar informed about the efforts of Haryana Govt in com-

tion, 21 ESIC hospitals locations lation beds, recovered patients to come forward and donate their plasmas

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

have been converted into dedicated COVID hospitals. More than 2,400 iso-ICU/HDU beds with 200 ventilators have been available. Quarantine facility (1300

functional in four ESIC hospitals at Alwar (Bihar), Sanathnagar (Hyderabad). Plasma

vided at ESIC Hospitals, Faridabad

(Rajasthan), Bihta, Patna Gulbarga (Karnataka) and Korba (Chhattisgarh). Besides, Covid-19 testing facility has been made available at ESIC hospital, Faridabad (Haryana), Basaidarapur (New Delhi) and

therapy is also being pro-

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.

Max Bupa introduces ReAssure insurance plan Max Bupa — one of the standalone health insurers, health insurance and 57 percent has introduced 'ReAssure' — a comprehensive health insurance plan that provides unlim-

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, The product comes with a when patients often need hos-

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

pitalisation multiple times in the

same year, unlimited coverage in

the product will prove to be



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.

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 per cent 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 Ramachandran, MD & CEO, Max Bupa Health Insurance "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

have a strong preference for comprehensive health insurance plans for protection against any unforeseen medical emer-Dr Bhabatosh Mishra,

Products,

Director

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 pol-

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

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

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

bating COVID-19 pandemic. He also briefed about the starting of plasma therapy at three differ-Panchkula, Rohtak and Gurugram. At the end, he made an appeal to the COVID

to save the lives of others.

ESI facilities. In this crisis situa-

Beds) has been made



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 post-poned 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,

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

which they had lost 0-1.

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

À 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.

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

AFP ■ 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 layers. 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 foot-

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 Monday.

Mexican's tame shot aside. There were claims that Bounou had left his line while Sevilla players seemed 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

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

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 POSITIVEBARCELONA: 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 PAYDAY

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.

Serena sets Venus clash | CSK expect Dhoni to play until 2022 in Top Seed Open

AFP ■ LEXINGTON

 $S^{\text{erena Williams had to fight}}_{\text{for a winning return from}}$ her six-month coronavirus layoff on Tuesday, defeating lowly ranked Bernarda Pera in three sets at the WTA Top Seed Open tournament in Kentucky.

Serena, who before Tuesday had not played a competitive game since a Fed Cup appearance in February, came from behind to defeat American world number 60 Pera 4-6, 6-4, 6-1 in two hours and 15 minutes at the Top Seed Tennis Club in

Lexington. Venus Williams started her campaign with a straight sets wins over Victoria Azarenka in a a battle of former World No 1 players. The 40-year-old American an exciting encounter between the Williams sisters in the second round.

Rising American star Coco Gauff had to work hard for her straight-set win over qualifier Caroline Dolehide, winning 7-5, 7-5 while Canadian qualifier Leylah Fernandez knocked out seventh seed

PNS NEW DELHI

The training camps for India's

testing positive for Covid-19.

South Centre in Bengaluru.

statement on Wednesday.

coaches of both the teams.

being of all the athletes, it has

been decided that the sporting

activities will be resumed at

SAI's National Centre of

Sloane Stephens in their open-

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 nos-talgic about that. I kind of

enjoyed it." 23-time The Grand Slam singles champion looked an early exit in the second set, but recovered from 0-40 down at 4-4 before holding and eventually win-

ning the set. just knew 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."

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

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

Dhoni is set for a return

to competitive cricket in

and 2021) and probably for even the next year

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

Cements, own-ers of the CSK

franchise, in January said that Dhoni would be retained by the team for

quoted as saying by

will take care of himself and the team." N Srinivasan, the vice-chairman and managing director of India

Robinson replaces

Stokes for 2nd Test

the 2021 IPL mega-auction. CSK have planned a short

training camp at their base from August 16 to 20.

While CSK are hoping to leave for the UAE on August 21. Vishwanathan confirmed

RR fielding coach tests virus +ve been advised to get admitted to hospital for his 14-day quaran-

"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

 $R^{\text{ajasthan Royals' fielding}}_{\text{coach Dishant Yagnik has}}$ 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 ÚAE. Yagnik is currently in his hometown Udaipur and has

they are coming back after a long off," he said.

ately start off with skills because

statement.

"It will be a skill-based plus training camp. It can't immedi-

that all the players will assemble in Chennai on August 14.

bid, will have competition," the senior official told *PTI*. **PTI** ■ NEW DELHI $E_{\text{pany }\textit{Unacademy}, \text{ which is}}^{\text{ducation technology company}}$ Vivo, which annually paid

title sponsorship rights

Unacademy to fight for IPL

"If you want to test your-

Taison put Shakhtar two

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

fine display in the 88th minute when right-back

Dodo combined with Tete

before smashing home a

close-range strike for Basel a

minute into stoppage time

made no difference to a

thumping defeat for the

Ricky van Wolfswinkel's

Shakhtar rounded off a

Marchand.

superb finish.

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

₹440 crore, dropped out as title sponsor this year due to the Sino-India border stand-

The BCCI is now looking at a lesser unacademy 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

Sri Lanka, UAE kept as back up for 2021 WT20 | Hafeez breaks bio-bubble | Eng will sweep Pak

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 post-

venues for the 2021 men's T20

shifted to hospital

BENGALURU: Five Covid-19 pos-

itive 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

India decided to shift the other

five players, to SS Sparsh Multi-

speciality hospital in Bengaluru

ble treatment. All six athletes are

in good health and recovering

group once they recover from

and are looking forward to a quick recovery. Once recov-

ered and after following proto-

They are in good spirits,

the virus.

PTĬ

"...The Sports Authority of

Wednesday.

poned due to Covid-19. According to a report in ESPN Cricinfo, "Sri Lanka and the UAE are among the back-up

All 6 players

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

PTI ■ SOUTHAMPTON

The Ageas Bowl.

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

with the squad during the

West Indies series and took

The 26-year-old trained

on extra significance in this time because of the nature of the pan-

"India is currently the thirdworst-hit country in the world in terms of cases, according to most data studies, with over 2 million cases so far and over 45,000 deaths.

"The current situation has forced the BCCI to relocate the IPL to the UAE, and only tentative plans are in place for the domestic season," the website further stated.

eight Hampshire wickets dur-

ing his subsequent appearance

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

But whether he makes a

in the Bob Willis Trophy.

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

PTI KARACHI

The Pakistan Cricket Board is 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

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

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 terming 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.

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

AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an affidavit

sworn before Notary, Jaleswar on 12/08/2020, I Mohan Kumar Rana, Son of Late Braja Sundar Rana, At-Patharpura, Po/PS-Jaleswar, Dist-Balasore, Odisha do hereby declared that as per my son's Aadhar Card and educational certificate my son's original name is Abhishek Rana. But in my son's Passport (No-H4975080) it has been inadvertently mentioned as Abhisekh Rana. Rana Abhishek Abhisekh Rana is the Same and one Person. Hence this affidavit is sworn to be produced before Conerned authority for necessary correction in my son's Passport.

Shakib could return during SL tour he will get back into it pretty that Shakib would have to play **DHAKA**: Serving a ban for not who have been out for six or unofficial cricket matches as a

on Tuesday afternoon, as a precautionary measure," the reporting corrupt approaches, Bangladesh's premier all-The decision to hospirounder Shakib Al Hasan is talise them was taken so as to likely to return to the national ensure that the players were fold for a tour of Sri Lanka later attended to at all times and this year, with his suspension could be given the best possiending 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

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 for a year is not that much difhim to play some games. He is ferent to the rest of our squad a world-class player so I am sure

soon, but fitness is an important thing," the coach said.

Lanka Cricket chief executive September 24.

the original schedule.

Shakib is set to start training at the BKSP facility ahead

According to the report, Sri

Mohan de Silva said the two boards have reached an agreement on Bangladesh's departure date, which has been set as But there are still discus-

sions over whether it will be a two or three-match Test series after the BCB requested a threematch T20I series in addition to

of his return to competitive cricket.

Domingo, however, added

suspended cricketer before he is drafted into the national team. "It is something that we

have to discuss with the selectors. I don't think he can play any official game before October 29, so all games that he plays have to be unofficial games. It might be inter-squad games but we need to have clarity if he is allowed to play that." "He has to make sure he is

fit and that he starts hitting balls and bowling some balls. Once we assemble before heading off to Sri Lanka — when that tour is confirmed — we will get closer to making a decision," he

Sd/-Mohan Kumar Rana

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

■ 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 Both the men's and women's teams will resume training at the Sports Authority of India (SAI) "...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 The decision was taken after a discussion with the game's stakeholders, including Hockey India officials and chief for the dreaded virus. ...After giving the utmost priority to the safety and well-

Currently, 33 male and 24 female players are in Bengaluru

for the camp.

Men's hockey team chief coach Graham Reid said the players and support staff will be

np.
The six Covid positive play-

after all of them tested negative

National hockey camps to resume on Aug19

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

health and wellbeing of the the top priority during the

col of quarantine, we look forward to have them back with us," Reid said. ers will be integrated into the