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CHANDIGARH, SATURDAY AUGUST 15, 2020; PAGES 12-62

the pioneer

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY

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Covid 2.5 mn and counting

5.50L cases in past 10 days in India; Health Joint Secy Luv Agarwal tests +ve

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With over 60,000 cases daily for the past few days, India coronavirus count crossed 2.5 million mark on Friday. For the last 10 days, the country has witnessed a huge surge, adding 5.50 lakh fresh cases during this period. India now accounts for 10.35 per cent of all active cases globally (one in every 10 active cases), and 6.21% of all deaths (one in every 16).

Overall, five States with the biggest 24-hour jump in total cases are Maharashtra (12,608), Andhra Pradesh (8,943), Karnataka (7,908), Tamil Nadu

(5,890) and Uttar Pradesh (4,512).

Meanwhile, the face of India's Covid-19 fight, Luv Agarwal, joint secretary of the Health Ministry, has also tested coronavirus positive.

"Dear All, just to inform that I have tested positive for Covid-19 and initiating home isolation as per guidelines. Requesting all my friends, colleagues for self-monitoring. Contact tracing will be done by health team. Hoping to see everyone soon," he tweeted.

The condition of noted singer Balasubrahmanyam deteriorated and based on the

advice of expert medical team attending to him, he has been moved to ICU and he is on life support and his condition remains critical.

According to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, India conducted record 8,48,728 tests for detection of coronavirus in a day with an aim to achieve a daily target of 10 lakh and recovery rate rose to 71.17 per cent. The fatality rate has declined to 1.95 per cent. Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan claimed the recovery rate of Covid-19 patients in India is the best in the world.

Amit Shah tests -ve, to stay put in home isolation

New Delhi: Home Minister Amit Shah, who was undergoing treatment for coronavirus at a private hospital in Gurugram, has tested negative. Shah, 55, said on the advice of the doctors, he will be in home isolation for the next few days. "Today, my corona test report has come and it is negative. I thank God and express my heartfelt gratitude to all those who wished for my recovery," he tweeted.

Punjab extends 9 pm-5 am curfew to all cities

CM orders weekend 'stay at home' in Ludhiana, Patiala, Jalandhar

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Witnessing a surge in Covid-19 cases amidst fears of the peak hitting the State in the next few weeks, Punjab Government on Friday announced extension of the night curfew from 9 pm to 5 pm to all cities, along with a slew of other measures to control the spread of the pandemic.

"The night-time curfew will now be applicable to all cities, with exemption for industries," said Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh while announcing sector-based division of big cities, with a Nodal Officer to be appointed

in each for contact tracing to assist the health teams.

Capt Amarinder also announced weekend, Saturday and Sunday, "Stay at Home" for avoidance of unnecessary movement and socialising, other than essential services, in Ludhiana, Patiala and Jalandhar for the next fortnight, after which the situation will be reviewed.

In another major decision, it has been decided that every marriage palace, restaurant, office, where more than 10 people gather, will appoint one Covid Monitor to ensure full compliance of masks, sanitization and social distancing, said

the Chief Minister, at his weekly Facebook Live #AskCaptain session.

At the same time, he also warned that teams will come and inspect these places, and violators will be penalized. Further, all persons who have high social contact will be tested within the coming week, and Corona Conquerors (who have recovered) from Health, Police and other Departments will be put on frontline duty, said the Chief Minister.

The directions came amid continuing increase in COVID cases, with the last seven days reporting an average of 1000 a day. The maximum cases last

week came from Ludhiana, Patiala, Jalandhar, Amritsar, and Mohali.

The Chief Minister said that increasing mortality due to Covid can be checked off those infected go for early testing and report to hospitals for treatment within 72 hours. "Treatment should begin within this period if lives are to be saved," he said, adding that "koyi gal nahin, theek ho jayenge" or "Mausam di gal hai" does not work.

"Don't be a doctor yourself, leave it to the doctors to diagnose the problem and suggest the treatment," he appealed to the people.

Punjab reports 1,077 fresh Covid cases, 25 deaths

Bathinda jail's 30 inmates, besides 29 cops, 17 prisoners tested positive

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Reporting on an average 1,000 fresh cases of the novel coronavirus every day, Punjab's Covid-19 tally is inching closer to the 30,000 mark. On Friday, the state reported 1,077 fresh cases and 25 deaths, pushing the State's corona tally to 29,013 and death toll to 731.

A total of 30 jail inmates from Bathinda have been tested positive besides 17 prisoners — including nine from Tarn Taran, five from Gurdaspur, three from Kapurthala. That was not all! No less than 29 Police personnel — including nine from Kapurthala, six from Gurdaspur, five from Ludhiana,

three from Sangrur, two each from Pathankot and Bathinda and one each from Bathinda and Nawanshahr — have also got infected by the virus.

Besides, four Factory workers from Sangrur and five frontline workers — three from Tarn Taran, and two from Sangrur — are also among the fresh cases reported in the state in the past 24 hours.

Ludhiana once again reported maximum number of cases at 296 followed by Patiala (135), Jalandhar (134), Pathankot (62), Bathinda (60), SAS Nagar (53), Kapurthala (38), Amritsar (36), Gurdaspur (35), 28 each in Ferozepur and Sangrur, Fatehgarh Sahib (27), 23 each in Moga and SBS Nagar, Faridkot (20), 17 each in Muktsar and Barnala, Tarn Taran (16), Hoshiarpur (13), Ropar (9), Mansa (4), Fazilka (3).

With this, the Ludhiana's tally

has reached 6,438, followed by Jalandhar (3,727), Amritsar (2,670), Patiala (3,374), Sangrur (1,432), SAS Nagar (1,647), Hoshiarpur (773), Gurdaspur (1,007), Pathankot (708), Tarn Taran (528), SBS Nagar (444), Ferozepur (805), Faridkot (518), Muktsar (358), Fatehgarh Sahib (615), Moga (677), Bathinda (1,072), Kapurthala (568), Ropar (419), Fazilka (405), Barnala (570) and Mansa (258).

Among the 25 casualties reported on Friday, seven were reported from Ludhiana, four each from Sangrur and Patiala, three from Jalandhar, two each from Ferozepur and SAS Nagar, and one each from Amritsar, Hoshiarpur and Barnala.

Ludhiana also topped the death chart with maximum 216 deaths, followed by 105 in Amritsar, 94 in Jalandhar, Patiala (67), Sangrur (48), SAS Nagar (30), Gurdaspur

(28), Hoshiarpur (23), Kapurthala (19), Tarn Taran (17), Pathankot (15), Bathinda (13), Ferozepur (12), Barnala (11), seven each in SBS Nagar and Ropar, six each in Fatehgarh Sahib and Moga, three in Muktsar, two in Fazilka, and one each in Faridkot, and Mansa.

Meanwhile, 489 more patients were cured and discharged including 114 from SAS Nagar (Mohali), 113 from Jalandhar, 49 each from Bathinda and Faridkot, 45 from Amritsar, Fatehgarh Sahib (31), Fazilka (17), Kapurthala (16), Pathankot (13), Mansa and Tarn Taran (12 each), Moga (8), Muktsar (5), Hoshiarpur (3), and SBS Nagar (2).

With this, the number of recoveries has reached 18,328, with the State still having 9,954 active cases, accounting for 34 per cent of the total cases.

J&K Police scoops 2nd highest peacetime gallantry medal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Jammu & Kashmir Police has bagged the Kirti Chakra, the second highest peacetime gallantry medal that comes after the Ashok Chakra on the eve of 74th Independence Day and also earned a Shaurya Chakra, the third highest in precedence in the category.

The J&K Police also topped the list of winners of Police Medals for Gallantry (PMG) by bagging 81 medals.

The CRPF follows the J&K Police with 51 medals, mostly for operations conducted in Jammu & Kashmir.

While the Kirti Chakra was awarded posthumously to Head Constable of Jammu & Kashmir Police Abdul Rashid Kalas, the Shaurya Chakra went to Deputy Inspector General of the J&K Police

Amit Kumar. The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) on Friday has recommended

gallantry medals to 21 troops who fought against China's People Liberation Army (PLA) in Eastern Ladakh in May-June, for this year's Independence Day.

The ITBP has accorded 294 commendation rolls and insignias to the paramilitary personnel for "displaying raw courage and bravery during face-offs and skirmishes in Eastern Ladakh in May-June, 2020," on the eve of the national festival.

"The ITBP troops not only effectively used shields to protect themselves but also responded fiercely to PLA advancing troops and brought the situation under control. With the highest order of professional skills, ITBP troops fought shoulder to shoulder and also brought the injured Indian Army troops to the rear," the ITBP said in a statement highlighting the bravery against the treachery of the PLA troops.

SC holds Prashant Bhushan guilty of contempt of court

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday held activist-lawyer Prashant Bhushan guilty of criminal contempt for his two derogatory tweets against the judiciary saying they cannot be said to be a fair criticism of the functioning of the judiciary made in the public interest.

the pioneer

WISHES ITS READERS

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY

As our offices will be closed on August 15, 2020, the next edition will be published on August 17, 2020.



Chandigarh Administration wishes you

V. P. Singh Badnore
Hon'ble Governor of Punjab and Administrator, UT, Chandigarh

74th INDEPENDENCE DAY of India

Let's celebrate the cultural diversity and harmony of our country in solidarity with the Corona Warriors who are working ceaselessly to contain the spread of the virus

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No question of withdrawal of free power to farmers till I'm CM: Amarinder

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Friday made it clear that there was no question of withdrawing free power to farmers in the state, and the same will continue as long as he is leading the Government.

The Chief Minister said that though the report of the Montek Singh Ahluwalia led experts group was only a preliminary one, his Government would not consider any recommendation on withdrawal of free power by any expert. "As long as I am here, free power to tube-wells will continue," he said.

Montek himself clarified during a videoconference interaction with the Chief Minister that the report of the expert group was not anti-farmer. "Media reports suggesting so were misleading," he said, adding that what the Group had suggested was a reduction in power to the Punjab agriculture.

He said that since the State Government had categorically announced that it had no plans to change its free power for farmers policy, the Expert Group had recommended that farmers must be incentivised to diversify out of rice, since the water intensive crop was economically profitable for farmers even though the ecological

damage was massive.

"Diversification implies a reduction in area under rice and modernisation of marketing, which in turn implies a much larger role for the private sector," said Montek.

The Expert Group under Montek Singh Ahluwalia was set up by the Chief Minister to formulate a strategy for post-COVID economic revival of Punjab. Capt Amarinder said diversification had already been started in Punjab during his first term as the Chief Minister. He pointed out that the State had significantly increased cotton this year by reducing paddy, but the problem of price support remains a big obstacle to diversification. The farmers need MSP for alternate crops to incentivise them away from paddy, he added.

Punjab was a power-surplus state, which was why the Government had also fixed industrial power rate at Rs five per unit, in order to incentivise industry to invest in the state, the Chief Minister said.

He underlined the need for promoting industry with the potential to generate more employment.

Noting that no modern economy could grow only on agriculture, the Chief Minister stressed the importance of focusing on industrialisation.

797 new cases take tally to 45,614 in Haryana

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

With 797 new cases, the total number of Covid-19 positive cases in Haryana has increased to 45,614 and 38,348 patients have recovered till now. The recovery rate among Covid-19 patients in Haryana on Friday reached 84.07 per cent. State on Friday reported seven fatalities due to coronavirus, pushing the death toll to 518.

Two fatalities each reported in Sonapat, Kurukshetra while one each from Faridabad, Gurugram and Jhajjar, according to a State medical bulletin. According to Haryana Health Department's official bulletin on Friday evening, 129 patients were reported in Faridabad while 92 in Gurugram.

Haryana CM approves slew of relief measures for people on I-Day

Chandigarh: On the eve of the Independence Day, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Friday approved a slew of relief measures including 100 per cent exemption in property tax for the charitable educational institutions, charitable hospitals and schools for children with special needs, complete waiver of electricity bills including surcharge amount for the months of April, May and June, 2020 in respect of all religious places and a onetime 50 per cent rebate in property tax for residential properties situated in Lal Dora of villages under Municipal Bodies whose owners would clear pending arrears by October 31, 2020.

A Government spokesman said that many amendments have been carried out in the Urban Local Bodies Department Notifications dated October 11, 2013 to give effect to the measures relating to property tax and that DISCOMs would soon issue notifications in respect of electricity bills of Temples, Gurdwaras, Churches and Mosques. The spokesman said a onetime rebate of 25 per cent would also be allowed for property tax dues or arrears for the year 2010-11 to 2016-17 to those property tax owners who clear all the property tax dues or arrears for the year 2010-11 to 2019-20 upto October 31, 2020. PNS

GENIUS SR. SEC. SCHOOL
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सर्वे शरीराणि ज्ञानिना न समाने ज्ञानाय वेदिने देवे कार्यं सर्वं कां वृत्तम्

<p>12th Class</p> <p>95% Above = 4 Students</p> <p>90% to 95% = 21 Students</p> <p>80% to 90% = 19 Students</p> <p>Total Marks = 93 Students</p>	<p>10th Class</p> <p>95% Above = 7 Students</p> <p>90% Above = 23 Students</p> <p>80% Above = 23 Students</p> <p>Total Marks = 78 Students</p>
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स्वतंत्रता दिवस की रातिक शुभकामनाएं

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The customers who are serviced from the location which is being closed will be serviced from Chandigarh branch at SCO 811 - 812, 2nd Floor, Sec 22 A, Chandigarh-150022.

All concerned are requested to take note of same.

Place: Chandigarh Date: August 14, 2020

For Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd.
Harsharan Singh
Zonal Sales Manager

1 death, 86 fresh cases reported in UT

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

One more city resident succumbed to COVID-19 while 86 persons were tested positive in Chandigarh on Friday. With this, the total toll reached 28 and the tally of positive cases stood at 1928. There were 807 active cases in the city till the evening. The recovery rate of COVID-19 positive patients reduced to 56 percent and the fatality rate recorded was 1.45 percent. A day before, the city had witnessed the highest single-day spike with 91 COVID-19 cases.

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Happy Independence Day to you and your family!

Raman Bansal
Managing Director

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बंडारू दत्तात्रेय
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हिमाचल प्रदेश

सन्देश

स्वतंत्रता दिवस के शुभ अवसर पर मैं समस्त देशवासियों, विशेषकर हिमाचलवासियों को हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं प्रेषित करता हूँ।

यह ऐतिहासिक दिन है, जब विदेशी साम्राज्य की दासता से यह राष्ट्र मुक्त हुआ। एक लम्बे संघर्ष के पश्चात् इस दिन देशवासियों ने आजादी का पर्व मनाया। लेकिन, यह इतना आसान भी नहीं था। देश के असंख्य नायकों और देशभक्तों के बलिदान के पश्चात् हम गुलामी की जंजीरों से मुक्त हुए। राष्ट्रपिता महात्मा गांधी, जवाहर लाल नेहरू और सरदार पटेल का योगदान तथा आजादी की क्रांति के जनक बाल गंगाधर तिलक, लाला लाजपत राय, सुभाष चंद्र बोस और क्रांतिकारी सरदार भगत सिंह, चंद्रशेखर आजाद, जैसे असंख्य माँ भारती के सपूतों ने इस राष्ट्र को दासता से मुक्त कर हमें आजाद करवाया। स्वतंत्रता दिवस पर मैं उन सभी देशभक्तों को प्रदेशवासियों की ओर से श्रद्धासुमन अर्पित करता हूँ। मैं, उन शहीद वीर सपूतों को भी नमन करता हूँ, जिन्होंने स्वतंत्रता के उपरान्त देश की एकता और अखण्डता को बनाए रखने तथा देश की सीमाओं की रक्षा करते हुए शहादत पाई है।

स्वतंत्रता दिवस हमें आत्म-विवेचन का अवसर भी प्रदान करता है कि हमने इस देश के चहुँमुखी विकास तथा स्वच्छ समाज के निर्माण में कितनी भूमिका निभाई है। मैं, प्रदेशवासियों का आह्वान करता हूँ कि वे सकारात्मक दृष्टिकोण अपनाकर देश व प्रदेश के विकास में आगे आएँ।

मुझे प्रसन्नता है कि इस छोटे से पहाड़ी प्रदेश ने विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में विकास के अनेक आयाम स्थापित किए हैं और यह प्रदेश प्रगतिशील राज्य के रूप में उभरकर सामने आया है। इस उपलब्धि के लिए मैं समस्त प्रदेशवासियों को बधाई देता हूँ तथा आशा करता हूँ कि भविष्य में भी इसी उत्साह के साथ राज्य की प्रगति के पथ पर अग्रसर रहने के लिए सदैव प्रयासरत रहेंगे।

आज पूरी दुनिया कोरोना महामारी के संकट से जूझ रही है। हमें इस मुश्किल को धड़ि में आत्मविश्वास को बनाए रखना है और शारीरिक तंदुरुस्ती व मानसिक दृढ़ता के साथ आगे बढ़ना है। मैं इस अवसर पर आप सभी से अपील करता हूँ कि प्रधानमंत्री की 'कचरा भारत छोड़ो' मुहिम को और मजबूत बनाएं। साथ ही, वो गज की दूरी, मुंह ढकना, हाथ धोना और समय-समय पर दिए जा रहे निर्देशों का पालन करें। मैं इस मौके पर, सभी 'कोरोना वॉरियर्स' का आभार व्यक्त करता हूँ जो पूरी निष्ठा से समाज सेवा में संलग्न हैं।

इस महत्वपूर्ण दिवस पर मैं राज्य की उन्नति एवं सर्वांगीण विकास को कामना करता हूँ। आइए, हम सब संकल्प लें कि निष्ठा और प्रतिबद्धता के साथ हम राष्ट्र और राज्य की उन्नति के लिए अपने कर्तव्य का निर्वहन करेंगे।

स्वतंत्रता दिवस पर आप सबको पुनः मेरी हार्दिक शुभकामनाएँ।

(बंडारू दत्तात्रेय)

Heartiest Greetings on INDEPENDENCE DAY

This 74th Independence Day, let us dedicate ourselves to fighting the battle against COVID with the same determination, courage, commitment and resolve with which we fought and won the war against the British imperialist forces. Together, we shall overcome this too!

Capt. Amarinder Singh
Chief Minister, Punjab

Prez Kovind lauds efforts of frontline corona warriors

Says nation is 'indebted to doctors, nurses and other health workers'



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

President Ram Nath Kovind on Friday lauded the efforts of healthcare professionals at the frontline in the country's fight against the coronavirus pandemic and said the nation is "indebted to doctors, nurses and other health workers". He said the celebrations this year will be restrained without the customary pomp and show owing to the pandemic which has "altered the world we live in". Addressing the nation on the eve of the 74th Independence Day, the President termed the Government's response to the Covid-19 challenge as "super-human".

Lauding the Centre and State Government for taking steps to contain the transmission of novel coronavirus, Kovind said India's role in dealing with the pandemic is a lesson for the world. The President also spoke on the Galwan Valley face-off in which 20 Indian soldiers were killed fighting the Chinese army in June this year in eastern Ladakh. "Our brave soldiers laid down their lives defending our borders. Those worthy sons of Bharat Mata lived and died for national pride. Their bravery in combat has demonstrated that while we believe in peace, we are also capable of giving a befitting response to any attempt of aggression," he said. "Even while the world community needs to fight together against the greatest challenge before humanity, some in our neighbourhood tried to carry out their misadventure of expansion. Our brave soldiers laid down their lives defending our borders. Those worthy sons of Bharat Mata lived and died for national pride. The entire nation salutes the martyrs of Galwan Valley. Every Indian feels grateful to their family members."

Nareish wins police medal for record 7th time for fighting terrorists in J&K

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

CRPF Assistant Commandant Nareish Kumar has scripted history by receiving his 7th Police Medal for Gallantry in a short span of four years for his gallant action against the terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir. "An officer with sharp tactical acumen and indomitable courage, Nareish Kumar has led the CRPF Valley QAT (Quick Action Team) in Srinagar which has a glorious history of continued success marked with numerous Gallantry medals that embellish its valour," the CRPF said in a statement. Assistant Commandant Kumar got his first medal in 2017 for an operation which was conducted in Srinagar in 2016. Here, he neutralised two foreign terrorists whereas in 2018, he was awarded with two PMGs for neutralising two Hizbul Mujahideen commanders in fierce operation which lasted for three days. "This year alone, the Valley QAT has been adorned with aggression," said the President who is also supreme commander of the armed forces. Besides, President Kovind called the construction of Ram Temple in Ayodhya a "moment of pride for all" and said the National Education

Policy 2020 will "strengthen the culture of 'Inclusion', 'Innovation' and 'Institution' in the sphere of education." "Only ten days ago, construction of the temple at Shri Ram Janmabhoomi began, in Ayodhya. It was indeed a moment of pride for all. People of the country maintained restraint and patience for a long time and reposed unflinching trust in the judicial system," he said. President said the 'National Education Policy' spells a long term vision with far-reaching impact, adding that "it will strengthen the culture of 'Inclusion', 'Innovation' and 'Institution' in the sphere of education". "Imparting education in the mother tongue has been given emphasis in order to bring minds grow spontaneously. It is a right step in this direction," he said. Kovind said India's approach is not a self-centred one but it carries a tradition of

working for well-being of the entire world. "It has been the tradition of India that we do not just live for ourselves, but work for the well-being of the entire world. India's self-reliance means being self-sufficient without detaching or creating distance from the world. It implies that India will continue to engage with the world economy while maintaining its identity." The President said youth should feel special pride in being citizens of a free nation. "August 15 fills us with the excitement of unfurling the tricolour, taking part in celebrations and listening to patriotic songs." On this day, the youth of India should feel the special pride of being citizens of a free nation. We gratefully remember our freedom fighters and martyrs whose sacrifices have enabled us to live in an independent nation," the president said.

India won't compromise with its self-esteem, says Rajnath

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the situation on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh remains tense for nearly three months now, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday said India has not been attacked anywhere to capture land of others. Reiterating this, he also said India believes in winning hearts and not land. "But it does not mean we will let our self-esteem be hurt," he said. Making this assertion during the customary address to the troops on the eve of the Independence Day, he, however, cautioned if attacked India as always will give a befitting reply. He, however, did not name China. "Whatever we do in national security, we always do it for self-defence, not for attacking others. If enemy

country ever attacked us, like every country we will give a befitting reply," he said. His observations came in the backdrop of five rounds of military level and four at the diplomatic level in the past few weeks failing to resolve the stand-offs now on at four friction points. Moreover, China has not withdrawn its troops from these sites despite agreement thereby leading to tension in the area. In his address, the defence minister assured that the government is doing all that is necessary to keep our forces morale high and fulfill their all operational requirement. Later in his tweet message, he paid tributes to the soldiers. "On the eve of India's Independence Day, I salute the indomitable courage of the brave soldiers of our Armed Forces who are self-

lessly serving the nation. Their unmatched courage and patriotism has ensured that our country is safe," he said. In another tweet, the minister said the Government is leaving no stone unturned to strengthen the armed forces and ensure the welfare of their families and the ex-servicemen. Amid the ongoing stand-off, the Defence Ministry has given the armed forces emergency financial powers to procure weapons systems up to Rs 300 crores on an urgent basis without any further clearances to cut short the procurement cycle. The Services have embarked on major procurements of ammunition, anti-tank missiles, man portable air-defences, unmanned aerial vehicles among others.

Def Min launches portal providing access to defence vendors



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Days after banning import of 101 weapon systems to make the Indian defence industry self-reliant, the Government on Friday signed four contracts as part of Defence India Start Up challenge in the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. On the final day of 'Atmanirbhar Week' celebration of the Defence Ministry, he also launched Department of Defence Production (DDP) portal SRIJAN which is a 'one stop shop online portal that provides access to the vendors to take up items that can be taken up for indigenisation. A number of Expressions of inter-

est/Requests for Proposal were also issued. Speaking on the occasion, Rajnath said signing of these MoUs and contracts will lead us to self-reliance in the technologies related to defence manufacturing. He called upon the Indian industry partners to show complete commitment and take proactive participation in the pursuit of Indigenisation and self-reliance in the defence sector. Commending the DDP for creating SRIJAN portal, the minister said this will help Indian industry partners to play active role in the goal of self-reliance in defence sector. Pursuant to Atmanirbhar Bharat announcement, Department of Defence

Production has developed an indigenisation portal, srijan.defence.gov.in, "opportunities for Make in India in Defence", which will give information on items that can be taken up for indigenisation by the private sector. On this portal, DDPs/OBs/SHOs can display their items which they have been importing or are going to import which the Indian Industry can design, develop and manufacture as per their capability or through joint venture with OEMs. The Indian Industry will be able to show their interest. There are over 3,000 unique items with a value of over Rs 10,000 Crore that are available through the portal.

Former Maha CM Fadnavis may get key role in Bihar election

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP is expected to give former Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis a key role in the Bihar election, due later this year. A move is about to appoint Fadnavis as election-in-charge of Bihar polls, according to sources. The former Maharashtra Chief Minister's role assumes importance in the backdrop of a raging controversy around the death of Sushant Singh Rajput, a young actor and Bollywood star and a native of Bihar. Sushant's parents have lodged an FIR in the state in the case. The BJP has been alleging that the Mumbai police under Minister Uddhav Thackeray and his son for the handling of the actor's case and demanding a CBI probe into his death and "justice" for him. The issue of the 34-year-old actor's death triggered charges and counter-charges between the two States with

Maharashtra Shiv Sena leaders accusing the BJP-ID (U) coalition Government of Bihar of politicising the investigation to serve its political ends when assembly polls are round the corner. The Bihar Government's eagerness to take up the case of Rajput is seen by many as a move to consolidate "thakur votes" in the state as also a gesture that the Nitish Kumar-led government was standing by its 'son of the soil' and his family in distress. The reports of the appointment of Fadnavis have been growing since he chaired a core committee meeting of the BJP's Bihar unit party on August 13 and BJP President J P Nadda directing leaders in Bihar to unite to Maharashtra after the 'Maha vikas Aghadi' coalition took reins of governance in the State. The BJP is also expecting to benefit from Fadnavis' Brahmin origins. Brahmins constitute 5 percent of the population in Bihar.

India exports 23 lakh PPEs to 5 countries

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With export norms relaxed, India managed to export 23 lakh Personal Protection Equipments to five countries namely the USA, the UK, UAE, Senegal and Slovenia in just a month. "This has substantially aided India to position itself in the global export market of PPEs," said a statement from the Union Health Ministry. PPEs are a crucial medical resource for frontline workers during the pandemic that include body coveralls, N-95 masks, goggles, face shields among others. The reports of the Ministry of the 'Make in India' spirit embedded in the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Aikyaan' has resulted in providing resilience and self-sufficiency to the country for various medical equipment including PPEs. While the Union

Government is supplying PPE kits, N95 masks, ventilators etc., to the State governments and union territories administrations, states are also procuring these items directly. "Between March and August 2020, they have procured 1.40 crore indigenous PPE from their own budgetary resources. During the same period, the Centre has disbursed 1.28 crore PPE to states, UTs and central institutions, free of cost," said the ministry in a statement. The Centre has been leading the graded, pre-emptive, proactive and collaborative response and management of COVID-19, along with the states union territories. As part of its continued efforts towards progressively augmenting and strengthening the medical infrastructure across the country, various policy decisions have been taken on a regular basis.

At the start of the pandemic, there was a global shortage of all kinds of medical equipment including N95 masks, PPE kits, ventilators etc., the ministry underlined. Most of the products were not being manufactured in the country in the beginning as many of the necessary components were to be procured from other countries. The rising global demand due to the pandemic resulted in their scarce availability in the foreign markets, it stated. Turning the pandemic into an opportunity to develop its domestic market for production of medical equipment, the government has combined efforts of ministries of health, textiles, pharmaceuticals, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Defence Research and Development Organisation and others, India has hugely ramped up its own manufacturing capacity, the ministry said.

Number of deaths due to smokeless tobacco in India is on rise: Study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The number of deaths due to smokeless tobacco in India is on the rise, accounting for 70 per cent of deaths in the South-East Asia region followed by Pakistan (seven per cent) and Bangladesh which accounts five per cent of the global disease burden due to smokeless tobacco. Researchers added that deaths due to it globally has also gone up by a third in seven years to an estimated 350,000 people.

The research, published in the journal BMC Medicine, comes at a time when there are concerns that spitting - a behaviour common among those who chew tobacco - is likely to transmit the Covid-19 virus. "The study has come at a time when Covid-19 is affecting almost all aspects of our lives. Chewing tobacco increases

es saliva production and leads to compulsive spitting," said study researcher Kamran Siddiqui from the University of York in the UK. There are concerns that spitting - a behaviour common among those who chew tobacco - is likely to transmit the virus to others. "The acknowledgement of this, India, for example, has already taken a positive step by banning spitting in public places to reduce the transmission of COVID-19," Siddiqui added. The study estimated that in 2017 one smokeless tobacco resulted in more than 90,000 deaths due to cancers of the mouth, pharynx and oesophagus and accounted for more than 258,000 deaths from heart disease. Millions more have their lives shortened by ill-health due to the effects of chewing tobacco-based products, the study reveals.

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE						
Sr. No.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT / BID (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS (EMAIL)
1.	PWD B&A, AMBALA	SPECIAL REPAIR AND RENOVATION OF OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PROVINCIAL DIVISION NO. 1, PWD B&A, BRANCH, AMBALA (CHIT IN AMBALA DISTRICT) (SEE INVITED)	13.08.2020 27.08.2020	51.42 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	0171-2977224 pawd-ee@ambala.hry.nic.in
2.	PWD B&A, KARNAL	PROVIDING ADDITIONAL CCTV CAMERAS IN THE CAMPUS OF JUDICIAL COMPLEX AT PANIPAT 2020 (HRY-13931, 2 + 4 OTHER WORKS)	13.08.2020 24.08.2020	23.34 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	0194-2250596 pawd-ee@karnal.hry.nic.in
3.	PWD B&A, FATEHABAD	CONSTRUCTION OF PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRE WITH ACCOMMODATIONS AT HUDAAN KALAN IN FATEHABAD DISTRICT - 2 OTHER WORKS	11.08.2020 25.08.2020	346.57 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	90331-14455 01667-22030 pawd-ee@fatehabad.hry.nic.in
4.	PWD B&A, PANIPAT	CONSTRUCTION OF 1 NOS HOUSES FOR CIVIL JUDGE SENIOR & JUNIOR DIVISION IN 500 CIVIL JUDICIAL COMPLEX AT SAMALHA IN PANIPAT DIST. (SEE INVITED)	13.08.2020 27.08.2020	256.93 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	0180-2638652
5.	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING GHOSANA	DRAFT FOR PROVIDING FUNCTIONAL HOUSEHOLD TAP CONNECTION WITH DISTRIBUTION NETWORK IN VILLAGE GHOSANA TEHS. GHOSANASIT. SONPAT "PROVIDING FUNCTIONAL HOUSEHOLD TAP CONNECTION WITH LAYING OF DISTRIBUTION PIPELINE IN VILLAGE CHAURANA AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THERETO" + 8 OTHER WORKS	13.08.2020 25.08.2020	105.10 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in Tender No. 2019_HRY-139313, 1 + 8 Other	01263-259417 etgphn@pnl.com@ghosana @ghosana.hry.nic.in
6.	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT NARNAUL	LAYING OF SEWER LINES IN BALANCE APPROVED AREA OF NARNAUL TOWN DIST. MAHENDRAGARH, "PROVIDING & LAYING OF 1000 HPI CO HOPE PIPE SERVER BY "THICKNESS TECHNOLOGY AT REWARD ROAD NARNAUL TOWN AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THEREO"	13.08.2020 27.08.2020	89.42 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	01263-268290 etpnnar@narnaul@gmail.com
7.	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT AMBALA	PROVIDING 4 NOS. TIE-INS IN BALANCE APPROVED AREA OF AMBALA TOWN DIST. MAHENDRAGARH, "PROVIDING & LAYING OF 1000 HPI CO HOPE PIPE SERVER BY "THICKNESS TECHNOLOGY AT REWARD ROAD NARNAUL TOWN AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THEREO" + 8 OTHER WORKS	13.08.2020 27.08.2020	100.15 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in TENDER NO. 2020_HRY_139439, 1	0171-2631402 eeambala@pnharyana.gov.in
8.	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGG. DIVISION KARNAL	APMT. ESTIMATE FOR WATER SUPPLY SCHEME GHARUANA TOWN, "OPERATION & MAINTENANCE OF ALL STRUCTURES/COMPONENTS, PUMP CHAMBER, BOUNDARY WALL, DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM, TURBINES, PUMPING MACHINERY, OSHA, ETC. WATER SUPPLY SCHEME GHARUANA TOWN AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THERETO FOR THE PERIOD OF 36 MONTHS" (FROM THE DATE OF COMPLETION)	13.08.2020 27.08.2020	220.07 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in TENDER NO. HRY_139394	0194-2266044 etkarnal@gmail.com
9.	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT PANICHAULA	CONSTRUCTING RETAINING WALL AND GRADED WIRE SITE NEAR LAND OF SH. KARNAL, SINGH NEAR TANGRI NAZI IN VILLAGE NARNAULPUR BLOCK, SANSAR NALI, 1 + 2 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 28.08.2020	29.22 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	0172-2570325 seemant127@yahoo.com
10.	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT KURUSHKETRA	REPAIRING AND STRENGTHENING OF FUNDRAISER FROM RD O TO RD 36930	28.08.2020 20.08.2020	10.26 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	01244-295644 seemant127@yahoo.com
11.	PANCHAYATI RAL, SONPAT	REPAIR OF PANCHAYAT SADAK AT VILLAGE MINAPUR SITE PROPOSED TO BE CHANGED AT VILLAGE KAMI & 3 NOS. WORKS (SEE INVITED)	10.08.2020 20.08.2020	11.97 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	Executive Engineer
12.	PANCHAYATI RAL, KATHAL	COMPLETION OF PANCHAYAT GHARUSK	17.08.2020 31.08.2020	3.41 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	01746-234748

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

RO NO. 82271

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in RO NO. 82273

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE	
The Deputy Chief Engineer/Survey & Const., Tike Bridge, Noida, New Delhi, for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e-tender for the following work:	
Mode of Tender	E-Tender (Single Packet)
Tender Notice No.	281-W/S&C/TK/JPL/SLN/LHRI-GHJ/2020 dated: 14.08.2020
Full name of work	Final Location Survey (FLS) for new line between Hardoi (Gunaahar) via Sandi (59.300 kms). Carrying out detail Engineering survey including Levelling, alignment, exploration, preparation of plans, L-sections, GA plans of Bridges and other ancillary activities related in connection with preparation of DPR.
Approx. cost	Rs. 49,143/- (Rs. Forty Nine Lakhs Twenty Nine thousand One hundred Forty Three only).
Completion period	06 Months (Six months)
Earliest money amount	Rs. 98,600/- (Rs. Ninety Eight thousand Six hundred only)
Availability of tender documents	Tender documents will be available on IREPS web site (i.e. www.ireps.gov.in) from 15.08.2020 to 07.09.2020 upto 11.30 hrs.
Last date/time of upload of tenders	07.09.2020 upto 11.30 hours. Tender documents can be uploaded by the tenderer(s) on IREPS web site w.e.f 23.08.2020 to 07.09.2020.
Date and time of opening of tender	07.09.2020 at 11.30 hours, (immediately after close of uploading of tender (SD) in the office of Chief Administrative Officer/Const., NRI, Kashmere Gate, Delhi-110061)
This notice is available on www.m.in.dian.railways.gov.in web site and documents on www.ireps.gov.in site is available.	
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	

LOST & FOUND

I Ravghav Goyal S/o Shri Kailash Chander Goyal R/o 41, Aradhana Enclave R.K. Puram Sector-13, New Delhi-110066 have lost my 10th CBSE certificate/marksheet of the year 2018 roll no. 8239670 one you found please contact # 9312090774.

VEERBHUMI HIMACHAL FORGES AHEAD ON THE PATH OF UNPRECEDENTED DEVELOPMENT AND PROSPERITY

Article on 74th Independence Day (15 August, 2020)



Jai Ram Thakur
Chief Minister
Himachal Pradesh

15th August is a glorious historical day for all Indians. On this day in the year 1947, our country attained independence. Today, we are joyfully celebrating 74th Independence Day of our great democratic country. On this auspicious occasion.

Independence Day is also an auspicious day to commemorate the great patriots, who sacrificed their lives to liberate our country from the shackles of slavery. I pay tribute to the brave freedom fighters, who liberated the motherland by sacrificing their lives. I also pay my respect to all the veteran freedom fighters. This day holds special significance for every Indian, as the ceaseless endeavours for freedom has given us the golden opportunity to take the country forth with unprecedented development.

The people of Himachal have also overwhelmingly participated in the freedom struggle. 'Dham Gokhand', 'Pratmandal Movement', 'Suket Satyagrah' and 'Pahuna Movement' anecdotes speak highly of the valiant contribution of the state. I also pay tribute to the freedom fighters of the state.

Himachal Pradesh came into existence on April 15, 1948, exactly eight months after the Independence of the country. I pay tribute to the first Chief Minister Dr. Y.S. Parmar and other personalities for their valuable contributions in the formation and reconstruction of the state. Today's Himachal is the result of Dr. Parmar's vision. From the formation of the state to attaining full statehood, the state has gone through many ups and downs. Dr. Parmar himself has been the pioneer of this journey. It is a matter of happiness for all of us that this year we are also celebrating the golden jubilee of statehood of Himachal Pradesh.

Veerbhumi Himachal. The history of the state is full of legacy of soldiers' bravery, valour and sacrifices. The youth of the state have always played an important role in various wars before and after independence and have shown exemplary courage. To make sacrifices for the sake of country is a glorious tradition here. This is the reason that this state is also known as Veerbhumi as well as Devbhumi. It is a matter of great pride that the first Paramvir Chakra of the country was conferred upon Major Somnath Sharma, the heroic soldier of the state. Even before independence, the soldiers from the state have been awarded a total of 23 Army medals including 1 George's Cross, 2 Victoria Cross and 2 Military Cross. During the Kargil war in 1999, our brave soldiers have served above and beyond. The stories of remarkable fighting spirit of Captain Vikram Batra and Havildar Sanjay Kumar, the recipients of Paramvir Chakra, speak volumes of their valour and commitment. Col. D.S. Thapa was also conferred with Paramvir Chakra. After independence, soldiers of

the state have received 1096 gallantry awards including 4 Paramvir Chakras and 2 Ashoka Chakras.

I also pay my respects to the brave soldiers of the State, who have been martyred recently while guarding the borders of the country in the Galwan Valley of Ladakh. Entire nation is grateful to the brave soldiers, who made supreme sacrifices while protecting the borders. The heroic tales of the war heroes will continue to inspire generations to come.

The state government is committed to the welfare of freedom fighters, soldiers, ex-servicemen and their families. Showing gratitude to the brave soldiers, several schemes are being implemented for their rehabilitation and welfare. The State government is providing Rs. 15,000 to freedom fighters and wives of deceased freedom fighters and Rs. 10,000 to their unmarried daughters. Rs. 51,000 is being provided for the marriage of daughters of freedom fighters and Rs. 21,000 for the marriage of their grand-daughters. The dependents of freedom fighters were also provided with 2 percent reservation in government and semi-government services.

Annuity of Rs. 3 Lakh is being provided to Paramvir & Ashok Chakra winners, Rs. 2 lakh to Mahavir Chakra & Kirti Chakra and Rs. 1 lakh to Vir Chakra & Shaurya Chakra winners. During this tenure, Kirti Chakra and Shaurya Chakra winners have been given benefits of about Rs. 7.50 crore. The financial assistance given for the marriage of daughters of war widows has been increased from Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 50,000.

I express special gratitude to the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, under whose dynamic leadership India has emerged as a strong nation. Strong leadership is the hallmark of a strong nation. Today the whole world is acknowledging the strength and potential of our country. The befitting response to the neighbouring countries on the borders and the announcement of Atmanirbhar Bharat campaign during Covid-19 pandemic reflects the decision-making power of the country.

New India. Today, our country is moving strongly towards self-reliance. Make in India, Vocal for Local, New National Education Policy and efforts to double farmers' income by 2022 will prove to be a boon in the formation of New India. The new education policy implemented by the center government will be helpful in making India 'Vishwa Guru' again. Successfully implemented Swachh Bharat Mission has played an important role in making the whole country neat and clean.

Foundation of Prosperity. After coming into existence in the year 1948, the State has journeyed its development journey from scratch. The pace of development remained slow for the first two decades, but development gained momentum after attaining Statehood on 25th January, 1971. This small but beautiful hill state is making its mark as a progressive State today. The credit for this goes to the hard-working, honest and innocent people of the State. I express my gratitude to the people of Himachal Pradesh for this contribution.

Dawn of a New Era. On 27th December, 2017, we were honoured to serve the people of the State which gave a rise to the new era of development in the state.

During this tenure, the state government added many dimensions to the development and achieved new heights. During this tenure, the state government initiated several developmental schemes with the purpose of inclusive growth and upliftment of all sections of the society.

In the very first meeting of Cabinet, the age limit for getting social security pension was reduced from 80 years to 70 years with no income limit. At present, more than 2.85 lakh people above 70 years of age are availing monthly pension of Rs. 1500. Along with this, social security pension of widows and specially-abled has also been increased to Rs. 1000 per month. During the present tenure of state government, 1,63,607 new cases of various social security pensions have been approved.

Priority to Public Participation. The state government has given priority to public participation in development and to bring government closer to the people. An ambitious initiative 'Jan Manch' for speedy redressal of public grievances was started. Since the first Jan Manch held on June 3, 2018, total 189 Jan Manch have been organized in all the assembly constituencies of the state with 45,000 complaints and demands, out of which 91 percent have been resolved.

Mukhyamantri Seva Sankalp Helpline-1100 has been started. Any citizen can register the complaint by dialing 1100 number from any corner of the state. More than one lakh complaints have been received so far and most of the complaints have been redressed.

'My Gov' portal has also been started with the objective of quick resolution of public grievances and to get public feedback regarding the policies and programs of the government. This innovative effort has become very popular and the general public is openly giving suggestions, which will help the government in policy formulation and also ensuring their participation in the development process.

Better health facilities. An ambitious scheme named 'Himcare' has been started in the state. So far, 5.50 lakh families have been registered under the scheme and more than one lakh people have availed treatment facility, on which Rs. 91.43 crore has been spent.

Sahara Yojana has also been started to provide financial assistance to the poor people suffering from critical diseases. Under this scheme, financial assistance of Rs. 2000 per month is being provided to the eligible patients. So far, financial assistance of Rs. 5.90 crore has been provided to 9078 beneficiaries under the scheme. It has been decided to increase financial assistance to Rs. 3000 per month.

Under Himachal Grihini Savidha Yojana, 2.78 lakh women have been provided free gas connections. Himachal Pradesh has become the first state in the country to achieve such an achievement. To provide houses for the poor, a target of construction of 10,000 houses has been fixed in the

budget this year.

A sum of Rs. 41.78 crore will be spent on plantation and rural livelihood improvement works under JICA project of Rs. 800 crore. Under the Mukhyamantri Ek Higha Yojana in the state, a grant of Rs. 40,000 is being given to a woman or her family to build a backyard kitchen garden in a high land. 'Panchvati Yojana' has also been launched for senior citizens in rural areas, under which parks and gardens will be developed in all the development blocks in a phased manner.

Mukhyamantri Swavalamban Yojana has inspired the youth of the state to adopt self-employment. Under the scheme, 25 percent subsidy is being provided, while 30 percent subsidy is being provided to women entrepreneur. Total 946 units have also been set up with a subsidy of Rs. 44 crore. With the successful implementation of the scheme, the youth of the State are now becoming employers instead of employment seekers.

Many new agricultural schemes have been started with a view to double the income of farmers and orchardists. As many as 59,000 farmers have adopted natural farming in the State. Mukhyamantri Khat Sanrakshan Yojana has proved successful in protecting crops from wild animals. So far, about 2600 farmers have benefited with Rs. 80.36 crore. Anti-hail net scheme has also proved

to be effective for the orchardists. An area of 1587 hectares has been covered under this scheme with an expenditure of Rs. 44.44 crore. New projects have been started to promote cultivation of 'Hing' and 'Kesar'.

All the centrally sponsored schemes are being implemented in the state efficiently, resulting in the national level awards for State. I specially thank the Center government under the leadership of Sh. Narendra Modi for the liberal financial assistance and sanctioning various projects for the State.

Covid-19 Challenge. This year the whole world is facing a new challenge of Covid-19. Due to the timely and effective steps taken by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to deal with the situation arising due to Corona epidemic, the lives of the citizens of the country have been protected. Major relief has been provided by the Center Government by announcing the 20 lakh crore economic package under Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan providing financial assistance to the poor, farmers, vendors, MSME, migrant labour and other weaker sections of society.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana, the poor families of the country have availed free ration till November 2020, direct financial assistance of Rs. 500 per month in the 5.90 lakh accounts of women under Pradhan

Mantri Jan Dhan, three cylinders free of cost to the 1.26 lakh beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala scheme and Rs. 2000 per month to the 8.74 lakh farmers under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi. All medical staff, sanitation workers and health workers were covered with life insurance of Rs. 50 lakh under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana.

A financial assistance of Rs. 2000 per month has been provided to the 1 lakh registered under HLP Building and other Construction workers Welfare Board with total expenditure of Rs. 40 crore. During this period, the state government has also provided Rs. 1000 per month to Asha workers from March to June 2020. An increased amount of Rs. 2000 per month has been provided in the month of July & August.

To track the cases of Covid-19 in the state, an Active Case Finding Campaign was launched with support of health workers. This campaign was praised throughout the country. Meanwhile, e-Sanjeevani portal has been started in the country as well as in the state, whose main objective was to provide medical consultations to the people at home. It is a matter of pleasure that our efforts for e-Sanjeevani portal has got third place in the country. The recovery rate in Covid-19 cases is 63.81% and death rate is 0.44% only in the state.

There are 6 dedicated Covid hospitals, 11 dedicated health centers and 38 dedicated Covid care centers with a total capacity of 2800 beds in the State. The center government has provided Rs. 52 crore to the State for health facilities in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic. A sum of Rs. 13 crore was spent on the management of quarantine centers. All the selected institutions of the State were equipped with masks, PPE kits, ventilators, oxygen cylinders etc. The State government has established 8 RT-PCR, 24 TRUNAAT and 2 CB-NAAT testing centers, which is a record in itself.

During this period, supply of essential commodities like ration, fruit-vegetables & medicines were provided to 16.76 lakh people in the State with the help of 1750 registered vendors under Home Delivery Scheme. One Country-One Ration Card facility was started in the State. In the wake of the Covid-19, total 5.69 lakh pensioners have been paid pension till September, 2020 in advance with an expenditure of Rs. 424.58 crore.

Covid-19 State Disaster Response Fund received overwhelming response from the people of the State. An amount of Rs. 82.48 crore was contributed towards the fund out of which Rs. 22.08 crore were spent on Covid-19 care.

In the wake of increasing case of Covid-19 in other states, 2.25 lakh

Himachalis stranded in different parts of the country have been brought back home by special efforts of the government. Skill register portal was started for skill mapping of the youth brought back to the State to provide employment opportunities and skill development.

Mukhyamantri Shcheti Roigar Guarantee Yojana has been implemented to provide guaranteed employment to youth in urban areas. In order to maintain direct contact with the public, redressal of public grievances and constant review of welfare schemes through video conferencing has been ensured. Various works are being done according to the suggestions being given by the Cabinet Sub-committee constituted to resume economic activities during Covid-19.

I would like to specially thank Corona warriors for their valuable contribution and people of the State for their cooperation to comply with the guidelines given by the government from time to time. I also appeal to ensure social distancing with compulsory use of masks. The State government is committed to contain Covid-19 and all necessary steps are being taken. No one need to panic but precautions should be taken.

I once again felicitate people of the State on the Independence Day and wish for their healthy, happy and prosperous life.

Jai Hind! Jai Himachal!

सारे जहाँ से अच्छा
हिन्दुस्तान हमारा

74th स्वतंत्रता दिवस

हिमाचलवासियों को
स्वतंत्रता दिवस के पावन अवसर पर
हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं

असंख्य शहीदों के सर्वोच्च बलिदान को
हिमाचलवासियों का नमन।
आई हम स्वाधीनता सेनानियों के अथक प्रयासों से
हासिल आज़ादी का मूल्य समझें
देश की आन-बान और शान बनाएं रखें

- जय राम ठाकुर
मुख्यमंत्री, हिमाचल प्रदेश



India at 74

The pandemic has given us our transformative moment. Probably to remind us of forgotten ideals that make up our civilisational DNA



On September 5, 2019, 74-year-old Erramatti Mangayamma gave birth to twin girls in Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, becoming the world's oldest mother after being called "barren" her whole life. At 74, Ferdinand Marie de Lesseps made an attempt to construct the Suez Canal. And at 77, John Glenn became the oldest person to go into space. The point of citing these inspirational figures, who were really ordinary men and women till they were challenged, is that no time is too early or too late enough to make a new beginning. And at 74, with perhaps one of the most unimaginable crises in our nation's history — the relentless pandemic,

the sliding economy, the collapse of democratic institutions, the chaos of sectarian politics and a conflict-ridden society — India is perhaps at that turning point in its timeline to correct its course and claim a new destiny. Perhaps this churning is necessary to prepare ourselves for a new century instead of relying on templates that we thought were transformative but are now past their prime. Had it not been for the pandemic and the crushing burden it imposed on our social and economic infrastructure, we wouldn't have bothered to look at rebuilding them. There's nothing wrong with globalisation except that when there is resource scarcity in every nation, as a pandemic-induced shutdown snapped mutual dependencies, we ought to be self-sufficient. The massive push to self-produce through *Atmanirbhar Bharat*, decentralising the agricultural economy and empowering rural India may not show results in the short-term. But at least the steps for the next big leap have been laid. China transformed itself in its lowest phase and became the world's largest producer. As a consumption-driven society, we are battling low demand and investment, but given the accelerators and enablers in economic packages, revival is possible. Graded targets for manufacturing at home, incentivisation and hand-holding through the initial breakthrough stage, standardisation of quality through technical partnerships with global expertise, developing economies of scale and allowing competition only to build better and robust home brands will get us there. Not insularity, but letting the trade winds blow so that we can make our mark on shop shelves around the world beyond the boutique handicrafts or tea. If we can be the world's largest producer of vaccines, we can be the factory floor for other products as well. Statistics speak for themselves. Most global chains and majors have, so far, not robbed domestic brands of their dedicated market but have had to indigenise their product lines instead. Pre-pandemic, India emerged as one of the fastest-growing major economies and post-recovery is projected to become one of the top three biggest economies in about a decade. And if the deep penetration of our digital economy is any indication, then that would be our competitive edge. These are also the days when India has awakened to its potential in the knowledge economy. Taking the COVID-19 management module as an example, just in a four-month period, we have developed our own test kits, exported drugs, ventilators and PPE kits, worked on our own vaccine and built multi-bed treatment facilities through both public spending and private partnerships. Imagine, what an increased health spending and a ground-up public health policy, especially at the primary and secondary levels, can do to ease medical treatment and not make it another nightmare for a nation battling serious disease burdens. For the first time, research and development (R&D) is being prioritised in the National Education Policy (NEP) with dedicated funding, compared to the last few years when money spent on it has been actually dwindling. The NEP's switch in emphasis from herd-oriented learning to an absorptive and application-based one should hopefully groom innovative minds and get us creditable research papers and patents, an area where our centres of excellence are still inadequate. So far, ISRO has been the only name that comes to mind when it comes to innovation, what with its missions to the moon and Mars. But science and technology will be the most meaningful when it impacts the life of the common man, still distressed and poor, and given Indian ingenuity, we could lead a solution-oriented talent pool.

Of course, our democracy has weathered many challenges and unfortunately, it faces its toughest survival test yet. It is no longer a culture but a tool. Politics has overtaken its true purpose, the purveyors of power using it to erode representative institutions and using collective angst and distress to arrogate more power to themselves. Policies are being weaponised for partisan purposes than public good. Though the shared crisis of COVID-19 did bring about some kind of cooperative federalism, we must not forget that happened only with an authoritarian sanction. Meanwhile, majoritarianism has become a mainstream virtue and secularism an ill-conceived vice, conformists of headline discourse are true patriots while a thinking civil society has become an enemy of the State. The executive has become bigger than either the legislature or the judiciary and watchdog institutions like the media are either willing propagandists or ousted rebels. We are more disunited when we should be united as a pluralistic society. Yet the pandemic that has attacked us at a not too friendly age of 74 has brought out the best of human spirit, courage and compassion in everyday life. Probably to remind us of the ideals that make up our civilisational DNA. And, therefore, we are best placed to resurrect them than writing them off.

Sputnik V and safety

Is Russia's vaccine truly effective without community trials or is it the beginning of a new commercial and political race?



Russia claims to have beaten the rest of the world and come out with a vaccine for the Coronavirus named 'Sputnik V'. However, even before it hits the markets, it has become mired in controversy, with several countries, and even traditional friend India, expressing some doubts over its efficacy. What has the experts worried is the pace at which Sputnik V has been produced, leaving behind front-runners like Oxford-AstraZeneca, Moderna and Pfizer. They fear that without large scale community trials, Moscow has cut corners and may have put the lives of those inoculated at risk. The Moscow-based Gamaleya Institute, which is

making the vaccine, got lightning speed regulatory approvals less than two months after it got into human trials. Compare this to other vaccine candidates in human trials that are not expected to be ready before early next year. However, Russia has claimed that such fast approvals were possible because Sputnik V resembles a vaccine for the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome that had already been tested greatly. This isn't the only controversy surrounding Russia and its bid to win the vaccine race. In July, it was accused of trying to steal vaccine research by the UK's National Cyber Security Centre. But the fact of the matter is that despite all the concerns of health and security experts, Moscow has got orders for one billion doses already from countries desperate to eradicate the pandemic. And even as Russia claims that India is one of the 20 nations to place an order, New Delhi has set up an expert committee headed by NITI Aayog member VK Paul to "consider the logistics and ethical aspects of procuring and administering the COVID-19 vaccine." The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) can ask Russia to conduct late-phase human trials, usually both phase-2 and phase-3, on an Indian population. This is the usual requirement for all vaccines developed outside India.

But there are overlap issues. As over 50 per cent of vaccines are currently manufactured in India, the Pune-based Serum Institute of India has already tied up with other developers. Then, there is the issue of availability and competition with India's own vaccine. According to the Russian Register of Pharmaceuticals website, the vaccine would be in circulation from January 2021 but the Indian vaccine is expected to hit the market before that. So, how the Centre will balance out the country's need for a Corona vaccine with the commercial interests of Indian firms producing it remains to be seen.

Pledge of independence

On our 74th Independence Day, we have perhaps forgotten that India's strength lies in unity and not conformity. We need to renew our vows



AJOY KUMAR

On August 15, 1947, India and its citizens gained independence with the British rule coming to an end. Loudly and proudly, we pronounced to the world that we, too, were ready to step out from the darkness of colonial rule to a new dawn, ripe with uncertainty but also hope. It is this hope that former Prime Minister Jawahar Nehru so eloquently captured in his address to the nation on the eve of India's independence. He opened his speech with, "Long years ago, we made a tryst with destiny..." His immortal words still send a chill down my spine. But too often, we focus only on the first few words. If we read his speech further, Nehruji talked about a pledge that we have renewed by obtaining freedom. A pledge of dedication to the service of India and her people and to the still larger cause of humanity."

Few exemplified this pledge and dedication to the service of India more than Mohd Usman, also known as *Naushera ka sher* (the Lion of Naushera). At the time of India's independence, Mohd Usman was offered a high position in the Pakistan Army but he refused to join. Instead, he chose to help build a "new India" that had awakened on the fateful night of August 15. Usman bravely defended Naushera, causing a heavy toll on the Pakistani side but was martyred in July 1948 while fighting for his motherland. He was posthumously awarded the Maha Vir Chakra but more importantly, he remained a shining symbol of hope for a secular India. On his death, Khwaja Ahmad Abbas wrote, "...a precious life of imagination and unswerving patriotism has fallen a victim to communal fanaticism. Brigadier Usman's brave example will be an abiding source of inspiration for free India."

Such an example was necessary at a time when tension, fear and suspicion were writ large owing to the spectre of Partition. Not only did Usman dedicate his life to the service of India but also his death. Just as significant and poetic is the fact that six months before Usman was killed in a battle, another famous son of India, Jadunath Singh Rathore, who was under Usman's command, protected a nine-man forward section post, displaying unmatched bravery



against thousands of enemy forces. His bravery led to him being posthumously awarded the second-ever Param Vir Chakra. This sacrifice by two of India's brave sons — both from different faiths but laid down their lives for the Indian dream — in all likelihood terrorised Pakistan more than any weapon could and still does.

So where does India stand today? Seventy-two years after the death of these bravehearts, it seems that the fear and suspicion, that loomed large then, looms larger now. We are currently living in times where different sections of society are asked to prove their nationality. Proving one's nationality has been reduced to the idea of being subservient to a ruling class and not creating too much noise. This test is not limited to individuals of different faiths or people who come from different castes; it applies to anyone who does not agree with the view of the Government in power.

There are a number of instances where dissent against the Government and its actions are not only treated with the reckless exercise of power but also through an indiscriminate attack on the individual's patriotism. There are numerous examples that are in the public domain but one does not

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even need to go that far. The author himself has been subjected to vile abuse and was branded "un-Indian" merely because he had written/spoken in favour of what he believed was right for the beloved country. This despite the fact that he served as a public servant and was awarded a medal for bravery by the Government itself. I can only imagine how an everyday citizen is treated when he/she dares to dissent.

A part of the reason why we are in this unfortunate position is that we have forgotten that India's strength lies in unity and not conformity. We are steadily moving towards a time where dissent in a non-violent form and the free flow of ideas is stymied by authoritarian force or by the loudest voice. We have forgotten that our enemies as Indians are not our countrymen, who may follow different faiths or eat different foods, but illiteracy, hunger and corruption.

In his speech, Nehru recognised this when he said, "The service of India means the service of the millions who suffer. It means the ending of poverty and ignorance and disease and inequality of opportunity." His words hold just as true today as it did then. True service to India is not fighting wars that our political masters or news channels manipulate

us into. Instead, it is the fight against poverty, illiteracy and disease that plague millions of Indians.

This is one of the main reasons why I am proud of the work done by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). The party's goal is to remain true to the nationalistic spirit through its work. This is why the Delhi model of governance has received such widespread credit in areas of health, education and transparency. All of this has been achieved by people of all faiths, gender and caste. By treating service to one another as the truest form of patriotism, we are united by purpose and enriched by our non-conformity.

Therefore, as we celebrate the 74th independence day, I would like to urge the citizens to remember the sacrifices of Usman and Jadunath Singh Rathore, who were killed before they could get a chance to see their beloved country turn two and laid down their lives for the Indian dream. A dream where people, divided for centuries by a foreign ruler, could find common meaning and purpose by pledging to live in service to one another and, therefore, in service to the country. A pledge renewed in 1947 demands renewal even more so in 2020.

(The writer is a former IPS officer, a former MP and currently a member of the AAP)

SOUNDBITE

Having completed all talks, we have come to the Assembly today. It may rain fire at this frontline, but we all and I will be the shield, club and spear and will protect.

Congress leader
Sachin Pilot



Unless you are a good actor, you won't survive. As far as the disparity is concerned, it is tougher for outsiders. Star kids have access to information that we don't.

Actor
Vikrant Massey



The world will be laughing and taking full advantage of the United States if Joe Biden ever became President. Our country would collapse.

US President
—Donald Trump

If one analyses this (Gaiwan) incident carefully, it's clear that the onus is not on China. The Indian side crossed the LAC for provocation and attacked the Chinese border troops.

Chinese Ambassador to India
—Sun Weidong



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Manage distribution

Sir — An expert group on COVID-19 vaccine administration has advised against States procuring the Russian vaccine. The directive has reportedly come in response to some States showing keen interest in getting the consignment to arrest the pandemic. Any procurement has to be done centrally, so that supplies can be allocated to States in proportion to their needs. Without a data-driven and honest assessment, this could set off needless politicking.

In the case of lockdowns, too, a uniform policy should have been adopted for all States to follow. Had every State followed the same guidelines, the detection of cases and deaths in all the States in terms of percentage would have been more or less the same.

KV Seetharamaiah
Hassan

Diminishing popularity

Sir — Politics is a different ball game altogether. For three years, US President Donald Trump

Race to the White House

In the run-up to the November elections, US President Donald Trump is relentlessly whipping up anti-immigrant sentiments. On the other hand, Democratic candidate Joe Biden's choice of Kamala Harris as his vice-presidential mate is a reminder to the incumbent that immigrants cannot be wished away. Though Kamala is part-Indian, part-Jamaican, she is an absolute American, committed to her country and its people. From being San Francisco's District Attorney twice, to being elected California's Attorney General for two terms and being Senator from California since 2017 to finally being a vice-presidential prospect, she has achieved many firsts as a woman of African and Asian pedigree. Irrespective of whether 77-year-old Biden wins or loses, 55-year-old Kamala is the heir apparent for the Democratic party which may be as early as 2024. Her rise is thought-provoking for us not only because of her Indian roots but also because she boycotted the "Howdy-Modi" event in Texas last year. Her views on Article 370 and CAA among others shall put the Government on the backfoot. Here, Biden and the Democratic party's views are no different. The party, perceived to be under the Leftists' and Progressives' control, occasionally indulges in India-bashing and is also seen to be soft on China, unlike Trump. Unless



it tweaks its stance, a Democratic victory would have a significant bearing on both the Indo-US and Indo-China relationships.

Black voters in the US, courtesy the George Floyd saga, are already poised against Trump. Kamala's entry will lead to a further hardening of stance. How the two political parties, going forward, charm them will be a matter of strategy and shall have long term echoes on who stays on top of the pecking order in the geopolitical space.

SK Prabhakar
Gurugram

House for the moment and she is likely to be a trumpcard in a close contest. She is expected to wear away the Black votes and the Indian diaspora in a bid to trounce Trump.

CK Subramaniam
Via email

Temporary relief

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Will the truce hold?" (August 14). It is no secret that the coup in Rajasthan was orchestrated by the BJP. It was just waiting to destabilise the Government. But Sachin Pilot's revolt fizzled out as the Congress took an unusually tough stand. By now Pilot would have also realised the selfishness of the saffron party, who tried to use him as a pawn and played its cards very carefully. As for the Congress, it is time it nominated a president, who can lead the party and act as a bulwark against a rampaging BJP. Most importantly, accommodate the young Turks.

Tharci S Fernando
Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

\$5 trillion GDP a distant dream

By all calculations, the COVID-19 impact has pushed India's \$5 trillion goal back by three years



SWAPNIL SONI

The Prime Minister has laid down a visionary target of making India a \$5 trillion economy by 2024-25. This has stimulated debate and discussion among economists and policymakers to seek roadmaps to attain this optimistic economic goal. This discussion garners more significance given the current domestic and global economic slowdown coupled with domestic price instability, the US-China trade war and the current pandemic. Amid such global and domestic challenges, two questions arise: Will India become a \$5 trillion economy? What should be done to help India attain its goal?

It is necessary to empirically diagnose India's growth pattern to meet the objective of a \$5 trillion Gross Domestic Product (GDP) from the current level of \$2.9 trillion. The latest estimate of the GDP for 2019-20 and the exchange rate of ₹70.39 per dollar (average exchange rate of 2019-20) yield a \$2.9 trillion GDP that has to touch \$5 in five years. This implies exchange rate adjusted Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of about 13.5 per cent, which is close to the Niti Aayog's projection of 11.5 per cent. However, the \$5 trillion GDP target was originally set during the pre-COVID-19 scenario, which has now made this target impossible to achieve owing to the disastrous consequences of the lockdown on the economy.

Amid the macroeconomic shocks and uncertainties, many national and global institutions and rating agencies have been releasing a revised GDP growth forecast for 2020-21. S&P and Fitch Solutions have projected India's GDP growth rate for 2020-21 as -5 per cent. The World Bank maintained a -3.2 per cent growth outlook. In contrast, Moody's Investors Services and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) posted non-negative growth numbers of zero per cent and two per cent for the current financial year (FY). On May 22, the RBI postulated the GDP growth in the negative territory. It further released a projection of -1.5 per cent growth for 2020-21 in its *Survey of Professional Forecasters* report in June. However, most projections predict about eight per cent growth outlook in the FY 2021-22, owing to the fiscal and monetary stimulus and reforms announced by the Government accompanied by the unravelling of the pent-up aggregate demand in the economy.

However, incorporating the adversity in GDP growth, due to the pandemic, it is best to consider a GDP growth rate of nearly -3.2 per cent for 2020-21 relying on the World Bank's estimate and the RBI's negative territory forecast. This growth number, while being conservative, hovers around the other negative estimates and thus is a tenable representative of all the growth projections made by various multilateral institutions and agencies. It is inevitable that subdued growth for the initial year (2020-21) of the \$5 trillion target trajectory will either devolve the growth pressure to subsequent years or push the target year to a later period.

Realistic estimation for the post-COVID-19 period i.e., from 2021-22 to 2024-25, yields a CAGR of 18.1 per cent, incorporating a -3.2 per cent GDP growth for 2020-21. This estimate indicates that the Indian economy has to grow at an annual rate of 18.1 per cent to attain a GDP target of \$5 trillion by 2024-25, which looks more surreal than real. Plus, each one per cent decrease in the growth rate for the current year yields an additional burden of 0.3 per cent in the CAGR for the subsequent years of the growth trajectory. Given the unrealistic-looking projected growth rate of 18.1 per cent, one needs to look at the alternative to attain the \$5 trillion target which is, naturally, a postponement of the target year.

In the post-COVID-19 period, the economy is expected to recover and revive as argued by multilateral institutions, rating agencies and economists. In fact, economists have even gone ahead and contemplated that the Indian market will emerge stronger than ever post-COVID-19, given the liquidity support and future demand. This revival is attributable to stimulus and reforms announced by the Government for all the productive sectors. However, the effectiveness of these stimuli and reforms would depend on their implementation and thus remains debatable. If not a big bang, a green shoot is expected to knock on the door of the economy in the next FY, replicating a V-shaped recovery to some extent.

Given this, from 2021-22, the economy's productive sectors, i.e., agriculture, industry and services, will follow their respective historical growth trajectories. Thus, it is expected that these productive sectors, post-COVID-19, will grow at the historical average of the previous five years of about 7.5 per cent, 9.0 per cent and 11.4 per cent, respectively. This looks more realistic and acceptable than the 18.1 per cent annual growth rate, derived and discussed earlier. This consideration and associated analysis revealed that the Indian economy will attain only \$3.8 trillion by 2024-25 and reach the \$5 trillion target by 2027-28 with a CAGR of 9.97 per cent. This implies that the COVID-19 impact has pushed India's \$5 trillion dream back by three years.

The ambitious \$5 trillion economic objective intends to provide a stimulus to the economy while raising many pragmatic challenges to achieve it. This objective can be achieved by providing an appropriate fillip to the growth of agriculture, industry and services sectors that are drivers of the Indian economy. However, a data-driven approach reveals that the growth attained by the present GDP patterns is far from the target required to attain the \$5 trillion objective. However, it is possible to attain this target by 2027-28 when there is a recovery in the economy during the post-COVID-19 period coupled with a consistent growth in productive sectors over the years.

Historically, the services and industry sectors show a high correlation with the overall GDP growth rate but they need consistent stimulus for growth. In fact, the productive sectors collectively can deliver viable growth rates that may put the Indian economy into the \$5 trillion club by 2027-28.

Any moderate shock to one sector may be absorbed by the other sector, but a major shock cannot be tackled and can derail the \$5 trillion growth trajectory. Thus, policymakers must focus on all the three sectors equally without focussing on any particular one. Along with the individual growth of a sector, its dynamics with other sectors and its contribution to the economy are equally important. This could be achieved by attracting Foreign Direct Investment and strengthening the Regional Innovation Systems to encourage local firms to network, innovate and globalise.

(The writer is Senior Research Scholar, Department of Management Studies, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore)

I HAVE THE GREAT HONOUR TO ANNOUNCE THAT I'VE PICKED KAMALA HARRIS, A FEARLESS FIGHTER FOR THE LITTLE GUY AS MY RUNNING MATE FOR THE ELECTIONS.
 —FORMER US VICE-PRESIDENT
 JOE BIDEN

POINT COUNTERPOINT



SHE (KAMALA HARRIS) IS THE MEANEST, THE MOST HORRIBLE, THE MOST DISRESPECTFUL OF ANYBODY IN THE US SENATE.
 —US PRESIDENT
 DONALD TRUMP

Shun vitriolic leaders

The community should be represented by some liberally-balanced Muslims who know history and at the same time are rooted in their faith. Or else we could be stranded in a wasteland



FIROZ BAKHT AHMED

A lot of water has flowed under the bridge since 1947. The 200 million plus population of Indian Muslims was the one, that at the call of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad from the steps of Old Delhi's Jama Masjid, put down its luggage meant for the next Lahore train from the Old Delhi Railway Station. In all probability, theirs was the right decision, in spite of the fact that many of their relatives had decided to leave for their El Dorado — the newly created Pakistan. Even today most of the Indian Muslims living in Old Delhi have their relatives in the country across the border. Religious frenzy has never augured well for any community in India and the world. In the words of eminent Muslim thinker, AG Noorani, the "two-nation theory" was, in effect, an offshoot of the constant friction and confrontation stirred up between the two communities and it was under exceptional circumstances that Jinnah's concept gained popularity among the Muslims. Indeed, the whole country responded to the "two-nation theory." The greatest religion for both communities became Hindu-Muslim hatred. This nefarious form of politics saw its culmination in 1947 when a wall of hatred rose between the two communities.

Partition horrors: Elders would describe the sorry sight of trains full of mauled, murdered, mutilated and dead Hindus chugging into the stations from Pakistan and similar trains from India, full of dead and mutilated Muslims pulling into India. These were called "blood trains" and all too often they crossed the border in funeral silence. Huts, houses, bungalows and mansions were burnt and robbed on both sides. Women were raped and murdered, children were killed in front of their parents, some women on both sides of the border jumped into wells and rivers while men also killed their wives and daughters to save them from dishonour.

Jinnah and Nehru both responsible: Jinnah on the Muslim front and Nehru in opposition to Jinnah, both barristers full of intellectual rivalry to be one up against the other, instead of preserving the sovereignty of India, started dreaming of being the new kings of the nascent kingdoms. Azad was blatantly ignored and sidelined by the Congress because he considered both Nehru and Jinnah as the main villains of the vivisection. He could read well into Nehru's flagrant opportunism and ambition to be the first Prime Minister of the new nation.

Azad was quite aggravated about the Partition and had accused Nehru of being lured into the Partition by Lady Edwina Mountbatten. Even in the play *Maulana Azad*, by noted playwright and scriptwriter, Dr Saeed Alam, Tom Alter, playing the protagonist, was heard stating in chaste Urdu, "Log kehlay hain, aur theek hi kehlay honge, ke Jawahar Lal ko batwara pe raazi karney mein us charming pink ka bulbul bada haath tha." (People say, and they must be right, that the charming bird played a big role in getting Jawahar Lal to accept the Partition.) Today's Muslim leadership, bereft of thinkers like Maulana Azad and Dr Zakir Hussain, has lost both its voice and identity. During every election, it has been seen that all leaders are power-brokers indulging in pernicious vote-bank manipulation, acquiring State patronage themselves and leaving ordinary Muslims to the mercy of God.

Muslims misled: Despite that, Muslims won't fully trust Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who had declared in a meeting with eminent clerics and intellectuals at his residence on June 6, 2015, that he wanted to see in each Muslim's hands the holy Quran and a computer. When Kamran Akmal, Shahab said, "Muslims are like our children. They want to

IT IS TIME THAT MUSLIMS REALISE THAT THE RSS IS A REALITY AND MODI IS A PRIME MINISTER WHO HAS PLEDGED 'SABKA SATH, SABKA VIKAS, SABKA VISHWAS' (COMPASSION FOR ALL, PROGRESS FOR ALL, TRUST FOR ALL). IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MUSLIMS TO HOLD HIM TO ACCOUNT AND ENSURE THAT HE REMAINS COMMITTED TO INDIA'S PLURALISTIC LEITMOTIF



them equally on a par with others", hardly any member of the community hailed it. This opposing mindset is creating a major problem in better integration with the mainstream. Battered by the populist rhetoric and provocative militancy of its myopic ill-educated clerics and shallow youth, the nation's cultured and high potential minority stands at the crossroads. Owing to their obscurantist approach, they are leading the community back to the dark ages of ignorance, like the ones in Arab countries before the advent of Islam. More often than not, they are interested in feathering their own nests and are indulging in petty-mindedness characterised by an extremely narrow and irresponsible outlook completely out of tune with the existing reality. Such leaders are not seriously interested in dealing with the main problems of the community. Muslim leaders and petty politicians are becoming richer day-by-day while the people they represent are languishing in ghettos.

In this ghettoised situation emerged the churlish political middlemen as interlocutors for communities, picking on sensational issues that would only apparently tighten their stranglehold on the gullible and divert attention from the real bread and butter and educational issues. Shah Bano, Jamia Millia, the AMU's minority character, Taslima Nasreen, Salman Rushdie and so on became issues. However, none of them had any bearing on the real problems of the Muslims. Educational backwardness, women's education, social stagnation, communalisation of the police force and absence from the mainstream were never addressed by the self-appointed interlocutors with the same emphasis as the Babri Masjid issue. It is thanks mainly to this leadership that Muslims remain stranded in a wasteland of missed opportunities even 73 years after Independence.

Muslims' ghetto mindset, the main problem: Indian Muslims, who now call themselves "Muslim Indians" deliberately, do agree that Pakistan today has

become hell on Earth. Yet they fail to thank their God and stars that they are far better in India as compared to those in Pakistan in terms of safety and security of life. My Karachi-based cousin has told me that after dusk, all city roads become deserted. I have a few questions to ask my Indian co-religionists. How is it going to benefit them when they abuse the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the BJP and Modi? Will continuing howling for reservations based on religion not discredit it then?

Why do the so-called intellectuals and clerics instead of coolly convincing, heckle opponents in TV debates? All this has created a negative perception of Muslims in the country. My concern is that if these questions are not satisfactorily answered, relations between Hindus and Muslims will worsen. So far at least the answers that have come from educated Muslims have been deeply unsatisfactory or incomplete. The community should be represented by some liberally-balanced Muslims, who know history and at the same time are rooted in their faith.

However, the situation with the ghetto mindset of the Muslim community today is rather grim as they remain critical of the system in general and try to run a parallel governance via the AIMPLB (All-India Muslim Personal Law Board), the Sharia courts and the so-called rabble-rousing leaders like the Owaisi brothers. Azam Khan and a horde of perennial apologists seen in TV debates. Rather than serving the community and the nation, their vitriolic remarks create a perception of the community that all the Muslims are similar, which is not true. As per my assessment, more than 50 per cent Indian Muslims are with a progressive idea of India. However, they are tight-lipped and don't want to come out openly in support of the present Government for fear of being socially boycotted or stigmatised as RSS stooges and BJP sycophants.

Prophet's teachings forgotten: The problem with today's Muslims is that they

don't follow the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in letter and spirit. This actually distances them from Islam as well, because, Islam possesses sufficient elasticity to enable it to adapt itself to the social and political revolution going on around it. The Mohammedan Common Law (today AIMPLB), or *Shariah*, is by no means unchangeable or unalterable. A practical example of it is the ban of triple *talaq*, a part of *Sharia* but not mentioned in the holy Quran and absolutely abhorred by the Prophet. The very law unalterable in Islam is essentially the Quran and the traditions of the Prophet. The team of Modi, Shah and Ravi Shankar Prasad, the Law Minister, have banned the draconian *Sharia* law besides settling the eons old *maulvi-masjid* imbroglio.

But across India, despite the many problems, the community is forging ahead. Large numbers are doing exceedingly well. The 1992 Babri mosque razed led to major changes. The dominant consensus was that it was important to concentrate on education. That process continues. On November 9, 2019, the issue got amicably settled and none of the Muslims, except the AIMPLB or Owaisi brothers, protested.

Light at the end of the tunnel: More and more Muslim women, even in smaller towns, are acquiring an education. Although a Moslem political party has come up in Assam, another one in Telangana and two have been formed in Uttar Pradesh, most Muslims swear by secular national parties. It is time that Muslims realise that the RSS is a reality and Modi is a Prime Minister who has pledged "Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas" (Compassion for all, Progress for all, Trust for all). It is the responsibility of Muslims to hold him to account and ensure that he remains committed to India's pluralistic leitmotif.

(The author is the chancellor of Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad and the grandnephew of Bharat Ratna Maulana Azad)

MSMEs need help to keep afloat

Invest in a mechanism to strengthen the longevity muscle of MSMEs as that would help break barriers and capture global markets



DIPANKER MUKHERJEE

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) are the lifeblood of the season. Promoting inclusive growth by providing employment opportunities in rural areas to women and people belonging to marginalised sections of society, they are the new engines of India's growth story. Contributing about 29 per cent to India's GDP, the vision is to increase this contribution to about 50 per cent. Collectively employing over 120 million people, second only to the mammoth agriculture sector, the MSME sector contributes over 45 per cent to India's overall exports.

A net gain is also reduction of regional imbalances and a more equitable distribution of national income and

wealth. MSMEs by design have high flexibility and strong ties to customers and suppliers.

The focus on customer needs, detailed knowledge and experience is many times difficult to replicate. Low overheads often add lower fluctuations in their business cycle. With a very positive climate in the thinking on MSMEs, where policy, polity and production seem to be the way ahead. The Government, all seems to be well in this rapidly expanding 63 million-sector. It is primed to help move the economy towards the \$5 trillion mark.

Some chicks below the surface, however, need attention and merit early correction. The MSME sector operates primarily on a cash basis and has less access to formal sources of credit. The financial stress of operation, which has been curtailed due to the lockdown and the continuing overhead expenses, however small, has created a burden on many of these companies, which are struggling and are on the brink of shutting down or have already shut down.

With the overall slowdown in the economy and the prospect of a tepid

growth in future demand, this sector will be hard hit. For the MSME sector not to become a "me too" sector, asking for loans, it is a classic "catch-22" situation. Government in turn nudging the unwilling banking sector to provide credit in a high default risk scenario, the options available are seemingly limited. An enhanced working capital limit and guarantee on loans to small businesses seem to be the way ahead.

The biggest need for working capital — MSME bank loans — is contested by the banks. Processes are lengthy and loan queues are long. The MSMEs can't get loans and hence don't grow and because they don't grow, they don't get loans. It is a classic "catch-22" situation. Ironically, large lending to big corporations continues despite the risk of them becoming insolvent.

The credit gap for MSMEs as estimated by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and Intellect stands at ₹17 lakh crore. Loan approvals, logistics support, technology access and market access work against the MSME growth ambition. Unlike large companies, they do not have the support of a

strong network of people, resources and marketing channels, most of which become easily accessible with scale.

MSMEs are often seen competing with large corporations and this should be avoided through policy measures. Certain products and categories should be prioritised for MSMEs along with predefined quality standards. What affects the MSMEs further is that they don't have the experience of learning from management education to have an appropriate appreciation of the grammar of business. There is a hit and trial growth.

The future of MSMEs depends significantly on big corporations buying from them. They thus link up with big businesses through disadvantaged negotiations of prices and payment terms, forcing them to borrow more and more. Add to that scenario, the difficulties of delayed income tax and Goods and Services Tax (GST) refunds which further prevent growth. Thus, in the payment hierarchy, where MSMEs are last and have little bargaining power, they are forced to continue the relationship which is contingent on them remaining

small. Equally, the MSMEs are unable to apply pressure to reduce dues as they are made to feel that their future business is at stake. Due to the lack of skilled and professional manpower, they are unable to create the required pressure.

Their access to grievance redressal is either not available or has very low resolution levels. Many don't know how to leverage the redressal system. They fear that seeking such remedy would jeopardise their future business as ultimately they have to fall back on the same business houses for repeat business and the same service providers. For the MSMEs, a nose above the water is as good as it gets.

The creation of a favourable eco-system for MSMEs would thus remain contingent on regulators assisting in clearance of their bills. Pay or be dealt with swiftly or pay up the interest which the MSMEs are paying for no fault of theirs. Investing in a mechanism to build resilience and strengthen the longevity muscle of MSMEs would help break barriers and capture global markets.

(The writer is Co-founder, Handdygo Behtar Zindagi)

US will collapse if Biden is elected Prez: Trump

Washington: President Donald Trump has said that the US would collapse and become the world's laughing stock if the Democratic Party's presumptive nominee Joe Biden wins the November 3 presidential elections.

Trump said Biden's proposed policies were not good for the country.

"Today, we saw Joe Biden continue to politicise a pandemic and to show his appalling lack of respect for the American people. That's what it is. At every turn, Biden has been wrong about the virus, ignoring the scientific evidence and putting left-wing politics before facts and evidence," Trump told reporters on Thursday at the White House.

"The world will be laughing and taking full advantage of the United States if Joe Biden ever became President. Our Country would COLLAPSE!" Trump said in a tweet.

Trump's tweet included a Fox News video clipping in which his news anchor was crit-

ical of Indian-American Congressman Pramila Jayapal for praising Biden. The Fox News anchor described Jayapal as socialist and a genuine radical.

"Sloppy Joe opposed both the China and the Europe travel bans. You know that. He opposed the China travel ban that I instituted very early and the Europe travel ban that I instituted quite early. If listened to his advice, our country's sands more people would have died. This is according to many people," the president said.

Trump alleged Biden wants to fling open American borders, allowing the pandemic to infiltrate every American community. "He wants to have ridiculous open borders. I've been saying from the first day I started campaigning for this great office that if you have open borders, you don't have a country. You don't have a nation with open borders. So he wants open borders. The Democrats want open borders," he said.

While Biden will allow riot-

Nepal's ruling CPN forms 6-member task force to resolve party rift

Kathmandu: The ruling Nepal Communist Party on Friday formed a six-member task force to resolve the intra-party rift as Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli and the party's executive chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' resumed their talks after a hiatus of over a week.

The taskforce, led by General Secretary Bishnu Prasad, will examine the differences between them. But, as the Prime Minister did not accept the condition of a one-man-one-post, the talks failed. Oli has refused to give up his post as prime minister as well as a co-chairman of the NCP.

A bitter internal feud has been brewing in the ruling NCP after top party leaders, including Prachanda, demanded Oli's resignation, saying his central role in the party was "neither politically nor diplomatically appropriate."

They are also against Oli's autocratic style of functioning. PTI

Kabul begins release of final 400 Taliban, talks to follow

Kabul: Afghanistan has released the first 80 of a final 400 Taliban prisoners, paving the way for negotiations between the warring sides in Afghanistan's protracted conflict, the government said Friday.

Javid Faisal, spokesman for the National Security Council's office, made the announcement.

Taliban officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because they are not authorised to speak to the media, said 86 prisoners were freed. It wasn't immediately known when the remaining prisoners would be freed.

Prisoner releases on both sides are part of an agreement signed last January by the US and Taliban. It calls for the release of 5,000 Taliban held by the government and 1,000 government and military personnel held by the insurgent group as a good will gesture ahead of intra-Afghan negotiations.

Talibans are expected to be held in Qatar where the Taliban maintain a political office. Several Afghan leaders told The Associated Press talks could begin by August 20.

These negotiations are to lay out a framework for a post-war Afghanistan.

Washington's peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad spent a year and a half negotiating the peace deal aimed at allowing American troops to return home and end America's longest military engagement.

US troops have already begun leaving and by

November less than 5,000 troops are expected to still be in Afghanistan down from nearly 13,000 when the agreement was signed Feb. 29.

American and NATO troop withdrawal is contingent on the Taliban keeping their word not to allow militant groups to use Afghanistan against the United States or its allies. The withdrawal is not tied to successful talks between the warring sides.

Last weekend, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani held a traditional council meeting known as *loja* to get a consensus on the release of a final 400 Taliban he said were accused of serious crimes, saying without explanation that he could not militarily decide to release them. AP

China attacks new US demand to register Confucius Institutes

Beijing: China accused the United States on Friday of trying to 'demonise and stigmatise' relations between the two countries, in a scathing attack on the Trump administration's designation of Chinese-funded language and culture programmes in the US as foreign missions of the Chinese Communist Party.

Foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said branches of the Confucius Institute US Centre operating at US schools and colleges are a 'bridge and link to help peo-

Officials: US seizes Iranian gas heading for Venezuela

Miami (US): The Trump administration has seized the cargo of four tankers it was targeting for transporting Iranian fuel to Venezuela, US Officials said Thursday, as it steps up its campaign of maximum pressure against the two heavily sanctioned allies.

Last month, federal prosecutors in Washington filed a civil forfeiture complaint alleging that the sale was arranged by a businessman, Mahmood Madanipour, with ties to Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps, a US-designated foreign terrorist organization.

At the time, sanctions experts thought it would be impossible to enforce the U.S. Court order in international waters.

A senior US Official told The Associated Press that no military force was used in the seizures and that the ships weren't physically confiscated.

Rather, US Officials threatened ship owners, insurers and captains with sanction to force them to hand over their cargo, which now becomes US Property, the official said.

Prosecutors alleged the 4 ships were transporting to Venezuela 1.1 million barrels of gasoline. But the tankers never arrived at the South American country and then went missing. AP

11 killed, 27 missing in rain-triggered landslides in Nepal

Kathmandu: Powerful landslides triggered by torrential rain in central Nepal's Sindhupalchowk district on Friday, killing at least 11 people and leaving 27 others missing, an official said.

The landslides hit Jugul Rural Municipality of Sindhupalchowk district, 130 kilometers east of Kathmandu on Friday morning.

Five people who sustained serious injuries have been airlifted by the Nepal Army in a helicopter and brought to the district headquarter where they are undergoing treatment, the official said. PTI

Letting Iran arms embargo expire is 'nuts': Pompeo

Vienna: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Friday urged an extension to a UN arms embargo on Iran, saying it would be "nuts" to let it expire.

Opposition from UN Security Council veto powers China and Russia is expected to block a resolution to extend the blockade beyond October.

Pompeo reiterated during a visit to Vienna that Iran should not be allowed to buy and sell weapons, calling the Islamic Republic "the world's largest state sponsor of terrorism."

"I mean that's just nuts... We're urging the whole world to

Assange will never have fair trial chance in UK, US: Ex-Ecuadorian Consul

London: Former Ecuadorian Consul in London Fidel Narvaez told Sputnik ahead of Friday's administrative hearing in WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange's extradition case that the whistleblower will never get a fair trial either in the UK or in the United States.

"There is plenty of evidence showing that Assange is a victim of a judicial persecution and that he is not getting a fair extradition trial here in the UK, and certainly will not have a fair trial in the US," the former diplomat told Sputnik in a phone interview.

According to Narvaez, the judicial persecution against the Australian journalist began even before he was arrested on April 11, 2019, at the Ecuadorian embassy in London, where he enjoyed political asylum for

seven years to avoid being sent to Sweden until Ecuador's current government handed him into the UK police last year. APF

NORTHERN RAILWAY (TENDER NOTICE)

The Deputy Chief Engineer (Survey & Const., Tiltak Bridge, Northern Railway, New Delhi, for and on behalf of the President of India invites open tender for the following work:

Mode of Tender: E-Tender (Single Packet)

Tender Notice No.: 283-W/S&C/TKJ/F/S/D/L/PZ-R-BTI & JHL-HSR/2020

Dated: 14.08.2020

Full Name of work: Final Location Survey (FLS) for doubling of Firozpur-Bhatinda and Jalandhar-Hisar (158.80 km). Carrying out detailed Engineering survey including leveling, alignment, soil exploration, preparation of plans, Location, G.A. plans of Bridges etc., bill of quantities and other ancillary activities related in connection with preparation of DPR.

Approx. cost: Rs. 1,08,02,686/- (Rs. One Crore Eight Lakh Two Thousand Six Hundred and Eighty Six only).

Completion Period: 06 months (Six months)

Earnest money: Rs. 2,54,000/- (Two Lakh Four Thousand only)

Salvability of tender document: Tender documents will be available on IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in from 15.08.2020 to 07.09.2020 upto 11:30 hrs.

Last date/Time of upload of tenders: 07.09.2020 upto 11:30 hours. Tender documents will be uploaded by the tenderer(s) on IREPS website w.e.f. 23.08.2020 to 07.09.2020. 09.09.2020

Date and time of opening of tender: 07.09.2020 at 11:30 hours (Immediately after close of uploading of tender (D2) in the office of Chief Administrative Officer/Const. N.R. Kashmere Gate, Delhi-110006.

This notice is available on www.indianrailways.gov.in website and documents on www.ireps.gov.in in this is available. Tender Notice No. 283-W/S&C/TKJ/F/S/D/L/PZ-R-BTI & JHL-HSR/2020 Dated: 14.08.2020 and 17/11/2020

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For E. Tender Notice: 14/08/2020

Office of the Executive Engineer, Project Distribution Division, Dakshin (D.Du), invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:

Tender No. PDD-09/2020-21

Name of work/supply/services etc.: Supply of aerial work platform (Hydraulic system) mounted on a 4 wheeler vehicle.

Estimated cost: Rs. 14,00,000/- + GST extra.

Date of availability of bid document on website: 13.08.2020

Last date for submission of tender: 13.08.2020

For further & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal <http://uktenders.gov.in>

(Executive Engineer)

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

NORTHERN RAILWAY (TENDER NOTICE)

The Dy. Chief Engineer/Construction/Northern Railway, Tiltak Bridge, New Delhi for and on behalf of the President of India invites open tender on Single-packet system for the following work:

1. Name of work and location: Hiring of 03 (three) Nos. Non-A/C Vehicle (such as "Jeep, Gypsy, Tata Sumo type of vehicle") on the monthly basis for a period of 02 (Two) years for the officers (XENC/PKJ, XENC/TKJ & XENC/RQK) working in the unit of Dy. Chief Engineer/Construction, Tiltak Bridge, New Delhi.

2. Completion of the work: 24 (twenty four) months

3. Approx. cost of work: Rs. 34,71,660.16 only

4. Earnest Money to be deposited: Rs. 69,40,00.00 only

5. Date & Time for submission of tender and opening of tender: Tender may be uploaded up to 11.30 hrs. on 07.09.2020 on IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in. The bidders can participate in the e-tender, the Bids of which will be opened at 12.30 hrs. on 07.09.2020. The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway website www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in above tenders document will be available on IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in from 24.08.2020 to 07.09.2020 and bidders will be able to offer their technical and financial bid from 07.09.2020.

6. Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document

All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document.

No. 454-ACS/Vehicle/TKJ dt: 14.08.2020 17/07/2020

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APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male Age: 26 years, Complexion: Fair, Height: 5'4", Clothes: Without Clothes, was found in Hari Park, Mukund Pur, Delhi, In this regard a DD No. 90A, dated 07.08.2020, has been lodged at P.S. Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

SHO
P.S. Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi
Ph: 011-27811933, 2781934
DP/407/ON/2020

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General Public is hereby informed that one male Name: Anil, S/o Kedar Singh, R/o: Street No. 14, Mangal Bazar, Pooja Colony, Pavi Sahadapur, Lori, Ghaziabad, U.P., has been missing from 10/03/2020. Anil, S/o Kedar Singh, R/o: Street No. 9, Mangal Bazar, Pooja Colony, Pavi Sahadapur, Lori, Ghaziabad, U.P., has been missing from 10/03/2020. In this regard a case vide DD No. 35A, dated 06.08.2020 has been lodged at P.S. DBG Road, Delhi. The description of the missing/kidnapped male is as under: Age: 32 years, Height: 5'8", Face: Oval, Complexion: Wheatish, Build: Thin, Wearing: Black colour T-shirt and white colour pant. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the female but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this female kindly inform to the following.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail id: cbi@cbi.gov.in
Fax No. 011-24368639
P.S. DBG Road, Delhi
DP/267/CD/2020 Ph: 011-23613252, 8750870429

SEARCH FOR MISSING FEMALE

General Public is hereby informed that one female (depicted in the photo) named Chandni with her Son Krishna DD Harom Sharma, R/o: C-45, Street No. 9, Mangal Bazar, Pooja Colony, Pavi Sahadapur, Lori, Ghaziabad, U.P., has been missing from 10/03/2020. In this regard a case vide DD No. 35A, dated 06.08.2020 has been lodged at P.S. DBG Road, Delhi. The description of the missing/kidnapped female is as under: Age: 29 years, Height: 5'4", Face: Long, Build: Thin, Complexion: Wheatish, Height: 5'4", Face: Long, Build: Thin, Clothing: Parrot Green coloured Suit, Salwar and Cream coloured clothing.

Child description: Complexion: Wheatish, Height: 2', Face: Round, Build: Normal, Clothing: Grey coloured T-shirt, Red coloured hand shorts and Blue coloured ring in feet.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing female & her children, may inform SHO, Budh Vihar, Delhi at E-mail: cbi@cbi.gov.in or website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

Fax No. 011-24368639
SHO, Budh Vihar, Delhi
Ph: 011-27057722
DP/300/RD/2020 Mob: 8750870326

Belarus frees detainees amid protesters' pressure

Minsk: Belarusian authorities have released about 1,000 people detained amid demonstrations protesting the results of the presidential election, in an attempt to assuage public anger against a brutal crackdown on peaceful protests.

Around midnight, scores of detainees were seen walking out of one of Minsk's jails. In the early morning, volunteers also saw at least 119 detainees being released in the city of Zhodzino just northeast of the Belarusian capital. AP

Iran, Turkey lash out at UAE over agreement with Israel

Tehran: Iran and Turkey lashed out at their regional rival the United Arab Emirates on Friday over its decision to normalise diplomatic relations with Israel in a US-brokered deal, accusing it of betraying the Palestinian cause.

Iran's Foreign Ministry has called the deal a "dagger that was unjustly struck by the UAE in the backs of the Palestinian people and all Muslims."

Turkey said the peoples of the region "will never forget and will never forgive its hypocritical behaviour" by the UAE.

The UAE, which has never fought Israel and has quietly been improving ties for years, said the agreement put

a hold on Israel's plans to unilaterally annex parts of the occupied West Bank, which the Palestinians view as the heartland of their future state.

But the Turkish Foreign Ministry said the UAE had no authority to negotiate with Israel on behalf of the Palestinians or to make concessions on matters vital to Palestine. AP

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STATEMENT OF STANDALONE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30.06.2020

(Amount in Lakhs)

Sr. No.	PARTICULARS	Quarter Ended 31.06.2020	Quarter Ended 30.06.2020	Quarter Ended 30.06.2019	Year Ended 31.03.2020	Sig.
		(Audited)	(Audited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)	
1.	Total income from operations	442.22	1615.15	1726.83	5967.19	
2.	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	-40.49	6.67	0.94	66.44	
3.	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	-40.49	6.67	0.94	66.44	
4.	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	-40.49	-1.11	0.68	44.19	
5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and other Comprehensive Income (after Tax)]	-40.49	-1.11	0.68	44.19	
6.	Paid-up Equity share capital (Face value Rs. 10/- each)	329.00	329.00	329.00	329.00	
7.	Other Equity Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	518.85	559.34	515.38	514.69	
8.	Earnings per share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)	-1.23	-0.03	0.02	1.34	

Notes:

1. The above results were reviewed by an Audit Committee and thereafter taken on record by the Board of Directors in their meeting on 13.08.2020 after review by an Audit Committee.

2. The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly & year to date financial results filed with the stock exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosures Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the quarterly & year to date financial results are available on the Stock Exchange website (www.mseil.in) and the company's website (www.parjatpapermills.com)

For Parjat Paper Mills Limited
Amrit Mittal
(Whole Time Director)
Dir-0975447

WESTERN RAILWAY

ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

Tender No. SG 623 1443/VA-R (Single Tender) dated 13/08/2020

Signal & Telecom Executive

02/STEN/TKJ Work and location

Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of Electronic Interlocking (EI) system (Kapurthala) at Vahni station in Vihar - Surul section of Mumbai Division for 3 years. Approx. Cost of Work: Rs. 17,00,00,000/-

Particular office where E-tender open: Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Executive (North), 2nd Floor, Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Mumbai Central, Mumbai-400 008

Earnest Money Deposit: Rs. 1,35,40,000/-

Type of E-Tender: Single E-Tender

Date for closing for submission of E-Tender documents: On 15.09.20, on 14.09.2020, On 15.09.20, on 14.09.2020

Date & Time for opening of E-Tender: On 15.09.20, on 14.09.2020

The tender will be viewed at the website www.ireps.gov.in

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RBI to pay ₹57,128 cr dividend to Govt

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India board on Friday approved a dividend payout of Rs 57,128 crore to the government, a move in line with the Budget expectation but may not help plug a huge revenue hole created by the pandemic and slowing economy.

as per the revised Economic Capital Framework (ECF).

In a statement, the RBI said its central bank headed by Governor Shaktikanta Das "reviewed the current economic situation, continued global and domestic challenges and the monetary, regulatory, and other measures taken by RBI to mitigate the economic impact of COVID-19 panics to the economy."

The Board also approved the transfer of Rs 57,128 crore as surplus to the Central Government for the accounting year 2019-20, while deciding to maintain the Contingency Risk

Buffer at 5.5 per cent," it said.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the budget for 2020-21 had provisioned receipt of Rs 60,000 crore in dividend from the RBI and other banks to bridge the fiscal deficit. But, government officials had expected more from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

The government is facing a larger-than-expected shortfall in revenue as the economy heads for its first full-year contraction since 1979. With the COVID-19 pandemic disrupting businesses, it is widely speculated that tax collections

will miss the target.

At the same time, the government is being forced to spend more to cushion the blow from the pandemic, straining the budget deficit.

The central bank largely earns profit through its trading of currencies and government bonds as well as printing of notes and coins.

Part of these earnings is set aside by the RBI for its operational and contingency needs, while the rest is transferred to the government in the form of dividend. RBI's financial year runs

from July-June at present and is scheduled to be harmonised with the government's April-March financial year FY22. The current year, the RBI will have a nine-month financial year, ending in March.

The central bank's payout to the government last year was more due to a one-time transfer on account of the adoption of a new economic capital framework that calls for maintaining the level of the contingency risk buffer, or realised equity, at between 5.5 and 6.5 per cent of RBI's balance sheet.

WPI inflation falls 0.58% in July, food prices spike

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The wholesale price-based inflation stood at (-) 0.58 per cent in July, remaining in the negative zone for the fourth straight month even as vegetables and other food items turned costlier. WPI inflation in June was (-) 1.81 per cent, while in May it was (-) 3.37 per cent and (-) 1.57 per cent respectively.



The annual rate of inflation, based on the WPI (Wholesale Price Index), stood at (-) 0.58 per cent (provisional) for the month of July, 2020 as compared to 1.17 per cent during the corresponding month of the previous year, the commerce and industry ministry said in a statement.

Inflation in food articles was at a four-month high level of 4.08 per cent in July, mainly due to sharp rise in vegetable prices. Inflation in vegetables

ended and inflation fell 25.56 per cent, while in fruits it was (-) 3.03 per cent. Inflation in fuel and power basket fell 9.84 per cent in July, compared to 13.60 per cent drop in the previous month. Manufactured products, however, witnessed inflation of 0.51 per cent in July, against 0.08 per cent in June.

ICRA Principal Economist Aditi Nayar said the considerable narrowing in the WPI disinflation in July 2020 relative to the previous month, was along expected lines, with a correction in the index levels for crude oil and mineral oils, further narrowing of the disinflation and a rise in food inflation. "The surge in tomato prices and moderate rise in potato prices pushed up the vegetable inflation in July 2020, contributing to the uptick in the inflation for primary food articles to a four-month high.

Markets retreat for 3rd day; bank stocks bleed

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity indices nursed losses for the third straight session on Friday as investors panned the banking, financial and consumption stocks amid negative global cues.

Weak macroeconomic data and a depreciating rupee further curbed risk appetite, traders said.

Tanking 663 points from the day's high, the 30-share BSE Sensex settled 433.15 points or 1.13 per cent lower at 37,877.34.

The broader NSE Nifty slumped 122.05 points or 1.08 per cent to close at 11,178.40.

Axis Bank was the top laggard in the Sensex pack, slipping 2.81 per cent, followed by SBI, M&M, Bajaj Finance, ITC, HDFC Bank, HCL Tech and IndusInd Bank.

Only five index constituents ended in the green — Sun Pharma, NTPC, Tata Steel, Titan and Infosys, rising up to 2.04 per cent. During the week, the Sensex declined 163.23 points or 0.42 per cent, while the Nifty fell 35.65 points or 0.31 per cent.

"Indian markets tracked weak global cues in the latter part of the trading day to end with losses. The uncertainty with regards to the US-China trade meet this weekend and a lack of wholesome pickup in economic activity in many countries, including China,"

"The Indian retail inflation numbers that came in above the MPCs' target also put doubt on expected rate cuts by the RBI, which the market was looking forward to. Weak results especially in the Auto sector also contributed to the losses," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Retail inflation rose to 6.93 per cent in July, mainly driven by rising prices of food items like vegetables, pulses,

meat and fish, official data released post market hours on Thursday showed.

BSE auto, banking, finance, oil and gas, FMCG and telecom indices fell up to 2.50 per cent in Friday's session. In the BSE auto index, Tata Motors, while metal, healthcare and consumer durables closed higher.

Broader BSE mid-cap and small-cap indices fell up to 1.02 per cent.

Global equities were under pressure following lacklustre industrial production and retail sales data in China.

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

Stock exchanges in Paris, Frankfurt and London plunged up to 2 per cent in early deals, dragged by travel stocks, after the UK added more European countries to its quarantine list.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 0.65 per cent lower at USD 44.67 per barrel. In the forex market, the rupee settled 6 paise lower at 74.90 against US dollar.

₹ settles 6 paise lower at 74.90 against US \$

Mumbai: The rupee on Friday did 6 paise to end at 74.90 against US dollar as data showing slow economic recovery and higher inflation dampened forex market sentiment.

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened at 74.85 and then lost further ground to settle at 74.90, registering a decline of 6 paise over its previous close of 74.84 to the US dollar.

During the session, the rupee witnessed an intra-day high of 74.74 and a low of 74.93 against the greenback. On weekly basis, the rupee inched up 3 paise against the US dollar. PTI

Bank credit grows 5.51 pc, deposits 11.11 pc: RBI data

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Bank credit and deposits grew 5.51 per cent and 11.11 per cent to Rs 102.65 lakh crore and Rs 141.61 lakh crore respectively in the fortnight ended July 31, according to the latest data from the RBI.

In the fortnight ended August 2, 2019, bank credit and deposits were at Rs 97.29 lakh crore and Rs 127.44 lakh crore, respectively.

On a year-on-year (y-o-y) basis, non-food bank credit growth was at 6.7 per cent in June 2020, nearly the same as in May 2020 but lower than the growth of 11.1 per cent in June 2019.

Allow e-way bill for intra-State transportation of gold: GoM

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

States can make e-way bill mandatory for transportation of gold within the respective states but implementing it for inter-state movement across India will not be feasible, a state-ministerial panel suggested on Friday.

The group of ministers (GoM), comprising finance ministers of Kerala, Bihar, Gujarat, Punjab, Karnataka and West Bengal, set up to examine feasibility of implementation of e-way bill for movement of gold and precious stones met via video link.

"It was decided that if any state wants to implement e-way bill for gold, they can do so for intra- or within the state transportation," Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Modi told PTI.

Gr Noida brings open-ended scheme of residential buildings

Greater Noida: On the occasion of Independence Day, the Greater Noida Authority is bringing an open-ended scheme of residential buildings from date, GNIDA CEO Narendra Bhoshan said.

Under which you can decorate the dream of dwelling by not applying for the request. It is a special occasion for them that if they are living on rent or are confused about the breathing plan of the builders, then the authority is providing them a lot of opportunity to choose the building of their choice in this scheme.



METRO RLY OBSERVES CLEANLINESS WEEK

Kolkata: Metro Railway has undertaken a special cleanliness drive in order to observe Cleanliness Week from 10th August to 16th August, 2020. Metro employees and staff have been participating in this drive in order to make Metro premises more beautiful and clean and augment its aesthetics.

On Friday for the fifth consecutive day, cleanliness drives were organised at North-South and East-West Metro stations in which Metro staff participated in numbers maintaining all COVID-19 protocols.

During this week, special focus is given on collection and disposal of plastic wastes in and around Metro premises.

Milaap introduces free fundraising

New Delhi: For charitable organisations and personal causes during the Covid pandemic, Milaap is introducing a free fundraising platform for the upcoming festive season from the Independence Day.

"We made Milaap free for all relief related fundraisers as a token of gratitude. Therefore, it made perfect sense for extending this 0% fee to all fundraisers," said Mayukh Choudhury, co-founder and CEO of Milaap.

SUPRA INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES LIMITED						
1215, Hitech Tower B-3, Hitech Plaza, New Delhi - 110 019						
Phone: 011-41618996, Website: www.supraindustrialresources.in						
Email: suprasupra@gmail.com CIN: L65990DL1995P019967						
Standalone Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter Ended 30.06.2020						
S. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended		Previous Quarter Ended		Rs. in Lakhs (Except EPS)
		30-Jun-20	31-Mar-20	30-Jun-19	31-Mar-19	
		Unaudited	Audited	Unaudited		
1	Total Income from operations (net)	0.91	0.99	1.09	1.09	
2	Net Profit/(Loss) from ordinary activities after tax*	(1.28)	(1.87)	(1.86)	(1.86)	
3	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	(1.28)	(1.87)	(1.86)	(1.86)	
4	Equity Share Capital	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	
5	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve as shown in the Balance Sheet of previous year)	12.26	12.26	18.60	18.60	
6	Earnings Per Share (from ordinary items) (of Rs.10/- each) (In Rs.) 1. Basic 2. Diluted	(0.50)	(2.55)	(0.74)	(0.74)	
*The Company does not have any extraordinary item to report for the above period						
Notes:						
1. The above is an extract of the detailed form of Quarter ended 30.06.2020 Financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (LOD) Regulations, 2015. The full financial results are available on the company's Website www.supraindustrialresources.in and on the stock exchange website www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com						
2. The Unaudited standalone financial results of the Company for the quarter ended 30.06.2020 have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting held on 14.08.2020.						
3. This statement has been prepared in accordance with the companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules 2015 (the AS) prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 and other recognised accounting practices and policies to the extent applicable.						
for Supra Industrial Resources Ltd.,						Sd/-
Rajiv Agarwal						Rajiv Agarwal
Director						Director
						(DIN: 00286255)
Place: New Delhi						
Date: 14.08.2020						

SUPERIOR FILESAFE LIMITED							
CIN: L24900DL1994PLC010556							
Regd. Off: NS-82, Khazra No-3321, Ranaj Enclave, Najafgarh, Near Arjun Park Bus Stand New Delhi-110043							
Email: info@superiorfilesafe.com; Website: www.superiorfilesafe.com							
Extract of Statement of Un-audited Financial Results for the quarter ended on June 30, 2020							
(Figures in lakhs)							
Sl No.	Particulars	STANDALONE			CONSOLIDATED		
		Quarter ended 30-06-20	Quarter ended 30-06-19	Quarter ended 31-03-20	Quarter ended 30-06-20	Quarter ended 30-06-19	Quarter ended 31-03-20
		Un-audited	Un-audited	Un-audited	Un-audited	Un-audited	Un-audited
1	Total Income from operations	23.10	22.85	102.33	23.10	22.85	102.33
2	Net Profit for the period (before tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	15.74	8.16	22.09	15.74	8.16	22.09
3	Net Profit for the period before Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	15.74	8.16	22.09	16.13	8.16	22.09
4	Net Profit for the period after Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	15.74	6.04	16.31	16.13	6.04	16.31
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit) for the period (after tax) and other Comprehensive Income (after tax)	15.74	4.96	16.31	16.13	4.96	16.31
6	Equity Share Capital	300.10	300.10	300.10	300.10	300.10	300.10
7	Reserves (including Revaluation Reserves) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet as shown in the previous year	3.31	(8.67)	(11.27)	3.31	(8.67)	(11.27)
8	Earning Per Share (of Rs.10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)						
	(a) Basic and Diluted EPS (before Extraordinary Items) (In Rs.)	0.52	0.20	0.54	0.54	0.20	0.54
	(b) Basic and Diluted EPS (after Extraordinary Items) (In Rs.)	0.52	0.20	0.54	0.54	0.20	0.54
Note: The above is an extract of the detailed form of the Quarterly Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosures Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full form of the Quarterly Results are available on the Stock Exchange Website (www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com) and Company's website www.superiorfilesafe.com.							
For Superior Filesafe Limited							
Sd/-						Sd/-	
(RAJNEESH KUMAR)						(RAJNEESH KUMAR)	
Director						Director	
DIN: 02463053						DIN: 02463053	
Date: 13.08.2020							
Place : New Delhi							

MEYER APPAREL LIMITED	
CIN: L18104HR1995PL0002010	
Regd. Office: A/12, 3rd Floor, Orient Badli Sector-34, Gurugram - 122004, Haryana, India	
Pursuant to Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosures Requirements) Regulations, 2015, Notice is hereby given that the meeting of the Board of Directors of Meyer Apparel Limited is scheduled and will now be held on Thursday, 27.08.2020 at 2:30 PM at 412, 4th Floor, Orient Badli Sector-34, Gurugram - 122004. Arrangement will also be made for participation of Board members electronically through video - conferencing facility. This notice is also available on the website of the Company @ www.meyerapparel.com and on the website of BSE Ltd. @ www.bseindia.com, where the company's shares are listed.	
For Meyer Apparel Limited Sd/- Nitesha Bakshi Associate Company Secretary Place: Gurugram Date: 08.08.14.2020	

WESTERN RAILWAY	
TRACK MACHINE WORK	
e-Tender Notice No. W64/12/2019/10A dated 13.08.2020. Chief Engineer, Western Railway, HQ Office, Churanga, Mumbai-400 027. Invites e-Tenders for the details given below (i) e-Tender No. 1: W64/12/2019/10A (ii) Name of the Work: Procurement of Turntable Carriage Tip Tamping Tools for Tamping machines (Maxi, Plaster or equivalent). (iii) Approximate Cost: Rs. 30,12,140.25. (iv) Earnest Money Deposit: Rs. 60,250.00. (v) Tender Closing Date: 15.09.2020 at 11:00 Hrs. (vi) Tender Opening Date: 15.09.2020 at 11:15 Hrs. (vii) Regarding detailed notice containing cost of tender document (non refundable), EMD, eligibility criteria, similar nature of work, detailed tender conditions. Please visit www.irps.gov.in. Manual offers will not be accepted.	
Like us: www.facebook.com/WesternRly	

PRAKASH WOOLLEN & SYNTHETIC MILLS LIMITED	
CIN: L17291UP1979PL0004804 Regd. Office: 18th Km Stone, Delhi-Moradabad Road NH-24 Village Anandpur, Distt. J.P. Nagar, UP-244102 Website: www.prakashwoollen.com Email: info@prakashwoollen.com	
NOTICE Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosures Requirements) Regulations, 2015, a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Friday, 21st August, 2020 to consider and take on record the Un-audited Financial Results for the quarter ended on 30th June, 2020 among other things.	
Copy of the said Notice and the Financial Results shall also be available at the Company's website at www.prakashwoollen.com and on Stock Exchange Website at www.bseindia.com.	
For Prakash Woollen & Synthetic Mills Limited Sd/- VYAS KUMAR GUPTA WHOLETIME DIRECTOR & CFO Place: Village Anandpur (Moradabad) Date: 14.08.2020. DIN: 0033525	

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
NOTICE INVITING TENDER	
Name of work and its location	30-Elect-18-T-2020-21-63 Electrical work in connection with improvement of lighting in goods terminal at FN, PWL, SHDM, KKDE, KLE, MSZ, ROK & GGN over Delhi Division.
Approx cost of the works in	Rs. 91.62 lacs
Address of the office	Sr. Civil Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
Earnest Money	Rs. 183300.00
Date & time of submission of tender	08.09.2020, 12.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender	08.09.2020, 12.00 Hrs.
Website & notice board	www.irps.gov.in & Sr. Civil Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	

WESTERN RAILWAY			
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE No.5/16/2020 Dated 13.08.2020			
S.N.	Short Description of Item	Quantity	T.O.D.
426	Real Time RT PCR	1 No.	28.08.2020
428	Biogas Boiler Arrangement	96 Nos.	04.09.2020
430	Paint Aluminium	31662 Ltrs.	08.09.2020
431	Tensioning device Asstly	3115 Set	05.09.2020
432	Vinyl Coated Upholstery Fabric	69917 Mtrs.	07.09.2020
433	Pair of Leather Hand Gloves	12587 Pair	07.09.2020
434	Set of Lock Asstly	43 set	07.09.2020
435	Carbide Cutting Key Switch (POS No.125)	37 Nos.	07.09.2020
436	Man compressor 1745 LPM	80 Nos.	07.09.2020
437	High Reach Parafixing	48 Nos.	07.09.2020
438	CPRI Site Receiver Part Asstly 2245 Bogies	6919 Nos.	07.09.2020
439	Center Pivot Top for Camrub 22 HS/Mod1 Bogie	1166 Nos.	07.09.2020
440	Relay QNA1 8F8B	1005 Nos.	08.09.2020
441	Boogie Frame Arrangement	96 Nos.	08.09.2020
442	Wheel Pulling Inserts Konnamatal	2371 Nos.	08.09.2020
443	RPM Paint Bkg	108400 Ltrs.	09.09.2020
444	Set of VRLA Battery 110V/7AH	203 Set	09.09.2020
445	Man Entrance Door Mounting (R.H.)	25 Nos.	09.09.2020
446	CPRI Maintenance kit	30 Set	09.09.2020
447	RPM Paint Synthetic enamel, Exterior	23977 Ltrs.	10.09.2020
448	Roof Mounted AC Package Unit	35 Nos.	10.09.2020
449	Pressure Sensor Converter Oil	21 Nos.	10.09.2020
450	Carbon Brush for HETACAC type Traction	33389 Nos.	11.09.2020
451	Set of PU Lining	4531 Set	11.09.2020
452	CPRI Site Receiver part Asstly 2245L bogie	859 Nos.	11.09.2020
453	Steel ladder complete type RSKA-750	259 Nos.	11.09.2020
454	Top Part Sliding Door (W192/10MM)	200 Nos.	11.09.2020
455	Copper Wire Winding (W192/10MM)	136000 Mtrs.	12.09.2020
456	Kid set for New Version MEMU Parking Brake Unit	43 Sets	14.09.2020
REVERSE AUCTION			
1	Supply, Installation, Testing & commissioning of hydraulically Operated Lifting & Sealing	48 Sets	01.09.2020
2	Microprocessor Based Control and Fault Diagnostic System	800 Sets	01.09.2020
3	Air Brake Equipment	48 Sets	03.09.2020
4	Fabrication & Supply of Complete Body Shell Asstly	48 Sets	04.09.2020
5	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Traction Engine and Electric	48 Sets	07.09.2020
6	Arm converter 120 KVA	35 Nos.	11.09.2020
CORRIGENDUM: Please visit www.irps.gov.in for corrigendum issued to following tender: 5/16/2020 Dated 13.08.2020 (Microprocessor based control and fault diagnostic system (Retrofitter at Sr.No.1 RA above)) Sr.No.416 of Tender Notice No. 5/15/2020 Dated 06.08.2020 (BV, 290AH Lead Acid starter battery) are deleted from Notice.			
Regarding detailed notice EMD, purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions please visit website www.irps.gov.in or www.indianrailways.gov.in . AN-2			
www.facebook.com/WesternRail Follow us www.twitter.com/WesternRail			



ISHAAN KHATTER

I am exhilarated to be a part of *Pippa*, a film of such magnitude and importance. It is directed by Raja Krishna Menon. Getting to play the suave and spirited tank commander Brigadier Balram Singh Mehta is a true privilege. I'm looking forward to the exciting experience of the film.



CHUNKY PANDAY

When I came into films in the late 80s and early 90s, it was all about these heroes doing the right things. The hero couldn't dream of doing anything negative, but then came SRK and he did films like *Darr*, *Baazigar* and now slowly, I have seen that even Akshay (Kumar) is doing it. Ranveer (Singh) has done it so convincingly in *Padmaavat*.



NAMIT DAS

I feel it is extremely important to make these big challenges of human existence a conversation in the public domain. What better way to spread awareness about them than through music? "We are one" irrespective of caste, culture, religion, creed and colour. As humans, we need to do better and empathise with each other.



SUKHWINDER SINGH

The title track of the film, *Mere Desh Ki Dharti* is special for more than one reasons. The lyrics are beautiful yet powerful. The music stays with you. It's really an honour to be a part of such a spectacular song. What's most exciting is that it's releasing on Independence Day, the most befitting tribute to our country, our motherland.

VIKRANT MASSEY

The script of *14 Phere* hit me hard. The ideology of the film and the thought behind the story is something that has been with me, individually. It is a beautiful story that speaks of things relevant in today's times. I am looking forward to working with Kriti (Kharbanda).



INDEPENDENCE DAY SPECIAL 60 MINUTES

SHADES OF INDIA

As India marks its 74th Independence Day, National Geographic celebrates the pride of the nation by releasing never-seen-before images through an aerial lens



Representation of a meteorite entering earth's atmosphere.

India is known for its rich cultural heritage and history. From archaeological wonders like Taj Mahal to majestic palaces and forts, all narrate the testimony of our nation's regal lineage. As India marks its 74th Independence Day, National Geographic celebrates the pride of the nation by releasing never-seen-before images of the country through an aerial lens. These images have been shot as part of its forthcoming two-part series titled *India From Above*. Narrated by Dev Patel, the film highlights different aspects of our country

from geological wonders, marvels of human engineering to some of the big festivals. Shot across one year spanning the length and breadth of the country using advanced 4k aerial filming technology, the series is a fitting tribute to our vibrant nation. From covering the largest democratic exercise in human history to ensuring ancient technique and skills are preserved for future generations, the film reveals how India is embracing its path to forge its future. (The second part of the series premieres today at 10 pm on National Geographic.)



Ghanshyam Singh, Deputy Commandant of the Border Security Force, leads the Camel Contingent at a rehearsal. By Abhik Wadhwa



A sea of blue solar panels. By Abhik Wadhwa



The shifting sand dunes of the Thar at the India-Pakistan border in Rajasthan. By Raunak Sharma



Our drone glides past one of the fourteen gopurams as it captures the intricate carvings of the Meenakshi Amman Temple. By Raunak Sharma



The terrain of Ladakh as dusk approaches. By Abhik Wadhwa



A celebration of colour as the festivities for Holi kick off at the temple premises in Nandgaon. By Abhik Wadhwa



An aerial view of pilgrims taking a holy dip at the confluence of rivers Ganga, Yamuna and the invisible Saraswati at the Kumbh Mela. By Gaurav Agarwal



The Chand Baori, a stepwell that is approximately thousand years old. One that served as the primary source of water for countless villagers. By Raunak Sharma



One of the many waterfalls in the wettest place in the world, cascading down the Khasi Hills. By Abhik Wadhwa



The Vizhinjam village. By Anurag Jetly



India's second lunar exploration kicks off as the GSLV Mark III leaves its launchpad. By Jagya Naik M

CONVERSATION 60 MINUTES

'A LOVE LETTER TO HUMAN RACE'

Presenter BRIAN COX says that the series, *Human Universe*, explores the answers to the greatest questions ever asked about the existence of planets, alien life and the human brain. By TEAM VIVA

It is a story of humankind, told through the greatest questions ever asked. 'Where are we in the Universe?' 'What is the destiny of our planet?' 'How did the human brain arise and why did we develop consciousness?' 'Will our search for alien life be successful, or Earth is the only planet with life? Are we alone?' Answering these questions, the series, *Human Universe* offers a new perspective on human life, combining dramatic photography with innovative CGI all set in spectacular locations across the world as it explores the ultimate wonder of the universe — us. Excerpts of a conversation with presenter Brian Cox:

◆How would you sum up the series?
Human Universe is a love letter to the human race. It sounds like a very simple definition of a series but it didn't begin that simply. It started out as a cosmology series, an astronomy series, asking questions about how we came here, questions about the evolution of the human race, the origin of the Universe itself. Well, what we realised during the shoot was that, it was, it really became a series about our values. Modern science has taught us that we are very rare as well as significant, and so the trick in the series was to put those two things together — what does it mean to be rare, and then, the consequence of an almost unbelievable series of accidents, but also insignificant. How do you marry these things? The answers were — our rarity gives us value and also, because our existence seems to be completely meaningless, we're equally insignificant. We didn't have to be here. Hence, I think

we have a responsibility to look after ourselves, to protect ourselves, to find out about the Universe, and to do science.

In this way, if you put all these thoughts together, ultimately, you get a love letter.

◆What's special about the series?
 I think of all the series I've made, this is one of my favourites. I have a soft spot for the 'Wonders of the Solar System' because it's the first big thing that I did. And this one I think, for me, addresses the biggest questions. Undoubtedly, we're asking questions about, at one level, our existence, how did we come to be here, not only as human beings, given the origin of life on Earth, but also the Universe itself. And the fact that modern, 21st century science is beginning to address these questions is remarkable.

At another level, it's also hinting at deeper questions like how to value ourselves and science, proceed for the future, and respect the acquisition of knowledge. This has been made most

explicit in the fifth programme, which is polemic. Many would have seen it in the past through series like *Cosmos*, *The Ascent of Man*, and some of James Burke's works. They have polemical elements.

I think this series is a bit old-fashioned, but in a good way. It has a collective opinion, which is delivered as mine but was actually generated throughout the series, through the collaboration with the crew and the directors, and everybody who worked on the series. I think that is what gives it some added depth and resonance.

◆What was your most memorable experience during the shoot?

The strangest experience I've ever had filming anything was the Soyuz capsule return into Kazakhstan. The reason is that the snow there was quite heavy and our vehicles were very under-powered. Essentially, we had the wrong vehicles, so we couldn't get there and got stuck. It was a disaster because it's the centre part of the series — return of the Soyuz capsule into Kazakhstan

— and we were faced with a situation where we couldn't film it because we couldn't reach there.

A film crew working for the Russian Army said to us, 'We can fit two of you in our vehicle. If you jump on these two snowmobiles and chase us and see if you can find us out there in the Kazakh wilderness.' So, I and Paul O'Callaghan, the cameraman, jumped onto the snowmobiles, left everybody else and went off with the Russian Army, with no communication with our team.

No one spoke English, apart from one of the Russian cameramen. We stayed the night, partly in a Kazakh farmer's hut, who, as far as I could see, brought us horse and jam to eat, which was actually very good. And we finally filmed the return of the Soyuz capsule. It was a remarkable experience. You will see it at the end of episode 1, *Ape Man Space Man*, in one of the most iconic scenes of the series, that only two of us actually shot it.

(The series airs from August 17 to August 21 at 8 pm on Sony BBC Earth.)

STUDIO CHAT 30 MINUTES

Humans behind the cartoon

Actors WILL SMITH, NAOMI SCOTT and MENA MASSOUD offer a peek inside their characters in *Aladdin*, their families' reaction and some behind the scenes. By TEAM VIVA

Aladdin, a live action musical fantasy film is the reimagining of the 1992 animated classic from Walt Disney Pictures. The plot follows Aladdin (played by Mena Massoud), a street urchin, as he falls in love with Princess Jasmine (played by Naomi Scott), befriends a wish-granting Genie (played by Will Smith), and battles the wicked Jafar (played by Marwan Kenzari). Excerpts:

◆What was your reaction when you found out that you are going to play the most iconic character in the history of cinema?

Naomi Scott: I was excited initially but was scared later with the thought of humanising an animated character that's iconic. You are going off animation which means there are definitely certain things that are the foundation of the character, humanising that person is exciting because then you could make her into a woman who is into so many different things. She is one of my favourite Disney princesses for real.

Mena Massoud: I didn't have the time to think about it. I got the project on a Wednesday and had to fly out on a Friday for six months. So I had a day and half to prepare all my stuff because of Will's (Smith) schedule. It was a good thought because I didn't have the time to dwell on it, it was a blessing in disguise.

◆Who in your family was the most excited when they found out about your role?

Mena: I came home after wrapping up a film and woke up my parents at 3 am. I have never seen my dad more excited. He jumped out of the bed and gave me a hug. My mom was half asleep and half crying. She was like 'really?'

Naomi: I think everyone may have told a few people what was going on at the time but my favourite reaction was of my friend Adrian who literally just went 'girl bye' and then hung up in there, it was good 15 minutes before he rang me back. The



other one was my friend Shelly who burst out crying and my brother, who cared I was in the film because of Will. He is not that keen about what I do apart from the fact that I am in a film with Will. He is his biggest fan in the world.

Will Smith: For me, the major thing was how huge and perfect the character Robin

Williams had already played in the film. And I have been in these situations before where you have roles with people you have nostalgic emotional connection. I love Williams and what he did with the genie. One question I always ask myself with those kinds of roles is, is there any meat left on the bone? can you do a service to the love

and nostalgia that is connected to it while at the same time bringing something new to the next generation? When I played genie, it was absolutely terrifying but post that I have never felt it in a strange way because the character becomes ingrained in people's hearts and minds in a way that it's a family member. I watched the film about 10

times, it had live action and distinct characters. I thought I would modernise the genie where I could pay homage to Robin and honour the widely respected depiction while at the same time bringing something new.

◆What was the most memorable day of shooting on the set?

Naomi: I would say shooting 'Speechless' because it was a very emotional day. I felt like I had to give myself some space getting to the zone because I was singing the first half live which is difficult. I was being moved around so you try to control your voice and then go into the song. I just had to give everything. That song is really important to that character because it is that point where she is being herself and is constantly being shut down and people can relate to that.

◆Tell us about the line "Mysultani, Jafar is not who he says he is!"

Mena: So you have heard the story. It was a really intense moment in a very dramatic scene. I had a few long days and I came in and completely fumbled the line. Will didn't let it go. I said something like 'hem whom non seem him is'. It did come out like that and then we just couldn't stop laughing. Will actually got it made into a T-shirt wrapped up gift. I still wear it, it's part of my pyjamas. I can't wear it out though otherwise people would be like 'What is that?'

◆What film would you like to be in if you had the choice? What if Aladdin was in it?

Mena: Maybe *Inglorious Bastards* of Quentin Tarantino. That is one of my favourite films of all time. The character work in that is amazing so I would love to do that. If Aladdin was in it, that would be a little weird, we would have to mature it up a little bit.

(The film airs today at 3 pm on Star Movies as a part of the 'Independence Day: Special Edition' pack.)

JUKEBOX 15 MINUTES



Salaam, reloaded

Singer-composer AR RAHMAN's iconic song, *Maa Tujhe Salaam*, gets a new, beatbox rendition

Main gaya jahan bhi
 Bas teri yaad thi
 Jo mere saath thi
 Mujhko tadpati rulati
 Sab se pyari teri soorat
 Pyaar hai bas tera, pyaar hi
 Maa tujhe salaam...



For the last two decades and more, the song has been instrumental in instilling a sense of pride, patriotism and national unity among millions. Even after garnering a Guinness World Record for being the song performed in the most number of languages, singer-composer AR Rahman's *Maa Tujhe Salaam* doesn't cease to amuse many and generate a plethora of emotions.

Celebrating the 73rd Independence Day, MTV, in partnership with BBKINDIA, launches a recreated version of Rahman's *Maa Tujhe Salaam*, with a beatbox version.

This rendition of the

song, purely created with human mouth and vocal chords (vocal flute, Konnakol, and Beatbox only) for the first

time ever, is a modern-day tribute to the resilience of our nation. Through this offering, the channel also brings *Beathustle*, an innovative extension to its rap reality show.

The track also owes its newness to three artists — Chennai-based beatboxer Raka Vee, founder of the collaborating beatboxing company; Ajinkya, a self-trained mouth musician from Mumbai who recreates the wind flute using his vocal cords; and Shivraj Natraj, a well-trained Carnatic vocalist and Mridangam artist from Bangalore, also known as the *Konnakol* beatboxer who combines the oldest vocal percussion (*Konnakol*) with modern-age beatboxing and brings the true mix of Indian beatbox flavour.

(There will be a series of Live sessions with Raka Vee for the next four weeks on MTV Hustle's Instagram.)

Made in US

Super-sub Adams maiden Leipzig strike helps German club beat Atletico to reach CL semis

AFP ■ LISBON

Leipzig stunned Atletico Madrid 2-1 on Thursday to reach the Champions League semi-finals for the first time as Tyler Adams' 88th-minute winner earned them a showdown with Paris Saint-Germain.

Atletico looked to have secured extra-time at the Estadio Jose Alvalade when Joao Felix won and then scored a penalty to cancel out Dani Olmo's headed opener early in the second half.

But Adams proved an unlikely hero for Leipzig, coming off the bench to snatch victory in Lisbon after his fired effort took a cruel deflection of Stefan Savic and flew in.

The win marks a historic

night for Leipzig, who were only formed 11 years ago and played their first-ever season in Germany's top flight in 2016.

Progress to the last four also puts another feather in the cap of their coach Julian Nagelsmann, whose stock will rise even further after ousting Diego Simeone, one of this competition's most gnarly tacticians.

"I'm perhaps one of the happiest coaches in the world," Nagelsmann said.

"We were the better team, the result is totally OK. The second goal is a bit lucky but we found the space behind the defensive line. I think we were the better team today."

Their challenge is now to defeat PSG on Tuesday, the French champions who have



THE WIN MARKS A HISTORIC NIGHT FOR LEIPZIG, WHO WERE ONLY FORMED 11 YEARS AGO AND PLAYED THEIR FIRST-EVER SEASON IN GERMANY'S TOP FLIGHT IN 2016

only played three matches in almost half a year and needed a late escape to see off Atalanta on Tuesday.

"It's normal that when you get to the next round, you want more," Nagelsmann said.

"Tonight we're happy. Tomorrow we'll start looking at Paris. That will be another difficult game but we'll have a plan."

'HURTS A LOT'

For Atletico and Simeone, this was an opportunity spurred to go far in Europe at the end of what has been a disappointing season in Spain.

After Real Madrid's loss against Manchester City, only Barcelona are left to fly the Spanish flag in this tournament and they face a formidable challenge against Bayern Munich on Friday.

Questions will be asked again about the future of Simeone, who has struggled to recreate an Atletico side capable of challenging for major honours.

His notoriously defensive approach, which saw off holders Liverpool in the last 16, looked outdated here against the slick, quick and free-flowing style of their opponents.

"It hurts a lot," said Atletico's Saul Niguez. "They had superiority in many areas on the pitch, inside, outside. Many times we were not even close to stopping them."

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All concerned are requested to take note of same.

Place: Chandigarh
Date: August 14, 2020
For Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd.
Harsharan Singh
Zonal Sales Manager

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All concerned are requested to take note of same.

Place: Chandigarh
Date: August 14, 2020
For Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd.
Harsharan Singh
Zonal Sales Manager

Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
Government of India

74th Independence Day

Independence Day
Greetings to all fellow citizens

Jai Hind

"15th August is a day to pay homage to all those greats who worked hard for India's freedom. Their struggles continue to give strength to millions. Independence Day is an occasion to reaffirm our commitment to build an India that would make our respected freedom fighters proud."

- Narendra Modi

Independence Day Ceremony at the ramparts of Red Fort to be live telecast by Doordarshan 6:25 a.m. onwards

15 August, 2020

On the Occasion of INDEPENDENCE DAY
Heartiest Greetings to the People of Haryana

"On this auspicious day, let's revive the memories of the valiant martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the Nation. Taking inspiration from them, let's all contribute to create a self-reliant India following the ideas of harmony, brotherhood & equality."

- Manohar Lal, Chief Minister, Haryana

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