OPINION 6

FROM ISRAEL

TO INDIA

MORE THAN 100 KILLED

WORLD 8

IN HUGE BLAST IN BEIRUT

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SONAKSHI SINHA FLAUNTS HER CURLS

NEW DELHI, THURSDAY AUGUST 6, 2020; PAGES 12 ₹3 the pioneer

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FOUNDATION LAID TO REALISE DREAM

Nine shilas with gold, silver, precious stones were laid during bhoomi pujan for Ram Temple at 12.44 pm amid 'Jai Shree Ram' and 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' slogans

BISWAJEET BANERJEE

Amid chants of Vedic hymns, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of Ram temple at a site within the Ram Janmabhoomi complex believed to be the birthplace of Lord Ram, thus announcing a formal launch of the construc-

tion of the temple.
"Nine shilas (bricks) with gold, silver and precious stones embedded on them were worshipped and are laid as foundation," Mahant Kamal Narain Das said

Worship was offered to a 40-kilogram silver plaque with details of the Ram temple movement and its construction inscribed on it. It would be fixed at the main wall of the

Champat Rai, general sec-Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, announced that in 1989 Ram Bhakts had donated 2.75 lakh bricks for the construction of the temple. "We chose 9 from them and these were used to lay the foundation today," he said. The foundation stone was laid after almost 30 minutes of Puja exactly at 12.44 pm with slogans of "Jai Shree Ram" and "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" filling the air. The priest who conducted the puja also narrated in detail the importance of the Ram temple, the Ram Rajya, and how a 500year-old dream of Hindus was fulfilled today.

Before the groundbreaking, the PM offered prayers at the make-shift Ram Lalla temple, thus became the first PM of the country to offer prayers at the temple.

The bhoomi pujan cere
chanting religious hymns.

President of India Ramnath Kovind said in his tweet: "Felicitations to all for

temple.

The bhoomi pujan ceremony was attended UP Governor Anandiben Patel, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat Shree besides Janmabhoomi Thirath Khetra Trust members.

LK Advani, 92, and Murli Manohar Joshi, 86, the two BJP stalwarts who had led the campaign to build the temple in its early days, are said to have watched the live telecast of the event on television sets. Home Minister Amit Shah watched the event from his bed in a Gurugram hospital where the 55-year-old top BJP leader was admitted last week after infection with coronavirus.

After the ritual was over, the PM also put tika from the soil on his forehead and recited the mantras amid priests praying for the completion of the Ram temple and well-being of the universe.

Rai said that during the groundbreaking ceremony soil and holy water from several religious places across India were collected. "We have received over 2,000 earthen pots carrying holy water of various rivers and boxes carrying soil sent from various Hindu temples and Gurdwaras across India to bless the upcoming temple," he said.

Rai said that temples in the US, Canada and Caribbean Islands held a virtual service to celebrate the occasion. He said over 2,000 temples in Ayodhya have also joined in the celebrations by lighting lamps and

the foundation laying of Ram Temple in Ayodhya. Being built in tune with law, it defines India's spirit of social harmony and people's zeal. It will be a testimony to ideals of Ram Rajya and a symbol of modern India."

The construction of the temple will be completed within 3 and half years. The original design for the Ram temple was prepared in 1988 but was

changed in 2020 after the court ruled in favour of Hindus.

Chandrakant Sompura, the main architect of the temple said as per new design Ram Temple will be 235 feet wide, 360 feet long and 161 feet high. "The temple complex will have a prayer hall, a lecture hall, educational facility, saints residence and a hostel for visitors. It will have other facilities like a museum and a cafeteria. Once complete the temple complex will be the world's third largest Hindu shrine."

India is creating golden chapter in Ayodhya: PM

The long wait of centuries has ended and India is creating a golden chapter in Ayodhya, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said while addressing the gathering of select dignitaries mostly seers after laying the foundation stone for the construction of a grand 161-feet tall Ram temple in Ayodhya on Wednesday.

Asserting that "Ram is everywhere, Ram belongs to

all", Modi said the temple symbolises India's rich heritage and will be an inspiration for all of humanity.
The PM said with the con-

struction of Ram temple, the Ram Janmabhoomi has broken free of a vicious cycle of demolition and resurrection.

"A grand temple will now be built for our Ram Lalla who had been staying in a tent. Today Ram Janmabhoomi breaks free of the cycle of breaking and getting built again

that had been going on for centuries," he said.

He said the Ram Temple will become the modern symbol of our traditions and will depict the Indian culture of mankind. "The entire world is witnessing history being made with the foundation of Ram temple," he said in speech which started with the chant of "Jai Shri Ram".

He said this chant is not just echoing in Ayodhya but in the entire world today when everyone is celebrating the occasion in a big way with ful-fillment of the dream.

"Our Independence Day -August 15 - holds importance for us because this day we were able to break free from the tyranny of Britishers. August 5holds the similar significance for millions of devotees who devoted their lives for the cause of Ram temple. I bow to these people and their family mem**FOUNDATION OF** RAM TEMPLE

THE ENTIRE

WITNESSING

HISTORY BEING MADE WITH THE

bers for their sacrifice," Modi

"Lord Ram is reflected in all walks of our lives. During the Independence struggle Ram was in the Bhajans of Mahatma Gandhi. It was in the couplets of Rahim and Guru Nanak. Ram has touched all spheres of our lives. It has taught us that you should be powerful because love emanated only from fear," he said.

In the construction of this temple history is being repeated. The way boatmen or the Vanar sena helped Lord Ram or the way children helped Lord Krishna to lift Govardhan mountain, similarly with the help of people construction of temple will be completed," he

Continued on Page 2

Felicitations to all for the foundation laying of Ram Temple in Ayodhya. Being built in tune with law, it defines India's spirit of social harmony and people's zeal. It will be a testimony to ideals of RamRajya and a symbol





This new era is of dedicated service for public welfare. This era belongs to Ram Rajya. This era is to build a new India in accordance with the ideals of Lord Ram

UP CHIEF MINISTER YOGI ADITYANATH

Ram is love, he can never appear in hatred. Ram is compassion, he can never appear in cruelty. Ram is justice, he can never appear in



Prime Minister Narendra Modi takes soil from the foundation spot for Tilak after the bhoomi pujan at Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Mandir in Ayodhya on Wednesday

Leaders across party lines hail Mandir, bhoomi pujan

'This development would pave the way for national unity, harmony'

PNS NEW DELHI/LUCKNOW

eaders cutting across party Lines welcomed the groundbreaking ceremony for the Ram temple in Ayodhya on Wednesday, hoping the devel-

national unity and harmony. Many of them used the occasion to send a subtle political message against the politics of

hate and injustice.
While Congress leader
Rahul Gandhi said Lord Ram is the ultimate embodiment of supreme human values and can never appear in cruelty, hatred or injustice, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said all religions of

this great country are brothers. BSP supremo Mayawati credited the Supreme Court for paving the way for its construction in Ayodhya and advised all to accept the deci-

Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav hoped the present and future generations will sincerely follow the path shown by 'Maryada Purushottam' and will do good

to all and bring peace.

NCP chief Sharad Pawar said it's a matter of joy, but he also questioned the timing of Bhoomi Pujan when the country is struggling with so many ailments and battles on front.

After refraining from commenting on the Ram temple issue, the Congress' top leaders came forward with their messages by extending best wishes to people on the Bhoomi

Poojan function. 'Simplicity, courage, restraint, sacrifice, commitment, are the essence of the name Deenbandhu Lord Rama. Ram is in everyone, Ram is with everyone. With the message and blessings of Lord Ram and Mother Sita, the Bhoomi Pujan of Ramlalla's temple became an occasion for national unity, fraternity and cultural congregation," she

tweeted. Rahul in a tweet in Hindi, said, "Maryada Purshottam Lord Ram is the ultimate embodiment of supreme human values. He is the core of humanism embedded deep in our hearts. Ram is love, he can never appear in hatred. Ram is compassion, he can never appear in cruelty. Ram is justice, he can never appear in injustice," he said.

Continued on Page 2

Bhagwat recalls temple movement torchbearer

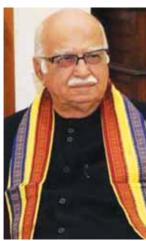
RSS chief rues that Advani could not attend the ceremony

DEEPAK UPRETI NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who along with RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat, attended bhumi pujan at Ayodhya on Wednesday and addressed the congregation gathered there did not mention veteran BJP leader LK Advani's contribution towards realisation of the Ram Temple.

Bhagwat did briefly recall the role of the BJP patriarch in the temple movement and also marked his absence in the cer-

The RSS Chief commenced his speech with the struggles faced by each and every person associated with the Ram Temple movement. Bhagwat said he is very happy that finally after 30 years the promise has been fulfilled. He mentioned that many sacrificed their lives in this movement and though they are not present physically, they are watch-



"Rath yatra ka netritav karnewale Ádvaniji apene ghar per baith kar is karyakram ko dekh rahain honge. Kitne hi log hain jo aa bhi sakte hain, lekin bulaye nahin ja sakte, paristhithi hi aisi hain," said the RSS head.

He also said, "It would have been great if late Ashok

Singhal and Mahant Paramhans Ramchandra Das were present, but they are bracing us with their blessings."

The Prime Minister in his long speech generally talked about the "struggle" to achieve the goal of Ram Temple but did not mention anyone by name, including Advani. Modi's speech escaped the history of the temple movement and instead focussed on what it would mean to India's future and the world.

Advani, 92, and Murli Manohar Joshi, 86, the two BJP leaders who made a major contribution towards Ram Temple did not figure in the list of 200 invitees to the

ceremony. Advani on Tuesday, in a statement, reminisced his role in "galvanising the aspirations, energies and passions of countless participants of the movement "and recalled his famous Ram Rath Yatra from Somnath

to Ayodhya in 1990"

LORD RAM GOES LIVE ON TIMES SQUARE!

New York: A billboard with an image of Lord Ram along with the Ram Mandir has gone live on New York's iconic Times Square as part of the bhoomi pujan celebrations which have been planned by the Hindu-American diaspora in the city. In the video one can see a huge digital billboard displaying images of the Bhavya Ram Mandir, Lord Ram and the Indian Tricolour as people can be heard chanting Jai Shri Ram in the background. Images of the words "Jai Shri Ram" in Hindi and English, Lord Ram's portraits and videos, 3D portraits of the temple's design and architecture as well as pictures of the laying of the foundation stone by PM Modi will be displayed across several

billboards at Times Square. PRAYERS MARK AYODHYA BHOOMI PUJAN IN UK

London: Several temples and members of the Indian diaspora in the UK marked the Bhoomi Pujan ceremony for Ram Mandir in India with prayer ceremonies on Wednesday. The groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the temple took place on Wednesday in Ayodhya with Prime Minister Narendra Modi performing the 'bhoomi pujan' of the temple



Imagery of the Lord Ram and 3-D portraits of the proposed Hindu temple are displayed on a digital billboard in Times Square

Covid death count crosses 40K-mark

TOTAL

CASES: 19,63,239 **DEATHS: 40,739 RECOVERED:** 13,27,200 **ACTIVE: 5,94,850**

90% RECOVERED IN WUHAN HAVE LUNG DAMAGE Beijing: Ninety per cent of a sample group of coronavirus-recovered patients from China's Wuhan city have reported lung damage. according to a media report

STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	4,68,265	16,476	3,05,521
Tamil Nadu	2,73,460	4,461	2,14,815
Andhra Pradesh	1,86,461	1,681	1,04,354
Karnataka	1,51,449	2,804	74,679
Delhi	1,40,232	4,044	1,26,116
Uttar Pradesh	1,04,388	1,857	60,558
West Bengal	83,800	1,846	58,962
Telangana	70,958	576	50,814
Gujarat	66,777	2,552	49,607
Bihar	64,732	369	42,370
Assam	50,446	121	35,893
Rajasthan	47,845	745	33,849
Odisha	39,018	269	25,738
Haryana	38,548	455	31,960
Madhya Pradesh	35,734	929	26,064
Kerala	29,151	95	17,533

PNS NEW DELHI

ndia's Covid-19 death count crossed 40,000 marks on Wednesday with Maharashtra alone accounting for 334 deaths during the last 24 hours fol-lowed by Tamil Nadu 112 and Karnataka 95 deaths. Wednesday happened to be the worst day for India in terms of fatality as the highest single-day spike in death count.

At the same time, the country recorded over 50,000 cases in the past 24 hours for a 7th day in a row, taking its tally of total cases to 1,921,392.

Maharashtra reported a record number of 334 deaths and 10,309 positive cases on Wednesday raising the total to 4,68,265, including 1,45,961 active cases, 3,05,521 recovered and 16,476 deaths.

Continued on Page 2

ED summons Rhea on Friday **Truth behind 'unfortunate'** death of a 'gifted and

talented artist' Rajput should come out, says SC PNS NEW DELHI

On a day when three important developments took place in the Sushant Singh Rajput alleged suicide case on Wednesday, the Supreme Court said the truth behind the "unfortunate" death of a "gift-ed and talented artist" Rajput should come out, while the Centre apprised it of having accepted the Bihar



CBI to probe Sushant's death,

Government's recommendation for a CBI probe in the case. Meanwhile,

Enforcement Directorate (ED) summoned Rhea Chakraborty on August 7 for questioning in money laundering probe linked to complaint by Rajput's father. The ED has already questioned

Rajput's Chartered Accountant Sandeep Sridhar and Chakraborty's associate Samuel Miranda. The CBI, which has

received a notification from the Department of Personnel and Training during the day, said the case will be re-registered either by early Thursday.

Last week, the Patna Police had registered a case against Chakraborty, her family members and others under Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections relating abetment to suicide, cheating, criminal breach of

trust and theft. Continued on Page 2

J&K L-G GC Murmu resigns; for CAG post? Jammu: Before completing one year in office, Jammu &

Kashmir Lt-Governor Girish Chandra Murmu resigned on Wednesday. Some of the

media reports suggested that he was expected to be named next Comptroller Auditor General

of India (CAG). His resignation came on the day the Union Territory marked the first anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution, which scrapped Jammu and Kashmir's special status. PNS/PTI

Heavy rain cripples life in Mumbai Delhi sees 1,076 fresh

 $M_{\text{counterparts}}^{\text{umbaikars}} \text{ and their} \\ \text{neighbouring Thane and other}$ areas in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) were brought to their knees on Wednesday, as heavy rains pounded the metropolis and surrounding areas, crippling normal life for the second consecutive day on Wednesday.

The country's commercial capital witnessed rare scenes during the day, when many areas of downtown south Mumbai like Churchgate, Marine Lines, Marine Drive, Kalbadevi, Dongri and Byculla lay under thick sheets of water, a thing that had never happened even when the metropolis reeled under heavy rains during the months over the

be gauged from the fact that the Island city recorded a staggering 220.9 mm of rainfall between 8.30 an and 5.30 pm, while the suburbs registered 80.8 mm rain during the same

Although the day, Mumbaikars experienced strong winds sweeping the city.
The India Meteorological

Department has predicted "heavy to extremely heavy spells of rains" for Mumbai and coastal Konkan for the next 24

Not wanting to take any chances, Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray asked Mumbaikars to "on high alert as heavy rains continue in Mumbai for the 2nd consecutive day". He also appealed to the citizens "to stay home and venture out only if essential". Charni Road and Worli, fol-

Thackeray also made a similar appeal to the Mumbaikars.

On a day that proved to be an ordeal for Mumbnaikars, the Central Railway suspended its suburban train services between Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus-Kurla on the mainline and CSMT-Vashi on the Harbour Line following torrential rains and inundation of the railway tracks.

Similarly, the Western Railway all trains were being reversed from Mumbai Central, Dadar, Bandra and Andheri, following heavy rains and falling off of tree branches on the railway tracks Churchgate and Mumbai

Many parts of Mumbai especially south Mumbai areas like Churchgate, Marine Lines,

falls, while the vehicles crawled on the Eastern Express Highway and Western Express Highway.

Thousands Mumbaikars, who had ventured out to their work places braving heavy rains in the morning, were stranded at many places, prompting the Bihannumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) to make arrangements for their shelter at civic schools located near the

In a major incident, Mumbai's landmark building the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) - known originally as Phiroze Jeejeebhoy Tower bore the brunt of rains as its massive signboard on the 29th floor was ripped off.

railway stations.

Similarly, a part of cement cladding adorning the exteriors

Mumbai blew away and fell in pieces on the road.

Water entered homes in not just low-lying slum areas, but also into ground floor homes, shops or offices, as heavy rains wreaked havoc in south Mumbai.

The people living in Mumbai's suburbs and satellite cities and towns suffered a great deal because of incessant rains. Intense water-logging was in many satellite towns like Mira Road, Bhiwandi, Kalyan, Ulhasnagar, Naigaon, Vasai, Virar and Dahanu.

Heavy rains battered Mumbai's adjoining districts of Thane, Palghar and Raigad for the past 24 hours. In the districts of Ratnagiri and Raigad in the coastal Konkan region, 25 villages were

Covid cases in a day antine, including travellers who

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi recorded 1,076 fresh coronavirus cases on Wednesday, taking the tally in the city to over 1.40 lakh, while the death toll from the disease rose to 4,044.

Eleven fatalities have been recorded in the last 24 hours, according to the Delhi health department bulletin on Wednesday. The active cases tally was 10,072. According to the bulletin, out of the total number of beds in COVID hospitals, 10583 are vacant.

On June 23, the national capital had reported the highest single-day spike of 3,947 cases. Also, 2884 beds in COVID care centres are occupied by persons under quar-

have returned by Vande Bharat Mission and bubble flights, it

The number of tests done per million, as on Wednesday was 57,888, it said. A total of 126116 patients have recovered, migrated or been discharged while the number of active cases in the capital currently stands at 10,072.

According to the Indian Council of Medical Research, suspected individuals who test negative for COVID-19 in rapid-antigen tests should undergo RT-PCR to rule out the infection.

Rapid-antigen testing requires a prescription and an ICMR form filled by a registered doctor, and a government

Testing was ramped up June 18 onwards, when Delhi started conducting tests through the faster rapid-antigen methodology. Since then, tests have increased almost threefold -- from an average of around 7,000 a day during June 12-18 to an average of around 20,000 per day at pre-

As per Government's report, both Government and private hospitals have done a fair job in tackling coronavirus. Delhi Government's Rajiv Gandhi Super Specialty Hospital with seven per cent death rate is on top ranking for giving treatment to corona infected patients.

MAHA RECORDS **ALL-TIME HIGH** 334 DEATHS

PNS MUMBAI

The health authorities in Maharashtra went into a tizzy on Wednesday, as Covid-19 claimed a record 334 lives, while a staggering 10,309 people tested positive for Coronavirus in various parts of

Shockingly enough, the daily death tally has either touched or crossed 300-mark on three occasions during the last one week. Earlier, there were 322 deaths on August 1, the state recorded 300 deaths on Tuesday.

With the fresh 334 deaths and 10309 infections, the total number of deaths in the state mounted to 16,476, while the total number of infected cases jumped to 4,68,265.

Of the total deaths reported on Wednesday, Pune accounted for a highest count of 92 deaths, while there were 69 deaths in Thane and 42 deaths in Mumbai.

Apart from the 92 deaths in Phne, 69 in Thane and 42 in Mumbai, there were 36 deaths in Raigad, 12 in Kolhapur, 10 in Nashik, 9 in Solapur, 8 in Palghar, 7 each in Sangli and Nagpur, 5 each in Aurangabad and Nanded, 4 each in Jalgaon and Nandurbar, 3 each in Ahmednagar, Satara, Latur, Osmanabad and Wardha, 2 each in Dhule, Ratnagiri and Beed and 1 each in Jalna, Amravati. In addition, one from another state died in Maharashtra..

pandemic toll in the city rose from 6549 to 6591, while the number of infected cases went up by 1125 to touch 1,19,240.

In a related development, the total number of people discharged from various hospitals crossed 3 lakh mark.

On a day when 6,165 patients were discharged from hospitals in the state after full recovery, taking the total number of patients discharged from various hospitals after full recovery since the second week of March this year to 3,05,521. The recovery rate rose to 65.25 per cent. The mortality rate in the state is 3.52 per cent. The state health authorities pegged the number of "active cases" in the state at 1,45,961.

Pune, which has emerged as the second worst-affected district in terms of spread of the pandemic, has recorded 1,01,262 infections and 2494 deaths till now.

out assigning any reason.



People light diyas in order to celebrate the bhoomi poojan of Ram Temple in New Delhi on Wednesday

NUN RAPE CASE-

SC dismisses discharge plea of accused

Court on Wednesday directed Bishop Franco Mulakkal to face trial as it dismissed his plea seeking discharge in the rape case lodged against him by a nun, saying that there is no merit in his petition.
A bench of Chief Justice S

A Bobde, A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian told the counsel for Bishop that the court is not saying anything on merit but is dismissing the plea on the issue of discharge from the case.

Mulakkal, in his plea has

challenged the Kerala High Court order of July 7, dismissing his discharge plea in the

Kerala High Court on July 7 rejected Bishop Franco Mulakkal's petition seeking discharge in the case

rape case filed by the nun. The Kerala High Court on July 7 rejected his petition

seeking discharge in the case.

The High Court had asked
the deposed Bishop of Jalandhar diocese to stand for trial in the rape case, which was registered on the basis of a complaint filed by a nun of same diocese in Kerala.

The high court had dis-

missed the plea by the bishop, admitting the prosecution argument that there was prima facie evidence against Mulakkal in the rape case, which was registered on the basis of a com-plaint filed by a nun of Jalandhar diocese.

The senior priest of the Roman Catholic Church had filed the revision petition following the dismissal of his discharge plea by a trial court in March this year.

Bishop was registered by police in Kottayam district. In his plea filed before the High Court, the accused priest argued that he was implicated

The rape case against the

after he questioned the financial dealings of the victim nun.
The bishop had filed the

discharge plea in the trial court iust ahead of commencement of the preliminary hearing on charges against him.

In her complaint to the police in June, 2018, the nun had alleged that she was subjected to sexual abuse by the bishop during the period between 2014 and 2016.

The bishop, who was arrested by the Special Investigation team, which probed the case, charged him with wrongful confinement, rape, unnatural sex and criminal intimidation.

LOST AND FOUND

This is brought to the notice of Public at large that Four signed Blanked STAMP PAPER dated 29/07/2020 of the undersigned at Indirapuram, Ghaziabad in lost since 30/07/2020. Any person(s) if found please

contact with the undersigned at the given

Address and phone no. Harsh Dhawan S/o

Sh. Bhim Sen Dhawan R/o A-1/81B, Janta

Flats, Maa Shakti Appartments, Paschim

Vihar, New Delhi-110063 # 9968284858 and

any type of use of these lost stamp papers

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that Smt. Rashmi Manchanda is the absolute owner of South

West Portion of third floor with roof rights of

property No. VB-158 (Municipal No. WZ-99-A)

area measuring 100 Sq. Yds., out of Khasra No. 795 at Virender Nagar, Gali No. 7, New Delhi purchased from Smt. Tarvinder Kaur, Smt.

Maninder Marwah, Shri Prithpal Singh

18.04.2018 (doc. No. 9666) she is in process to

sell out the same to Gurmeet Kaur. All person/s

having any claim against or in respect of the

said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage

equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust,

inheritance, family arrangement,

maintenance, bequest, partnership,

ien, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise

howsoever, are hereby requested to notify the

same in writing to us with supporting

documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date

hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any,

of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned.

Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate)

Mayur Vihar-II, Delhi-110091 Office: 011-43052822 Mobile: 9810063351

E: kamalkantgupta74@gmail.com

Shop No. 5 & 6, CSC, Pkt-E

session, lease, sublease, tenancy, license,

will be illegal and will be null and void.

Leaders across party lines hail...

Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said, 'We hope the ideal's of sacrifice, duty, compassion, generosity, unity, fraternity, harmony and courtesy preached by Lord Ram will become the guiding force for the country."

"Hindu Muslim Sikh Isaai,

Aapas mein hain Bhai Bhai! Mera Bharat Mahaan, Mahaan Hamara Hindustan. Our country has always upheld the ageold legacy of unity in diversity, and we must preserve this to Delhi Chief Minister

Arvind Kejriwal too sent his

best wishes to fellow citizens on the Bhoomi Pujan of the Ram Another Congress leader Shashi Tharoor said Lord Ram epitomises justice for all, righteous conduct, fairness and

firmness in all dealings, moral

rectitude and courage. "These

values are much needed in such dark times. If they spread throughout the land, Ram Rajya would not be an occasion for triumphalist bigotry. JaiShriRam," he tweeted. Mavawati said as everyone

knows, Ayodhya is a holy city of different religions, but it had been embroiled in a controversy for years due to Ram Mandir-Babri Masjid land dispute. "The dispute was ended by the Supreme Court and it has also stopped to some extent politics around it played by Mayawati said in a series of tweets in Hindi.

"Due to the SC verdict, foundation of Ram temple is being laid and a lot of its credit goes to the SC. The BSP from the beginning said that it would accept the SC decision. It should be accepted by all. This is advice of the BSP," she added. **India** is creating golden... countries including Indonesia, distancing and wearing masks, From Page 1

Modi said that this Ram temple will become a symbol of people's devotion, their national sentiment. "This temple will also symbolise the power of collective resolution of crores of people. It will keep inspiring future generations. It will reflect the rich heritage of Indian culture. I believe it will inspire the entire humanity till eternity" he

Before Bhoomi Pujan, the PM worshiped at the Hanumangarhi and Ram Lalla temples - first time by any Prime Minister of the country.

The Prime Minister said construction is an attempt to connect the nation. It will be a modern symbol of our culture, eternal faith and national spirit. "It will keep inspiring the future generations. Every heart is illuminated, it is an emotional moment for the entire country. A long wait ends

today", he said. He even said in several

Thailand, Cambodia, Malaysia, Iran and China, Ram katha is very popular in their own traditional way while in Nepal and Sri Lanka they were the part of the Ramayan.

"It is my good fortune that I was invited to witness this historical moment. From Kanyakumari to Kshirbhavani, from Koteshwar to Kamakhya, from Jagannath to Kedarnath, Somnath to Kashi Vishwanath today the entire country is immersed in Lord Ram," he The PM said that after the

construction of Ram temple, Ayodhya increase but the entire economy of the region will also change. New opportunities will be created in every field, he

During his speech he also mentioned about the corona pandemic and linked it with Lord Ram's Maryada. "Ram means maryada. We have adopted the maryada of social so that corona can be away from us," he said. On the occasion, the PM released a commemorative

postage stamp on the 'Shree Ram Janmabhoomi Mandir' in Ayodhya. RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat in his speech said this is the movement of celebration and it showed the 'aatmavishwas' of

the country and our hard work

for the past 30 years. "We have proved what we can do and what we want to do", he com-"So many people had struggled for the cause but Advaniji must be at his home watching this. There are some who should have come but could not be invited because of

the Covid-19 situation," he said while asking the people to

now dedicate themselves for the completion of the temple. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath also spoke on this occasion.

Karnataka, which has seen

huge spikes in the number of

positive cases during the last few

weeks, reported 5,619 new cases

and 100 deaths in the last 24

hours, taking total cases to

1,51,449 including 74,679 discharges and 2,804 deaths. The

case-fatality ratio stands at 1.9

Man arrested for stabbing woman, her father-in-law in Gurugram

Gurugram: A resident of Kundli in Sonepat district was arrested on charge of stabbing a young woman and her fatherin-law in Gurugram's Rajiv Nagar area, a police official said on Wednesday. Accused Vivek Kumar was

injured when he jumped off the third floor of a building while trying to escape after the crime. He was cornered by area residents and caught as he was unable to ran away due to his Vivek was a classmate of

the woman Sonu (name changed) in a Sonepat college

After her marriage, he traced her to her in-laws house in the city and went there on Tuesday evening. "Vivek asked her father-in-

law to let him meet her once. As soon as Sonu came out, he took out a knife and stabbed her in the head and neck. He also stabbed her father-in- law as the latter intervened," Jasveer Singh, SHO of Sector 14 police station, said.

"The accused fled and entered another building and jumped off the third floor after area residents cornered him. The accused was caught by

them," the SHO said. Wivek was admitted in the ril Hospital, where his consider is said to be stable.

My clients, Mr. Naval Kishore Bhagat, S/o Jamun S/hard Jamun 2 Vihard Pelih-i11053, do and hereby the stable is said to be stable. Civil Hospital, where his condition is said to be stable.

PUBLIC NOTICE

state that they have severed all their relations and ties with their daughter Nikita, aged 21 years. She is debarred from claiming any right in their movable or immovable property. Anyone dealing with her shall do so at his or her own risk and cost. My clients shall not be liable for any of her acts, deed and things in any manner nor she shall inherit any property through my clients. My clients disown any of the tations, promises or actions made by her

> Ramnesh Kumar Jerath, Advocate & Partner T & R Associates

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that share certificate No. 116551, 116552 for 144 Equity shares of Date: 06.08.2020

Covid death count crosses 40K marks

From Page 1

Mumbai recorded 1.125 Covid-19 cases and 42 deaths. Total number of cases in the city is now at 1,19,255 including 91,673 recovered/discharged, 20,697 active cases and 6,588

Maharashtra's fatality ratio now stands at 3.5 per cent,

which means for every 100 confirmed cases, 4 have passed away from the virus.

In terms of fatality ratio, Gujarat tops the list with 3.8 per cent of FR.

Tamil Nadu lost 112 lives to Covid-19 in the last 24 hours ending Wednesday evening. The number of new persons diag-

nosed with Covid-19 stood at 5,175 which was on the higher side of the numbers that tested positive on Tuesday. But the total number of active cases in the State as on Wednesday was 54,184 which is less than Tuesday's 55,152.

The day also saw 59,156 people getting tested on a single day in 125 laboratories in the State. Indications from Chennai is that the situation has stabilised in the Capital city as the number of new patients tested positive for Covid-19 were shown as

Despite its high number of cases, Tamil Nadu has a relatively lower fatality ratio of 1.6 per cent.

Bihar and Maharashtra to professional reputation", the Bench observed, adding, "kindensure that everything is one in accordance with law." During the hearing, senior

per cent.

ing for Rajput's father, said he persons so far in the case, will has no difficulty if the apex have to apprise the top court court examines the case but no about the progress made by it protective order should be passed in favour of Chakraborty.

The court took note of the ongoing probe.

advocate Vikas Singh, appear-

Singh alleged that Maharashtra Police is "destroying the evidence" in the case and for the time being, they should be directed to cooperate with Bihar Police in the

Senior advocate R Basant, appearing for Maharashtra, told the Bench that Patna Police has no iurisdiction to either lodge an FIR or investigate the matter and this has been made

sional job" and it is inappropriate that Mumbai Police is being accused like this. Senior advocate Shyam Divan, appearing for Chakraborty, told the Bench

that no coercive action be taken against her till the pendency of the matter. "We want all parties to hold their hands. Lawyers are here and I am sure they have all heard you," the Bench observed.

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar had on Tuesday recommended the CBI probe to the Centre in the sensational case at the request of Rajput's father. Maharashtra has been opposed to transferring the

Rs.10/- each bearing Distinctive Nos. 25326896 - 25327039 of Eicher Motors Ltd, having its registered office at 3rd Floor, Select Citywalk, A-3 District City Centre, Saket New Delhi - 110017 registered in the name of Prem Singh Narwal have been lost. Prem Singh Narwal (Name of the holder) have applied to the company for issue duplicate share certificate. Any person who has any claim in respect of the said shares certificate should lodge such claim with the company within 15 days of the Place: New Delhi

the website regularly for updated information from time to time. Superintending Engineer

U.P.POWER TRANSMISSION

CORPORATION LIMITED

E-Tender Notice

E-Tender No. SD-889-online e-Bids are invited for

"Construction of 220 KV substation Moth (Jhansi)"

www.etender.up.nic.in Estimated Cost of work: Rs. 15.93 Crore

only. Completion Period: 15 months E.M.D. cost Rs.32 Lacs

only. Last date of tender submission 31/08/2020 at 15:30 Hrs.

Total Quantum of work, tender specification and other terms 8

conditions are as per tender document available on the e-tender

portal. Undersigned reserves the right to cancel the e-Bids with-

loaded only on the above website. Bidders are advised to visit

Corrigendum, Addendum, Extension if any shall be up-

E-tender has been uploaded on 31/07/2020 on

Electricity Sub-Station, Design Cricle-U.P.Power Transmission Corporation Limited 13th, Floor, Shakti Bhawan Extension 14-Ashok Marg, Lucknow-226022 (U.P.) No. 187, Date 04.08.2020, "SAVE ENERGY IN NATIONAL INTEREST"

BI to...

From Page 1 The Patna police had reg-

istered the case on a complaint of Rajput's father Krishna Kumar Singh. "A very unfortunate inci-

dent has taken place. A gifted and talented artist has passed away in circumstances which are unusual. Now, the circumstances in which this death took place needs to be inquired into," a Bench of Justice Hrishikesh Roy said during the hearing held through video conferencing. "Having considered...Submissions, three day time is granted to all parties to place on record their respective stand in the matter. The State of Maharashtra should apprise

the court on the stage of investigation by the Mumbai Police by the next date. The matter be listed in the next week," the court said in its order. Solicitor General Tushar

Mehta, representing the Centre, told the apex court that Bihar Government's recommendation for CBI investigation in the case has been accepted. The SC is hearing a plea by Chakraborty who is seeking

transfer of the Bihar police FIR, accusing her of abetting suicide of Rajput, from Patna to Mumbai. Rajput, aged 34, was found hanging from the ceiling of his apartment in suburban Bandra in Mumbai on June 14. The Mumbai Police has been probing the case under CrPC Section relating to accidental The top court also direct-

ed Rajput's father Singh as also

respond within three days to the plea Chakraborty seeking transfer of an FIR from Patna to Mumbai. Mumbai Police, which has recorded the statements of 56

in the investigation. The police have recorded the statements of 56 persons including Bollywood directors like Aditya Chopra, Mahesh Bhatt and Sanjay Leela Bhansali.

Mumbai authorities putting an IPS officer from Bihar in quarantine and said, "The incident of quarantining a police officer (of Bihar) has not sent a good message.

Mumbai Police has "good

a "political case".

The Maharashtra Government told the bench, "We are doing quite a profes-

probe to CBI.

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era of Ramrajya. Lord Shri

Ram is worshipped not by any

one religion, community or

country but the whole world.

Today's auspicious day has

become a festival for the whole

world. Today will be written in

golden letters in the history of

the country," he added.

the pioneer

TACKLING

Will carry out study to boost revenue: Sisodia

With an aim to boost revenue that was restricted due to Covid-19 pandemic, Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Wednesday directed the Dialogue and Development Commission (DDC) to carry out a detailed study on measures to improve Delhi Government's revenue

Sisodia said that DDC should suggest short and longterm measures to improve the revenue base of Delhi. The deputy CM also directed the DDC to present its findings within two months.

Delhi has among the higher per capita incomes in the country, but holds 19th position in terms of own tax revenue to 'gross state domestic product (GSDP) ratio, said Sisodia, adding that DDC should consult with leading experts of the field and relevant organisations in public finance to carry out this study so as to present a holistic analysis of the current situation and improvement measures that hold the

maximum potential.

Citing data from Delhi's economic survey 2019-20, he said that as per the economic survey, though Delhi is one of the highest per capita income states in the country its posistates in the country, its position is 19th in terms of own tax revenue as percentage of GSDP (4.73per cent during 2018-19.

"The tax revenue as percentage of GSDP in 2019-20 are Uttar Pradesh 9.1), Kerala (7.7), Rajasthan (7.2), Maharashtra (7.1) and Andhra Pradesh (7.0)," he said.

Looking at Delhi's trend itself, its tax revenue to GSDP was 6.18 per cent in 2019-10, which reduced to 5.38 per cent in 2014-15 and further reduced

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Adeath following a quarrel in outer Delhi's Narela and

thereafter ended his life by con-

suming poison. The incident took place late on Tuesday

Police said that a quarrel broke out between the couple

and their neighbour over some

issue, following which the 50year-old accused, Mohammad

Mushtaq, stabbed the couple

his house, changed his blood

stained clothes and then

allegedly consumed poison.

He died during treatment,"

The couple had two chil-

man stabbed a couple to



to 4.73 per cent in 2018-19, he said, adding that in comparison, the average tax revenue for all states as a percentage of their GSDP was 5.94per cent in 2009-10, which increased to 6.25per cent in 2014-15 and further increased to 6.69per cent in 2018-19

There is scope for improving tax to GSDP by improving the revenue base. DDC may carry out a detailed study on all contributing factors by analysing all relevant tax-related data of GNCTD and suggest short and long-term measures that need to be taken to improve the revenue base in GNCTD," he said.

Commenting on this development, DDC vice-chairman Jasmine Shah said, "Delhi government's early call for opening the economy and a robust healthcare strategy has set the right conditions for an

economic revival,"
"The DDC will perform a rigorous study on the improvement of the revenue base of Delhi. We will involve the field experts to perform this study. Today, the Delhi model of fighting against COVID-19 has become a model for across India and we are confident that with time and a proper strate-

their hometown in Bihar

According to Gaurav Sharma, the Deputy

Commissioner of Police

(DCP), Outer north district,

police received a police control room (PCR) call regarding the

"On reaching the spot, the woman and her husband were

found dead and the accused -

- Mohammad Mushtaq -- had

consumed poison after killing

the couple. He later died dur-

said the DCP adding that the

knife has been recovered and

the accused (who had con-

"When police team was inspecting the crime scene,

legal action is being taken.

murder around 2.40 am.

gy, we will be able to overcome the revenue deficit too," he

In a bid to improve Delhi's revenue deficit situation, the trade and taxes department of Delhi government under the directions of the Finance Minister, has started analysing the return filing status of taxpayers registered under (Goods and Services Tax) GST.

Sisodia held a meeting on Tuesday with the officials of the department where it was presented that around 15000 taxpayers were analysed and nearly 970 taxpayers have not filed returns for 2020-21 from January to March.

The Delhi government has also found that this year nearly 10800 companies paid lesser or zero tax from January to March. Taking cognizance of these findings the Delhi government has prepared a list of defaulters.

Sisodia has appealed to all the companies to immediately deposit the taxes. He also said that the Delhi government will take stringent actions against the defaulters. Delhi has till now evaluated 15,000 companies but in the future evaluation of seven lakh companies regis-

broke out between

the couple and their

neighbour over

some issue,

following which the

50-year-old accused,

Md Mushtag,

stabbed the couple

with a knife

neighbours alerted us about

him and he was nabbed," said

police official privy to investi-

accused confessed to killing the

"After he was caught, the

Minor raped, admitted to AIIMS in critical condition

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 12-year-old girl was sexually assaulted by an unknown person in West Delhi's Paschim Vihar area. The

incident took place on Tuesday.
Police said that the girl has several injury marks on her body and is currently admitted at All India Institute of Medical

She was hit couple of times on her head and face with a sharp object

Sciences (AIIMS) where her condition is stated to be serious. According to a senior police official, police received

information regarding the incident on Tuesday evening. "The victim was taken to a nearby hospital where she was treated and later referred to another hospital in the city. Police have registered a case

under relevant sections," said

the senior police official. According to A Koan, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Outer district, police received information on Tuesday regarding assault with a minor girl in Paschim Vihar West police station. An FIR under section 307 (attempt to murder) and POCSO Act has been registered and further

investigation is under progress. "During preliminary investigation, it was found that the parents of the girl are labourers and work in a factory. The incident happened with her when she was alone in her house," said police

According to police, she was hit couple of times on her head and face with a sharp object. "Police teams are scanning CCTV footage of the nearby area to identify the accused person," police added.

daughter and this annoyed

him. But soon, the accused fell

unconscious and was rushed to

a nearby hospital where he died

"Investigations also revealed that the accused had fights in the past with the couple and other neighbours. The

accused had a young daughter and was apparently not happy

with the victim's dressing sense.

The accused had earlier object-

ed to his wearing shorts and sit-

ting in front of their house.

village in Bihar. The man

worked as a mechanic and his

25-year-old wife was a home

maker. They have two children

-- a boy aged around six and a

girl aged three, police said.

The couple hailed from a

during treatment, he said.



BJP leaders celebrate bhoomi pujan

Valmiki had

obtained such power from

Brahma Ji through his devotion

that he could see the past, pre-

sent and future of Shri Ram Ji.

He wrote the epic of Ramayana

and made all of us aware of the

life of Lord Rama," Gupta said,

Wait for more than 500 years

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) leaders celebrated Ram Temple pujan virtually supporting Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi who performed it in Ayodhya, Uttar

This was the day when all BJP leaders including parliamentarians watched the live telecast of Ram Mandir Bhoomi Pujan with locals on the LED screen installed by the Delhi BJP unit at Valmiki Mandir , Mandir Marg.

Welcoming Lord Rama,

Delhiites lighten up ghee diyas and celebrated the day as -Dipawali festival.

Chanting few paras of Ramcharitamanas', Delhi BJP President Adesh Gupta,

Vijay Goel and former Delhi BJP President and Member of Parliament from north east Manoj Tiwari, MP Nishikant Dubey at 24, Mother Teresa, Crescent Road, BJP National Vice President Dushyant Gautam and MP Gautam Gambhir, MP, East Delhi at Vivek Vihar's Ram Mandir, Leader of Opposition Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, MP, South Delhi at Hari Nagar Ward and MP, New Delhi Meenakshi Lekhi at Prachin

Kali Temple, Kotla Mubarakpur, MP Shri Ramesh Bidhuri at Tughlakabad Village, MP, West Delhi Pravesh Sahib Singh at 20, Windsor Palace, MP Outer Delhi, Hansraj Hans at Shahbad Dairy, State Organization General Complex, Lodhi Road, MLA and former Delhi BJP President Vijender Gupta at Sampoorna Centre, Rohini watched Shri Ram Mandir Bhoomi Pujan live along with local people on LED Screens. State, district and madal office bearers were present on this

Gupta started the Deepotsav by lighting 101 diyas in the temple of Lord Valmiki ji on the auspicious occasion of construction of the grand temple of Maryada Purushottam Lord Shri Rama and worshiped Lord Valmiki ji. After the Bhoomi Pujan and laying foundation stone of Shri Ram Temple by OMModi.

Gupta distributed laddus in the form of prasad in Valmiki

25-year-old man was killed Awhile his friend was injured by unidentified persons during a robbery in west Delhi's Tilak Nagar area. The incident

According to a police, on Tuesday at 11.29 pm, an information regarding robbery was received at Tilak Nagar police station. After reaching the spot, one scooter was found and the injured were already shifted to

"The injured, Dheeraj, was stabbed in left thigh, while Ranjan, 25, suffered injury in right thigh and was declared brought dead. On further enquiry, it was found that three

at Tilak Nagar police station and investigation is under-

ENSURING PARCEL DELIVERY WITH SPEED AND RELIABILITY

has ended today. We are fortu-

nate that we were born in the

generation in which Lord Shri

Ram Ji will once again live in

the construction of the temple

of Lord Maryada Purushottam

Shri Ram. This era will be the

"A new era has started with

the grand temple.

Avail The Service of Parcel Cargo Express Trains of Northern Railway



To fulfill the commitment towards nation and the people, Northern Railway has been running time-tabled parcel trains to transport essential commodities like medicines and perishable as well as commercial items to various destinations across India during the current situation, Northern Railway also facilitates the service for a specific destination, if a party books the full parcel train. The details of scheduled parcel trains are as under:

Parcel Spl. No.	Station From	Dep. Time	Station to	Arr. Time	Days of Run	Dates of run
00401	Guwahati	01:30	New Delhi	13:15	Fri, Sun	Upto 31.12.2020
00402	New Delhi	14:30	Guwahati	02:30	Tue, Thu	Upto 31.12.2020
00463	Howrah	17:30	Amritsar	08:45	Mon, Sat	Upto 31.12.2020
00464	Amritsar	18:00	Howrah	08:30	Wed, Fri	Upto 31.12.2020
00465	Guwahati	01:30	Amritsar	19:45	Wednesday	Upto 31.12.2020
00466	Amritsar	07:50	Guwahati	02:30	Friday	Upto 31.12.2020
00467	Howrah	17:30	Amritsar	06:30	Thursday	Upto 31.12.2020
00468	Amritsar	20:40	Howrah	08:30	Monday	Upto 31.12.2020
00621	KSR Bengaluru	17:00	Hazrat Nizamuddin	14:00	Wed, Fri	Upto 25.12.2020
00622	Hazrat Nizamuddin	21:00	KSR Bengaluru	18:30	Fri, Sun	Upto 27.12.2020
00761	Renigunta	05:45	Hazrat Nizamuddin	15:50	Daily	Upto 31.12.2020
00762	Hazrat Nizamuddin	10:15	Renigunta	20:45	Daily	Upto 31.12.2020
00763	Hyderabad Deccan	19:00	Amritsar	09:10	Friday	Upto 25.12.2020
00764	Amritsar	05:00	Hyderabad Deccan	18:50	Monday	Upto 28.12.2020
00901	Bandra Terminus	20:00	Jammu Tawi	08:00	Tue, Thu, Fri, Sun	07.08.20 to 14.08.20
00902	Jammu Tawi	18:30	Bandra Terminus	06:30	Mon, Wed,	Upto 09.08.2020







please visit the website www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or App of

National Train Enquiry System (NTES)



SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

dren who are now being taken care of by another neighbour sumed poison before the team reached) went up to the terrace victim used to follow his Rat snake found in drawer at FCI office

STAFF REPORTER ■

Arat snake was found in a desk drawer at the Food Corporation of India office in Mayapuri on Wednesday.

A rescue team member said some files, an employee at the Food Corporation of India office ended up finding much more than he bargained for. A large Rat snake was comfortably nestled in the bottom most drawer and one can only imagine its displeasure on being disturbed.

Having dealt with reptiles in the office before, the staff immediately reported the incident to Wildlife SOS on their emergency helpline and requested for aid.

Sharing details on rescue mission, a Wildlife SoS team member said, "The rescue was challenging as the snake was caught between the bottom and top drawers.

"The team exercised

immense caution so as to avoid hurting the distressed snake. After disassembling the desk, the reptile was safely transferred into a transportation unit from where it was taken to a safe place."

Rat snake (Ptyas mucosa) also known as the Oriental rat snake is a highly adaptable species and is commonly found in urban areas. It is a non-venomous species and is popularly known as 'Dhaman'.

Congratulations pour in for Delhi Police kin who cracked UPSC

Man stabs couple to death, kills self

till their relatives arrive from Police said a quarrel



STAFF REPORTER **NEW DELHI**

 $D_{\text{SN Shrivastava on}}^{\text{elhi Police Commissioner}}$ Wednesday met all the successful rank holders of Union Public Service Commission examination, who come from Delhi Police family.

The CP congratulated Vishakha Yadav (AIR 6), Navneet Mann (AIR 33), Natisha Mathur (AIR 37), Garima (AIR 459), Gaurav Kumar (AIR 475) and Constable Firoz Alam (AIR 645) on their success and presented them with mementos.

During interaction, CP, Delhi underlined that their success is not only a matter of pride for Delhi Police, but would also inspire Delhi Police wards to follow in their footsteps. The CP, Delhi wished them success in all their future

ter of Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Raj Kumar posted in Dwarka district, while Navneet Mann's father Inspector, Sukhdev Singh Mann is posted in Vigilance

Both Natisha Mathur and Garima are probationer Assistant Commissioners of Police (ACsP) undergoing training at Police Training College (PTC), Jharoda Kalan. Garima is daughter of ASI Shri Krishan posted in PCR unit. Gaurav Kumar is son of late Inspector VK Singh who was posted as Additional SHO, Sadar Bazar when he left for heavenly abode in 2014.

Constable Firoz Alam joined Delhi Police in 2010 and is presently posted in CPCR unit, Haiderpur. "He has done exceedingly well by working hard in a tough job and excelling in studies at the same time," said police.

2 injured in firing by group of people in outer Narela

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 22-year-old man and one of his friends were shot at allegedly by a group of people in outer Delhi's Narela on Tuesday night. Police said that initial investigation revealed that the accused were known to the victims.

According to a senior police official, the victim Sagar and his three friends --Sandeep, Sagar and Adil -were returning home in a car late on Tuesday night, when six men arrived at Saboli Road on two motorcycles and a fourwheeler and fired upon them.

"Sagar and Sandeep, who were seated in front of the car, were injured while their other friends who were sitting at the backseat escaped unhurt and immediately informed police about the firing," said the senior police official.

"Sagar and Sandeep were rushed to a nearby hospital. Sagar was discharged after treatment but Sandeep has been referred to another hospital. His condition is stated to be stable. All the culprits involved in the incident have been identified and will be nabbed soon," said Gaurav Sharma, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Outer north district.

"It is suspected that monetary dispute might be the reason for the attack," said the

Man killed in robbery bid STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

occurred on Tuesday night.

DDU Hospital.

men came on a bike and robbed laptop, mobile and some money. During robbery, they injured the victims in a scuffle," said the police official. "A case has been registered at Tildk Nagar police station.

way," said police.

the pioneer

10 km march for senior **BSF** officers' fitness test

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

In a first of its kind move, the Border Security Force (BSF) has planned a route march of 10 km for officers of Deputy Inspector General (DIG) rank and above at its training academy at Bhondsi in Haryana in an apparent bid to test their physical fitness and endurance.

In an "urgent" letter issued by the BSF Directorate here on Friday, the paramilitary force said, "I have been directed to convey that as intimated by DG Secretariat, FHQ (Force HeadQuarters), DG BSF has desired that 10 kms Route March will be conducted at 95 BN (Battalion) BSF, Bhondsi, (Haryana) on August 16, 2020. All DIsG (Deputy Inspectors General) and above rank officers posted in Delhi will attend

"In view of the above, all Dtes (Directorates/ancillaries to forward nominal roll of DIsG Directorates/ancillaries to this

Directorate by 04th Aug 2020 for our further course of action, please," Second-in-Command Vinod Yadav said in his letter titled "10 Kms Route March for Officers of the Rank of DIsG and Above."

The letter has been forwarded to all Directorates of the BSF Headquarters here including Medical Directorate/ DG's Secretariat/Law Branch/Engineering Branch/Air Wing/Finance Wing/IG (HQ)

PNS NEW DELHI

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) on

Wednesday took over the secu-

rity of Leh Airport that was

earlier secured by the Indo-

Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).

tioned strength of more than

180 personnel to secure the

Leh airport. The unit will be

headed by a Deputy Commandant rank officer.

With this induction, total units

under CISF security cover

raised to 349 including 64 air-

airport attended by CISF DG

Rajesh Ranjan, Sonam Norbu,

Director, Leh Airport, handed

over a key replica to Deputy

Gaikwad as a symbol of hand-

Sanket

During a ceremony at the

ports as on date.

Commandant,

the CISF.

In his address, Ranjan elab-

orated on the dynamics of

security at this Hypersensitive

Airport. DG, CISF emphasised

that a coordinated effort is to be

made by all government agen-

cies and stakeholders to ensure

security of Leh airport.

The CISF will have a sanc-



FHQ/DIG (HQ) and a few training institutions located in and around Delhi.

While the BSF spokesperson expressed inability in providing the exact number of officials in the rank of DIG and above in the national capital, sources said there were at least 60 officials in the senior ranks who could attend the march.

While a large number of officials in the BSF ranks, including IPS officers are physically fit, those not up to the mark could find the route march challenging, insiders said.

The BSF secures capacious lengths of over 6,000 km International Boundaries with Pakistan and Bangladesh running down from Himalayan Ranges to Thar Desert and to the Great Rann of Kutch on Western borders as also the frontier in the east.

CISF takes over security of Leh Airport

are the real strength and the prime resources of force to be cared for, catered and groomed. Their holistic well-being will be my primary tasks in the times to come," DG SS Deswal had said in his message after taking additional charge of the force earlier this year.

"Capacity building of men and women of force with corresponding resource management for the optimal use will be core areas of my priorities," Deswal, who also heads the ITBP, had exhorted.

Deswal is himself a fitness freak and undoubtedly one of the most physically fit paramilitary bosses who had undertaken a 100-km speed march in February with senior ITBP officers from Bikaner district's Mehrasar to Jodhpur in

The routes covered by Deswal on the Himalayan range include Lipulekh Pass, Sangla Valley (103 KM), Auli Tapovan and Gangotri Tapovan, among others.

The trek record of Deswal includes 30 km around Bhrigu Lake in Himachal Pradesh and touched the highest point at 14,100 ft, Amarnath Yatra route (42 km, highest point: 14,500 ft), Lipulekh Pass (30 km, highest point: 17,060 km), Sangla Valley, Kinnaur in Himachal Pradesh (103 km, highest point: 15,000 ft) and Mussoorie (Distance covered: 42 km, highest point: 6,800 ft).

Rimpochee Leh Airport is

located in Western Himalayas,

Ladakh Region and serves as

the main Airport of the whole

Leh airport is the only gateway

connectivity by road due to

of Ladakh as there is limited

During winter months,

Ladakh Region.

India mulls more intense engagement to break LAC logiam

Tndia is mulling a more Lintense engagement to break the logjam on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh with China while insisting for complete withdrawal of troops. The next round of talks, be it military or diplomatic, will take place after studying the ground situation with New Delhi also seeking restoration of status quo ante on the border.

focus during the nearly threehour-long China Study Group (CSG) meeting here on Tuesday to review the outcome of the fifth round of talks between the Corps Commanders in Moldo near Ladakh on Sunday last. The talks between Lt General Harinder Singh and Major

General Liu Lin lasted more

These issues were in main



than 10 hours.

While there was no official word on the meeting so far, sources said here on Wednesday, there was little progress made due to China's reluctance to withdraw its troops from the contentious Pangong Tso(lake). It was a cause of concern as the Chinese have intruded more than five km into India. Besides occupying mountain spurs or Finger, they have also built a jetty and brought scores of

fast interceptor boats to the Indian side of the lake.

In fact, the series of stand offs on the LAC started from the Pangong when the Chinese intruded and obstructed an Indian army patrol. It led to exchange of fisticuffs between the two sides on May 5.

Attended by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval and Army chief MM Naravane, the CSG took stock of the present scenario on the border after the fifth round of talks.

It was felt that sustained engagement with China at the diplomatic and political level was the way out to defuse tension at the volatile border. The CSG was of the opinion that such intense and regular parleys at all levels will finally ensure visible disengagement by both the sides, sources said.

While China more or less completely pulled back its troops from the Galwan valley, Gogra sand Hot Springs, it was not doing so at the Pangong Tso. The two Corps Commanders discussed this issue in great detail on Sunday with India also maintaining that the Chinese have to restore status quo ante. It means the Chinese troops will have to go back to their positions as they

In this backdrop, the Indian Army is not taking any chances and is prepared for a long haul if the Chinese do not withdraw. With winter approaching by September end in the higher reaches of Ladakh, the Government has given the go ahead for purchasing more high-altitude tents, pre-fabricated huts and other such logistical back up to allow the soldiers to be deployed even in temperature dipping to minus 20 degrees, they said.

Also, more than 30,000 Indian troops are now acclimatised to function at heights of more than 15,000 feet where the oxygen is less. In fact, most of these troops are veterans of deployment at the Siachen glacier and other such highaltitude areas. They are already at vantage positions in Ladakh and can be moved forward at

TRIBUTE TO CORONA WARRIORS **Armed forces bands to** perform all over country on Independence Day

PNS NEW DELHI

 $F^{\rm or}$ the first time since the country gained freedom, the armed forces bands will perform all over the country celebrating the Independence Day to pay tribute to corona warriors.

Giving this information

mercial flight started in 1978.

This is the highest altitude air-

port of India that operates in

extreme weather conditions

(+35 Degrees Celsius to -35

Degrees Celsius). This is the

most tourist intensive airport

CISF along-with other senior

officers of CISF and Airport

Director, Leh airport had a

security-walk around of all

the areas of airport including

terminal building and airside.

Tuesday, Ranjan interacted with

CISF personnel who will be

shouldering the security of Leh

airport, and exhorted them to

strive hard to achieve the state

of zero-error security. He also

inaugurated barracks for CISF

personnel and reviewed the

administrative and operational

Earlier, on reaching Leh on

After the function, DG,

here on Wednesday, Defence Ministry officials said the performances are intended as gestures of gratitude and appreciation of the nation towards the Corona warriors who have been steadfastly fighting to stop the spread of the coronavirus in the country even at the risk of their lives.

The bands of Army, Navy and Police have performed at Porbandar, Hyderabad, Porbandar, Bengaluru, Raipur, Amritsar, Guwahati, Allahabad and Kolkata so far. The Military and Police Bands performed on Wednesday in Vishakha-patnam, Nagpur and Gwalior.

On August 7, the Military Bands are scheduled to perform in Srinagar and Kolkata. Tri services Band will be giving three performances in Delhi, one each at Red Fort, at Rajpath and at India Gate on August 8, 9 and 12 respectively.

Military and Police Bands will also perform in Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Shimla and Almora on August 8, in Chennai, Nasirabad, ANC Nicobar (Andaman& Command) Flag Point and Dandi on August 9 and in Imphal, Bhopal and Jhansi on August 12. The final performance of the series will be held on August 13 in Lucknow, Faizabad, Shillong, Madurai

Conduct disciplinary proceedings through video conferencing: Centre to depts

The Centre on Wednesday asked all its departments to conduct disciplinary proceedings through video conferencing against employees accused of corruption and other administrative irregularities. The move comes after the government noticed that disciplinary proceedings were being deferred or delayed due to the coronavirus outbreak.

In an order, the Department of Personnel Training (DoPT) Ministry cited its 2017 order, saying video conferencing should be utilised to the maximum extent possible to minimise travel undertaken by the Enquiry Officer/Presenting Officer /Charged Officer.

"It is hereby reiterated that the authorities concerned may conduct the disciplinary proceedings with the aid of video conferencing, subject to the condition that principles of natural justice are fully adhered to, while conducting the proceedings through such digital mode," the ministry said in the order issued to all the Central Government

departments. On the other hand the DoPT ordered that Consumer Affairs Secretary Leena Nandan will be part of a committee to examine the representation of officials sacked for alleged inefficiency or corruption from the Government

the Besides Nandan, Ashutosh Jindal, Joint Secretary in the Cabinet Secretariat, will be the other member of the committee, it said. One member nominated

by the cadre controlling authority (under whose administrative control the alleged corrupt officials come) will also be part of the panel, the order issued to all secretaries of central government departments said. The committee examines the representation of employees who are sacked under Fundamental Rule (FR) 56 (J), (I) and Rule 48 of the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules 1972. Both the provisions allow the government to examine the cases of government employees who can be sacked in public interest for being allegedly corrupt

or inefficient. Almost two years ago the government had launched an online system for transparent and quicker completion of departmental inquiries against Central Government employees.

A senior DoPT official on Wednesday issuing the fresh directions said the factors for delay include late replies by the officer charged or acquisition of documents required for proving details of the charges, adjournments during the enquiry, and lack of accountability for completion of

The online system is a cloud based technology and provides interface to different stakeholders like the administrative ministry that initiated the enquiry, the cadre controlling authority, charged officer and enquiry officer as well.

Under the system, all documents required for enquiry will be stored online and authenticated through digital signatures. The communication between the different stakeholders will be through the system with provision for email and SMS alerts. The software has provision for providing status of all pending cases on real time basis.

According to Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), around 5,000 Government officers working in various departments are facing disciplinary proceedings for their alleged involvement in corruption or for violation of service rules.

According to the Government, there had been serious concerns raised on the enormous time and delay encountered for completion of departmental proceedings instituted against Government servants. These proceedings were taking anywhere up to seven years for completion and ever since implementation of online redresssal these matters now get completed in three years but the Government wants to bring it

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mother Hiraba watches the live telecast of the foundation laying ceremony of Ayodhya's Ram





Union Minister Nitin Gadkari recited Ram Raksha and worshiped Lord Ram with his family at Nagpur during the foundation stone laying ceremony of RamTemple in Ayodhya on Wednesday

States, UTs lifted about 118L metric tonne of food grains for NFSA beneficiaries

PNS NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Consumer Affairs on Wednesday claimed that States have lifted about 118 Lakh Metric Tons (LMT) (99 per cent) food grains from Food Corporation of India (FCI) and they have distributed over 111.52 LMT (93.5 per cent) of allocated food grains during April-June 2020 Prime Minister Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana' (PMGKY).

Due to coronavirus pan-demic, the Modi government has rolled out a special scheme to provide free food grains to about 81 Crore National Food Security Act (NFSA) beneficovered under

Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Priority Householders (PHH) in March 2020.

The government pledged to provide 5 kg rice or wheat and 1 kg chana, over and above their regular monthly entitle-ments. Later, the government extended the deadline of PMGKAY for five more months till November to prevent hardships during the festive season. "During this period, a total of 201 LMT food grains will be distributed among 81 crore beneficiaries, as well as a total of 12 LMT whole chana will be distributed among 19.4 crore families, said the Ministry of Consumer

Embryos could be at Covid risk as early as 2nd week of pregnancy

PNS NEW DELHI

Human embryos could be at the risk of SARS-CoV-2 virus in as early as the second week of pregnancy if the wouldbe-mom is Covid-19 positive, according to a study published in the Royal Society's journal 'Open Biology'.

Conducted by the scientists from the University of Cambridge and the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), the study said that genes that are thought to play a role in how the Coronavirus infects our cells have been found to be active in embryos as early as during the second week of

pregnancy.
"This could mean embryos are susceptible to COVID-19 if the mother gets sick, potentially affecting the chances of a suc-



To examine the risks, they

used technology developed by Professor Magdalena Zernicka-Goetz at the University of Cambridge to culture human embryos through the stage they normally implant in the body of the mother to look at the activity - or 'expression' - of key genes in the embryo.

On the surface of the SARS-CoV-2 virus are large 'spike' proteins. Spike proteins bind to ACE2, a protein receptor found on the surface of cells in our

body. Both the spike protein and ACÉ2 are then cleaved, allowing genetic material from the virus to enter the host cell. The virus manipulates the host cell's machinery to allow the virus to replicate and spread.

The researchers found patterns of expression of the genes ACE2, which provide the genetic code for the SARS-CoV-2 receptor, and TMPRSS2, which provides the code for a molecule that cleaves both the viral spike protein and the ACE2 receptor, allowing infection to occur.

These genes were expressed during key stages of the embryo's development, and in parts of the embryo that go on to develop into tissues that interact with the maternal blood supply for nutri-

nt exchange. Gene expression requires that the DNA code is first copied

into an RNA message, which then directs the synthesis of the encoded protein. The study reports the finding of the RNA messengers.

Professor Magdalena Zernicka-Goetz from the University of Cambridge and Caltech, said: "Our work suggests that the human embryo could be susceptible to Covid-19 as early as the second week of pregnancy if the mother gets sick. "To know whether this real-

ly could happen, it now becomes very important to know whether the ACE2 and TMPRSS2 proteins are made and become correctly positioned at cell surfaces. If these next steps are also taking place, it is possible that the virus could be transmitted from the mother and infect the embryo's cells."

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

¬he Indian Council of The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is likely to conduct a longitudinal study on the health status of the Covid-recovered patients amid concerns that a good number of them have been facing health problems like falling sick again or fatigue.

A senior scientist from the ICMR, on the condition of anonymity, said that there have been various reports appearing from various quarters that even some Covid-19 recovered patients are facing some health

"This is a matter of concern. Now six months since the pandemic broke out, we have sufficient recovered cases which can be now studied. These study will shed light on

THIS IS A MATTER OF CONCERN. NOW SIX MONTHS SINCE THE PANDEMIC BROKE OUT, WE HAVE SUFFICIENT **RECOVERED CASES** WHICH CAN BE NOW **STUDIED**

this so-called false-dawn phenomenon caused by this mysterious pathogen that emerged only six months ago. Solving the puzzle will inform a broad range of challenges, help the covid-recovered patients how to further take precautions," said the scientist.

Ongoing problems include

Longitudinal study on health status of recovered patients likely fatigue, a racing heartbeat, shortness of breath, achy joints, foggy thinking, a persistent loss of sense of smell, and damage to the heart, lungs, kidneys, and brain, said the scientist adding that there could be the reason that the virus leaves some residual in the body which causes changes in the vital organs. But until a study is conducted, the reasons will remain a mystery.

In fact the issue is being

deliberated at the global level also. For instance, Edwin J.R. van Beek, chair of clinical radiology at the University of Edinburgh's Queens Medical Research Institute said in a report, "So far, there hasn't been enough research to conclude why symptoms seem to reemerge in some people, and whether they experience rein-

for weeks. One possibility is that Covid-19 causes blood clots that may cause potentially dangerous complications unless treated with anticoagulant medications." There's "a lot of unknowns

and uncertainty in the development of individual immunity, " said the scientist, adding that development of antibodies inside the body is not necessarily development of immunity against this disease.

In fact, a study published in Nature Medicine in June had pointed out that people who nave recovered from Covid-19 may have antibodies only for two to three months.

However, the conclusions might not necessarily mean that a recovered person can get reinfected, stated the authors.



RAM TEMPLE ISSUE

PM's wisdom paved way for peaceful resolution: Yogi

the pioneer

 $P_{\text{Modi's foresight and wis-}}^{\text{rime Minister Narendra}}$ dom paved the way for a peaceful resolution of the Ram temple issue and fulfilled the dream of Indians after 500 years of "long and hard" struggle, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi said Adityanath Wednesday.

After five centuries, this long-awaited day has come, fulfilling the dreams of 135 crore Indians and devotees across the globe, he said at the groundbreaking ceremony for the

There was a long and hard

struggle for 500 years. But the power of Indian democratic values, judiciary and executive, under the leadership of PM Modi, has shown the world how solutions to problems can be found peacefully through democratic and constitutional means," Adityanath said.

Many generations passed dreaming of a grand temple at the Ram Janmabhoomi site in Ayodhya and many people sacrificed themselves in the struggle, he said.

Thanks to Prime Minister Modi that the path to the peaceful solution to the issue could be found through constitutional means, while protecting democratic principles and ideals, Adityanath said.

"People are experiencing this proud moment because of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's wisdom and foresight," the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister said.

Describing it as a very emotional and exciting day, Adityanath said this is not just the ground breaking ceremony of a temple, but an occasion to present before the world the ndia Prime Minister Modi has taken forward in six years to signify the idea of Ram Rajya where there is no discrimination on the basis of caste, region or language.

Ayodhya bhoomi pujan proves | DMK MLA crosses over to BJP lucky for earthen lamps' sellers

People celebrates Diwali on Aug 5

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

Aligarh is a major centre where earthen lamps are made in a huge amount every year. But potters have to wait for the end of the year festive that is diwali to get their lamps sold and to do business. However amidst this covid crisis, Ayodhya Bhumi Pujan has proven to be no less than a festival for these small businessmen to do the busi-

Where the political representatives including Yogi Adityanath, the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh and the religious individuals were asking the nation to light up diyas on 5th August so as to celebrate the Bhoomi pujan for Ram Mandir at Ayodhya, the residents made queue to buy these earthen lamps on this

Since monday morning more than 2 lakhs of diva have been sold within the city and people were asking to supply diyas till wednesday

A potter named Prempal told Pioneer that he managed to sell over 6500 divas since monday morning and had orders for supply of 10,000 more by wednesday evening.

Another potter Raj Kumari told that she has sold over 5,500 diyas till tuesday evening and have advance order for 5000 more including some with special designs. She further said that August is hardly a peak season for them to sell earthen lamps but Ram Mandir Bhoomi Pujan has come as a blessing for us im this covid crisis.

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Political Tamil Nadu watched in awe on Wednesday a sitting DMK MLA crossing over to BJP even as Prime Minister Narendra Modi was performing the Bhoomi Puja at Ayodhya for the construction of Lord Ram Temple there.

Ku Ka Selvam, representing the Thousand Lights constituency drove down to Kamalalayam, headquarters of Tamil Nadu BJP on Wednesday morning and took part in the special puja for Lord Ram performed there in connection with the Bhumi Puja at Ayodhya.

Though the local media had reported that Selvam was likely to cross over to the BJP, he had categorically denied such reports. On Wednesday morning, DMK president M K Stalin suspended Selvam from the party for his Tuesday meeting with the BJP's National President JP

On receipt of the suspension order, Selvam accompanied by his close aides drove down to Kamalayalam where he was

accorded a reception. BJP Tamil Nadu President Dr Murugan welcomed Selvam to the Hindutwa fold by draping him in a saf-

'Many people are likely to ditch the DMK and cross over to the BJP in days to come. The DMK is run by the family members of Stalin. It is Udhayanidhi's writ (Stalin's son) that runs in the party. There are many persons waiting in the wings to leave the DMK," said Selvamm.

Selvam is the first lawmaker in the DMK to leave the party and join the saffron

He is certain to loss his membership of the Legislative Assembly in the backdrop of the anti-defection law.

"I was disappointed because the party leadership did not listen to my request for a suitable post. Till 2017, it was Karunanidhi who was issuing orders. Then Stalin, his son, started issuing orders. Now it is Karunanidhi's grandson who is the all-inall of the party," said Selvam who has put in more than two decades service for the

K'taka sees 5,619 new cases

WESTERN RAILWAY

NOTICE FOR INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Surat is the second largest city in the state of Gujarat and

constitutes the ninth largest metropolitan area in India. The city

has won multiple national and international recognitions such as

the fourth fastest developing city in the world and first 'smart IT

city in India. Surat city is listed as one amongst the top ten contributors to the GDP of the country, owing to its robust

diamond and textile industry. Popularly known as the textile hub

Adani Hazira Port Pvt. Ltd., ArcelorMittal / Nippon Steel and

(including containers), mechanization of handling systems

The purpose of this EOI document is to provide interested parties

with the relevant information regarding the project and

understand the scope of the Project and invite feedback from

interested and eligible "Agencies". The Agencies are advised to

study this EOI Document carefully before submitting their

feedback & suggestions. The feedback & suggestions received

as part of the response from the participants to this EOI

Document may be used towards formalizing the RFP for the

Project which is proposed to be released in the near future This EOI document is not transferable. Last date for EOI

response: Latest by 20/08/2020 up to 15.00 hrs. Offer

response to the EOI, should be submitted to : a. Email

bctsrdcm@gmail.com b. Hard copy of the responses through

Speed Post so as to reach on or before 20.08.2020 up to 15:00

hrs. at the following address: Sr.DCM, Ground Floor, Divisional

Railway Manager Office, Western Railway, Mumbai Central,

Mumbai-400008. Website to download EOI

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APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an

unidentified person about 30-35 years of age

whose name, residence and family is

unknown had been found dead at Lahori Gate

Chowk, Delhi. In this regard a vide has been

registered with DD No: 54-A dated

of the country, the city is located few miles from major industries

Bengaluru: Breaking a short cycle of more recoveries than fresh coronavirus infections, Karnataka slipped back to the old pattern of recording more cases than recoveries as 5,619 new ones were detected, taking the state's total tally to 1,51,449, an official said on Wednesday.

The new cases were reported between 5 pm on Tuesday to 5 pm on Wednesday. Of the total, 73,958 cases are active.

As usual, Bengaluru Urban accounted for the highest 1,848 new cases, raising the city's total tally to 64,881, of which 32,757 are still active

Reliance Industries Ltd. to name a few.

and truck parking terminal on a PPP model"

Ballari recorded 631 new cases, followed by Belagavi (293), Mysuru (261), Davangere (224), Dharwad (199), Kalaburagi (197), Udupi (173) and Koppal (154).

Meanwhile, 100 more patients succumbed to the virus, increasing the state's death toll to 2,804. However, in a positive development, 5,407 more patients were cured and discharged, taking the total to 74,679 recoveries. Bengaluru's Municipal Commissioner N. Manjunatha Prasad said the number of discharge cases were increasing.

Legacy of India's unity is in its diversity, must be upheld: Didi

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

 $B^{\text{engal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee}}_{\text{remembered Wednesday's ground-breaking}}$ ceremony at Ayodhya's Ram Temple as a day that would reinforce the Indian legacy which underscored the idea of Unity and Diversity and vowed to uphold the ideology of unity till her last breath. The State BJP on the other hand demanded August 5 to be declared as a national holiday.

This, even as the poll-bound State presented a mixed picture of both celebrations and conflict with Trinamool Congress and BJP leaders offering Puja to Lord Rama — in some places and there works exchanging fisticuffs in other areas. Tweeting an oft bandied slogan of communal harmony insisting "Hindu Muslim Sikh Isaai Aapas mein hain Bhai Bhai!" and "Mera Bharat Mahaan, Mahaan Hamara Hindustan," (In is a great country where, Hindu, Muslim Sikhs and Christians like brothers," Banerjee wrote that she would continue to preserve this heritage till her last breath. "Our country has always upheld the age-old legacy of unity in diversity, and we must preserve this to our last breath!" she wrote inspiring the people of the country to jettison hatred for mutual

While the saffron leaders also celebrated the day by offering Pujas keeping indoors considering the lockdown protocols as the Government

had declared Wednesday as a lockdown day to break the corona chain, State BJP president Dilip Ghosh made a demand for the day to be declared as a national holiday.

'This day which signifies the culmination of a 500-year-struggle is no less important than the Independence Day and so we will request the central government to declare August 5 as national holiday," Ghosh said adding "Providence will consign to the realms of insignificance those who are opposing the ground-breaking ceremony by invoking state machinery.

He was criticizing the State Government for declaring lockdown on Wednesday. "This was nothing less than a political lockdown. While vou (the Government) changed the dates for other religious groups they refused to do so for this Hindu festival. The people saw this and they will remember this. Those in power (read TMC) will have to pay for this."

Incidentally Banerjee's tweet and Ghosh's trumpeting came in tandem with both TMC and BJP men competing with each other at various places in celebrating the day by offering Puja to Lord Rama. TMC leaders were seen offering pujas at Khidderpore in Kolkata, Adra in Purulia, Siuri in Birbhum district and Nandigram in East Midnapore — where the party men took out a long procession with an idol of Lord Rama, sources

Ram Mandir construction realisation of late Thackeray's dream: Shiv Sena

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

Shiv Sena on ■ Wednesday claimed credit for the start of the construction of Ram Mandir at Ayodya, by saying that the development meant the realisation of dream nursed by late Sena chief Bal Thackeray, "who had openly said that he was proud all those Shiv Sainiks who had pulled down the Babri Masiid" and whose crusade for the Lord Ram's temple had come to fruition.

Shiv Sena leader and Maharashtra minister Aaditya Thackeray put out a tweet claiming credit for the Ram Mandir. His tweet accompanied an image put out by the Shiv Sena that showed photographs of Lord Rama, late Bal Thackeray and current Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray—with the proposed Ram Mandir in the backdrop, and carried a caption 'Shubharambh Ramarajyacha, S h u b h a r a m b h Swapnapurticha" (State of Ramarajaya and realisation of a dream).

The Bhoomi Puja of the temple of Hindus' revered God Lord Ram has taken place. Today is the day of the com-



pletion of a dream nursed by late Balasaheb Thackeray. Today's is the most happy occasion for all of us. I would like to convey my heart-felt congratulations to all of you," Aaditya tweeted. Earlier in the day, in a

strongly worded editorial in its official mouth-piece "Saamana", the Shiv Sena made no bones displeasure over the lack of invitation for the Ram Mandir "BJP leader Kalyan Singh

sacrificed his government, he was not there on the dais. We expected him to be there in the invitees' list. Veteran BJP leader L K Advani and late Bal Thackeray lit the light of Hindutva in the country. They sent a message to the country that no one can rule the country by ignoring the claims of the majority Hindus. Being secular does not mean you can lean towards only one religion".

The Shiv Sena, in its editorial, recalled late Thackeray statement who had lauded the Shiv Sainiks who had participated in the demolition of Babri Masjid, by saying: "Babri padli, ti padnarya Shiv Sainikancha mala abhiman ahe" (I am proud of the Shiv Sainiks who razed Babri Masjid). "Ram Mandir is the result of a movement, sacrifices made and bloodshed by Hindus. The Prime Minister may have performed the bhoomi puja at Ayodya, but those forgetting the smell of Kar Sevaks sacrifice emanating from the soil of Ram Janmabhoomi would have to be termed as Ram drohiis. With this Bhoomi Puja of Ram Mandir, please end the politics over it. That would be the wishes of Lord Ram. But, that is the unanimous opinion of people in the country'

ing BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi for trying to hog limelight over the Bhoomi Puja of Ram Mandir, the Sena editorial said: "The bhoomi puja is a celebration for the country and for all Hindus, but has now become personality-centric and party-

Taking a swipe at the rul-

Mumbai Division, W.Rly., seeks to provide end to end logistic solution to cater to the growth of this industrial and textile hub. In BJP leaders unfurl tricolour this context, the Division seeks Expression of Interest (EOI) for "Development of Udhna Freight Handling Railway Terminal to celebrate 1st anniversary as a Common User facility for multi cargo, multi model operation including provision of additional freight / parcel handling line, covered warehouse, open stacking area of Article 370 abrogation

were also seen hoisting tricolor

on smoothly while it remained

paralysed in different parts of

Kashmir valley due to strict

Conference President Dr Farooq

Abdullah at his Gupkar road res-

idence could not take place due

parked outside the residences of

many leaders and they were pre-

ments on ground zero, former

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah

took to twitter to share his

wrote, "One year later the

authorities are still too afraid to

allow us to meet much less carry

out any normal political activi-

ty. This fear speaks volumes

about the true situation on the

ground in Kashmir. "This is

Gupkar road today - police

vehicles opposite our gates, con-

certina wire strung across the

road at regular intervals & no

vehicles allowed. My father had

called a meeting of leaders of

MAINSTREAM parties to

deliberate on the current situa-

tion",tweeted Omar Abdullah.

"Clearly the meeting is not being

allowed to go ahead. The BJP

gets to announce a 15 day cele-

bration to mark 5th Aug & a

handful of us aren't allowed to

meet on my father's lawn. So

much for BJP national leaders

wondering why there is no

"BJP displaying

hypocrisy. They can gather &

celebrate. The rest of us can't

even meet to discuss what's

happening in J&K" Omar tweet-

ed in response to the celebra-

tions in the BJP office in

Tarigami also shared his emo-

tions on the occasion. He also

posted a tweet to share his

anger, "Locks on gates, lock

downs as celebrations and lies as

defences has been the hallmark

of last year. Today, political

leaders were supposed to meet

at Dr Farooq Âbdullah's resi-

dence to discuss the political

challenges the region is facing.

But unfortunately, we were not

CPI (M) leader MY

political activity

Srinagar.

allowed"

In another tweet he said

vented from stepping out.

Police vehicles remained

Reacting to these develop-

In a series of tweets he

to strict restrictions.

angst.

Ironically, a meeting con-

restrictions on ground zero.

In Jammu, normal life went

atop their rooftops.

MOHIT KANDHARI JAMMU

While most parts of Kashmir valley remained shut and covered with barbed concertina wires along with the presence of security forces in vulnerable pockets, sweets were distributed number of places in Jammu region to mark the first anniversary of abrogation of Article 370 and reorganisation of the erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir into two Union Territories on Wednesday.

Even after lifting the curfew restrictions imposed in Srinagar district, at least on a piece of paper, the majority of mainstream political leaders were prevented from stepping out of their houses to attend a meeting at the residence of sitting parliamentarian and National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah.

At the same time, second rung BIP leaders were allowed to assemble freely in different parts of Kashmir valley to celebrate the momentous occasion only in the company of each

other.

These leaders unfurled tricolor and distributed sweets after chanting patriotic slogans hailing 'Mother India'. In Anantnag, a BJP leader Rumisa Rafiq also hoisted Indian tricolor at Lal Chowk in South Kashmir's Anantnag district. Her images were circulated on various social media platforms. Token celebrations were also reported from Bandipora where BJP district President was seen dancing with a handful of party workers in the office premises after a brief ceremony.

In Jammu region celebrations were also reported from different district headquarters of Kathua, Samba, Reasi, Udhampur, Rajouri, Doda and Kishtwar as well.

BJP leaders along with party workers and local residents unfurled tricolor at main city junctions, state BJP headquaretrs and distributed sweets.

BJP National Vice President Avinash Rai Khanna, J&K BJP President Ravinder Raina, along with other senior leaders offered flower garland to Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee's statue & unfurl 110 feet tricolour at Kathua on anniversary of abrogation of Article370 & 35A.

Local residents in Jammu

Aligarh: Covid broke backbone of sculpture industry

Aligarh: Covid-19 broke the backbone of sculpture business in Aligarh. Ninety per cent of the sculpture supplied in templace all according to the sculpture supplied in templace all according to the sculpture supplied in templace all according to the sculpture supplied to the scul ples all over India are manufactured in Aligarh. The city has around 500 small and big factories that manufacture the sculptures of Gods and Godess. from weighing 50g to 500 kg .These are supplied all over India and also exported abroad and does a business of about 4,500crore including the export business. Covid -19 has hit hard not only on this business but also on the workers who used to work in these factories.

Brass sculpture of God and Godesses are made in Aligarh in all over North India. From here these idols/sculptures are supplied all over India. This is the first time since independence that only few sculptures has gone out of town. Otherwise, on ordinary days, these statues are ported within the whole country as well as exported abroad

Currently the demand has come down due to the closure of most of the temples in the country. Along with religious places like Banaras, Ujjain, Prayagraj, Mathura, Vrindavan, Govardhan Parvat etc. all major temples are also closed and the shops nearby are also closed. Due to which demand has been less. Earlier, from Shri Krishna Janmashtami to Navratri, there was a great demand for sculptures of Gods and Goddesses.

Brass idols are mostly sold, apart fr them earthen statues are also sold but due to the shiny brass statues, people like them more. Along with these statues, the entire decoration is also made according to the size which goes with these statues. This time this demand is also very less. Wholesale traders told that these idols reach all over the country in tonnes from Aligarh. Vipin Bihari Gupta.

Chairman Aligarh Statue Suppliers Association told Pioneer that "All other pilgrimage sites from Mathura Vrindavan, Barsana-Gokul, Banaras, Ujjain, Haridwar are closed. People are in homes. That is why neither shops are opening nor there is a demand for sculpture. This is the first time that there is silence in the wholesale market during the festival of Janmashtami". PNS

112 die in TN, Kerala sees 1,195 new cases

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI/KOCHI

hough Tamil Nadu lost 112 lives to Covid-19 I in the last 24 hours ending Wednesday evening, there are some positive signals showing that the pandemic is gradually though slowly subsiding in the State.

The number of new persons diagnosed with Covid-19 on Wednesday stood at 5,175 which was on the higher side of the numbers that tested positive on Tuesday. But the total number of active cases in the State as on Wednesday was 54,184 which is less than Tuesday's 55,152.

The day also saw 59,156 persons getting tested on a single day in 125 laboratories in the State. Indications from Chennai is that the situation has stabilised in the capital city as the number of new patients tested positive for Covid-19 were shown as 1,044.

But the neighbouring districts of Chengalpet (487), Kancheepuram (342) and Thiruvallur (472) continued to be on the higher side of the pandemic. Virudhunagar which used to test 280 to 400 new cases per day on an average showed only 67 cases on Wednesday.

The neighbouring Kerala had 1,195 new in Kerala is causing concern as 971 persons out of the 1,195 positive cases tested on Wednesday contracted the pandemic through social transmission. In another sign that the situation is grave in the State, 79 persons could not name the source from where they contracted covid-19. Seven persons died because of Covid-19 in the last 24 hours in Kerala, according to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. The Chief Minister stayed clear from any controversy when asked whether community transmission has set in the State on account of the unprecedented increase in the number of persons contracting the pandemic through local transmission. "That is not the major issue in the State. We are focussing only on controlling the disease," said the chief minister.

The Indo Tibetan Border Police camp at Alappuzha has become another cause of concern in Kerala, said the Chief Minister. "We have asked the ITBP authorities not to send new staff persons to Kerala because we have found that the newly transferred personnel bring the pandemic to the State," he said.

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA Public Works Division, Ahmednagar Phone No. 0214/2325334 & 0241/2325086

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 06 FOR 2020-21 (Online)

online E-Tenders in B-1 Form for the following works invited by Executive Engineer Public Works Division, Ahmednagar (Phone No. 0241-2325334/ 2325086) From the contractors Registered with Government of Maharashtra, Public Works Department in appropriate class.

	D) S.T.B.T. to Khadkwadi Mehtrewasti Nigudewasti road ward no. 5 & 16 at Jamkhed K. 0/00 to 1/00, Tal. Jamkhed Dist. Ahmednagar. Jamkhed. Dist. Ahmednagar. Jamkhed. Dist. Ahmednagar.	
2	A) Beautification of Wani samaj smashanbhumi in ward no. 6, Tal. Jamkhed, Dist. Ahmednagar. B) Beautification of Kohati samaj smashanbhumi in ward no. 6, Jamkhed, Dist Ahmednagar. C) Providing and fixing paving blocks and sitting bench opposite to old tahasil office (35X25 m) in ward no.11, Tal. Jamkhed, Dist. Ahmednagar. D) Construction of toilet block (Gents and Ladies) in ward no.7, at Jamkhed Km. 0/00 to 1/00, Tal. Jamkhed, Dist. Ahmednagar. E) Repair and beutification of Ambedkar Samrak in Milindnagar ward no.8, at	Rs. 85.49 Lakh

Name of Work

Dist Ahmednagar, B) Black Toping to Karjat Road to Borate, Ashtekar wasti ir

A) Black Toping to Beed Road to Gavali Wasti Ward No. 3, Tal. Jamkhed.

Ward No. 20 Tal. Jamkhed, Dist. Ahmednagar. C) S.T.B.T. to Jambwadi to

Jamkhed, Tal. Jamkhed, Dist. Ahmednagar. F) Providing and fixing paving blocks Shital Shinghvi House to Pravin Chajad house in ward no.3, Tal. Jamkhed, Dist. Ahmednagar. E Tender Sale Date 03/08/2020 to 17/08/2020 Tender Opening Dt. 19/08/2020

details of works are provided in the websites as below. www.mahapwd.com 2. Main Portal - https://mahatenders.gov.in

DGIPR/2020/2021/469

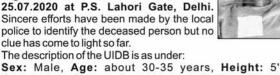
Executive Engineer Public Work Division Ahmednagar

Estimated

Cost

Rs. 102.21 Lakh

Fax No. 011-24368639 DP/283/RD/2020 Ph: 011-27579030-31, 8750870323



Sex: Male, Age: about 30-35 years, Height: 5'2" Complexion: Shallow, Face: Long, Built: Thin, Wearing: Green colour t-shirt, blue colour track pant with brown stripe

If anyone has any information about his relatives, kindly inform the SHO/Lahori Gate, Delhi.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 Fax: 011-24368639 DP/428/N/2020

wr.indianrailways.gov.in

P.S. Lahori Gate, Delhi

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one lady namely Anjali W/o Sahil R/o C-104 Rajeev Nagar Karala, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped from the area of PS: Begum Pur, Delhi since 26.07.2020. In this regard, a case vide DD No. 49A Dated 30.07.2020 has been registered at P.S. Begum Pur, Delhi. The description of the missing/ kidnapped lady is as under.

ANJALI

Age: 19 Years, Complexion: Shallow, Height: 5', Face: Round, Hair: Long & Black, Wearing: Red colour saree and red colour chappal in

feet. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out her but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing lady then please inform P.S. Begum Pur, Delhi at following Tel No. / e-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in and Website: http://cbi.nic.in

Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 Sd/- S.H.O P.S. Begum Pur, Delhi



NEW DELHI | THURSDAY | AUGUST 6, 2020 e pioneer

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Now Pak in map war

Imran Khan releases arbitrary map absorbing Kashmir, possibly at China's behest. But there won't be takers



verybody knows that Pakistan never misses an opportunity to internationalise the Kashmir issue but the "cry wolf" screams make for such a tired and wasted diplomatic move that they don't make news at all. Yet it could not have let the anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370 go past without making some noise. So it released a new map of Pakistan, incorporating Kashmir, parts of Ladakh and Junagadh in Gujarat in a naked display of its territorial ambitions and highly wishful thinking. India has rightly called the vacuous and unilateral declaration, that is not backed by any credible reasoning, support groups, historical reasoning or legal valid-

ity, as a "political absurdity." Worse, the challenge to our globally accepted sovereignty came from none other than Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, who cited the endorsement of his Cabinet, the Opposition and an unnamed Kashmiri leadership as the rationale for the new map. But it was what Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said that shows this cartographic offensive to be a part of a larger pattern and not just Pakistan's independent move. "The new map shows Kashmir shares a clear border with China," he said, a clear indication that like Nepal, this attempt to redraw boundaries was made at China's behest and underlines our eastern neighbour's desire for strategic contiquity in the region than Pakistan's any real concern for Kashmir. While India is firm on Chinese withdrawal from eastern Ladakh that seems to have driven a wedge in their greater plan to control the Karakoram by squeezing us with salami-slicing, Pakistan's map claims are clearly intended to warn us of a two-front offensive. With the Chinese reluctant to pull back from claimed spurs and ridgelines in Ladakh, India is looking at a long haul of vigil and alertness this winter. China just wants to exhaust our capacities at the heights by opening up a second flashpoint. Just last month, Pakistan had moved almost 20,000 soldiers to the Line of Control (LoC) to match Chinese deployment on the Line of Actual Control (LAC). Strangely it hadn't positioned such troops even after the Balakot air strikes. The simultaneous build-up along the border and Pakistan's renewed push on infiltration are clearly intended to stretch our resources thin and wear us out so that both could manage some territorial grabs in the process. If recent reports are to be believed, then the Chinese are no longer shadow-boxing. Just like in Nepal, their officials have had a series of meetings with Pakistani ones on Gilgit-Baltistan. China is also encouraging Pakistan to revive the defunct terrorist network of Al-Badr that was once active in Kashmir. Debt-trapped by the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), with its economy in the doldrums and heavily dependent on borrowings and bailouts, Pakistan is but a pawn in China's gameplan. The hyperbolic claims of Imran Khan are less spontaneous and more in alignment with the grandiloquent declarations of the Chinese dream.

Of course, Khan is also looking at extracting some home advantages with this move. He wants his constituents to know that he has not lost the leadership of the Kashmir cause although his repeated attempts to raise the change in its status at several international fora have not got any traction over the last year. At China's insistence, the UN held a closeddoor meeting on Article 370 last August but stopped short of censuring India and described Kashmir an internal issue within India's constitutional space. At one time, he himself had conceded ground, saying he wasn't being able to turn the tide of international opinion because India was a "large market." So he needed to show he still means business. Second, by involving Turkey in its criticism of India, Khan wants to stake his claim to leadership of a neo-Islamic axis involving Pakistan, Turkey and Malaysia. This is evident from the Pakistan Government's information campaign, encouraging both China and Turkey to issue anti-India statements and tweets. It is trying to get Kashmir under the banner of pan-Islamism. Most significantly, the US is now more an ally of India to humour it. So it is now left to Pakistan to devise its own exportable Kashmir strategy. This is one of the reasons why the Government must make efforts for a civil integration of Kashmir lest the perceived alienation becomes a fertile ground for Pakistan to implement a new separatist agenda. Already the Kashmiri youth, who have been more interactive with mainstream discourse because of pursuing higher education and jobs across the country, are sensing a conspiracy to keep them out with continued curfews and internet bans. There must be political engagement with people's representatives as confinement is only making them martyrs before locals when they could be used as assets to push governance. The ground situation will be chaotic or negative but one has to work through it rather than risk Pakistan whipping up its agenda at our expense. If indeed the Government wants to publicise normalcy, then it should take a step forward, no matter what the risks. Or else the political economy of Kashmir could just drift away.

Closure for Sushant

As cops bicker, politicians jump in and the CBI takes up the probe into his death, point-scoring dims the talent he was



ver a month into Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death, conspiracy theories surrounding it have refused to die down. Did the gifted talent wither away, traumatised and depressed? Was he pushed a bit too hard over the edge by Bollywood's incestuous cliques? Was he blackmailed and threatened about his finances by girlfriend Rhea Chakraborty or was he exploited by some money-laundering gang? Such has been the unending volley of questions that he continues to dominate news cycles despite the pandemic. Now the Supreme Court, where Rhea had petitioned against her victimisation by the actor's family, has taken note, seek-

ing an impartial and comprehensive probe, following which the CBI has taken it up. Sadly and inappropriately, Sushant has been iconised by his death than his life's work and for his sake, it is imperative the truth comes out and there is closure. So that he is not defined by the haze of the underbelly but by his achievements. For his sake, we must know if it was suicide or murder, so that we can restore his dignity and peace. For his sake, we must know how serious was he a victim of mental depression as that becomes a malaise of a generation under extreme pressure of performance and expectation. Most importantly, the blame games and needless politicking in his name must stop right now.

Hardly anybody caught in the nepotism slugfest in the film industry had been around to help him or know him better when he needed them. The turf war between the Mumbai and Bihar police, both of which are conducting parallel investigations, has turned the probe into a game of one-upmanship than about assessing the facts of the case. The Bihar police seems to be acting at the behest of Sushant's politically-connected family and raising questions which the Mumbai police should have taken note of rather than dismissing them as a coercive tactic. Both should be exchanging notes and information to clear the haze of speculation. Otherwise, the bickering is only emaciating them and eroding public trust. But reprehensibly, it's the politicians across the divide in Bihar who are hellbent on making justice for the "son of the soil" an electoral issue when they have had no active association with him. Such was the pressure from the Opposition, with its leader Tejaswi Yadav leading an all-party demand to treat it as a national issue, that Chief Minister Nitish Kumar had to recommend a CBI probe into his death. Question is whether they would stop at that or keep the ball rolling if the findings are not to their liking. Therefore, given the political and regional sensitivities involved, there is this lingering fear that Sushant's case, like that of the Arushi murder case and Jessica Lal's before it, could drag on for years. And if indeed we lost him to depression, then that is the biggest casualty of this debate.

opanion

From Israel to India

Bilateral relations are now deepening, impacting human lives at the basic level. After agriculture, it is shared COVID-19 management protocols



GILAD COHEN

equipped with medical equipment and advanced technological treatments for Coronavirus flew to India from Tel Aviv last week. Also on board were defence and security experts as well as Israeli diplomats returning to their embassies and consulates in the region. The Israeli team will join hands with researchers in India to develop a rapid testing solution for COVID-19. Dozens of sophisticated ventilators, which were loaded onto the special flight before take-off, made the name of the mission that much more meaningful: Breathing

Israel went out of its way to approve the export and transfer of these ventilators to India, while both countries continue to fight against the spread of the virus. Israel's exceptional gesture was a welcome "thank you" to India, which just a few months ago sent medicine and other essential diagnostic equipment, in severe global shortage at the time, to Israel. In this way, Israel and India successfully transformed this unprecedented global pandemic into an opportunity to assist one another and enhance their relations.

The Israel-India relationship has improved dramatically over the past several years. It's hard to believe that just three decades ago, Indian passports were valid "for every country except Israel." Today, India has become one of our most significant friendships in the Asian region. The scope of mutual trade between the two countries has grown from approximately \$200 million in 1992 to some \$4 billion in 2018.

Since former Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's first historic visit to India in 2003, Israeli and Indian Presidents, Prime Ministers and Foreign Ministers have enjoyed a host of bilateral visits and discussions. One of the first discussions Ashkenazi held upon entering his new role was with his Indian counterpart, Minister of External Affairs S Jaishankar.

Israel's Alternate Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, Benny Gantz, too, had a word with Indian Defence



Minister Rajnath Singh, expressing hope that the strong bilateral ties between the two countries would contribute significantly to the global efforts in combating the COVID-19 pandemic. These are just some of the indicators of the surge that has occurred in relations between the two countries since diplomatic ties were fully established in 1992.

This upward trend has yielded success in other fields as well. Although it's difficult to imagine direct flights while living under the cloud of COVID-19, Air India's direct flight between New Delhi and Tel Aviv, inaugurated two years ago, minimises flight duration by flying over Saudi Arabia. This contributes towards the normalisation of Israel's ties with the Arab world and as such, assists Israel in achieving its strategic goal of improving its relations with the region.

Other flights — El Al to mbai, Arkia flights to Goa and Cochin — are an important bridge between Israel and India. This bridge is further strengthened by a visa relief policy for Indian citizens, which saw the number of Indian tourists visiting Israel grow from 16,000 in 2000 to

RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO DON'T JUST EXIST **BETWEEN** GOVERNMENTS BUT ALSO BETWEEN SOCIETIES. THE ISRAEL-INDIA RELATIONSHIP HAS PERMEATED ALL **ELEMENTS OF** INDIAN SOCIETY, INCLUDING THAT OF THE 650 MILLION INDIAN CITIZENS WHO REPRESENT



IN INDIA

HALF OF THE

WORKFORCE

over 70,000 in 2018. One of India's most critical

national security challenges is the provision of food security to its immense population. Israel's Foreign Ministry has consistently invested a tenth of the Agency for International Development's (MASHAV) budget into India for several years now. This has financed the establishment of more than 28 "Excellency Centres" across the many States that make up India. These centres serve as agricultural "demonstration" farms, introducing Israeli experts and innovative Israeli technologies to Indian farmers. During his last visit to

India in January 2018, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu escorted Prime Minister Narendra Modi to his home State of Gujarat. In an exceptionally moving moment, hundreds of farmers rushed to meet them and share their personal stories. One after their fields' crop yields had improved by a hundred per cent following their training at Israel's Excellence Centres.

Relations between Israel and India clearly don't just exist between Governments but also between societies. The

Israel-India relationship has permeated all elements of Indian society, including that of the 650 million Indian citizens who make a living from agriculture and who represent half

of the workforce in India. Israel's contributions have also risen to prominence in fields ranging from health, security, industry and more. Most critical on our shared agenda, however, is water and Israel is uniquely placed to provide solutions to the critical water shortage issue that India faces. Both countries share a deep and mutual appreciation for the benefits that their joint collaboration brings them at the community level.

Under the leadership of Narendra Modi, India is assuming its role as a regional and world power and our diplomacy has succeeded in showing India the many advantages that can come from strengthening its ties with determined to cultivating its ties with India to ensure that our relations continue to thrive in the future.

(The writer is Deputy Director General for Asia and the Pacific at the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

UNDBIT

The doors of the film industry opened for me simply because of my surname. It would be criminal to deny that. But over the years, I learned that things are different in Tamil and Telugu cinema when compared to Bollywood.

Actor -Shruti Haasan Pakistan and India

China follows closely the situation in the Kashmir region. China's position or the Kashmir issue is clear and consistent. This issue is a dispute left over from history between

Chinese spokesperson –Wang Wenbin



The Prime Minister has violated the oath of office by laying the foundation stone of Ram Mandii This is the day of the defeat of democracy and secularism and success of Hindutva.

AIMIM chief -Asaduddin Owaisi



activists remain in detention:

there's a complete absence of a

political process; no access to

Internet and mobile connectiv-

ity. Meanwhile, civil and demo-

cratic rights of the people

Internet has impacted educa-

tion and health. The continued

detention of political leaders is

only an indication that there is

no space for opinion or dissent in India's democracy.

Shariq Alavi

The suspension of the

remain stamped out.

Fair probe

EDITOR

Still a long way to go

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Forlorn hopes" (August 5). Automobile sales in July offered hope that an economic recovery is nearing. As compared to June, there has been a substantial improvement in car sales in July. It was heartening to see that manufacturers such as Maruti Suzuki and Tata Motors have seen higher car sales. However, unless other car manufacturers, like Ashok Leyland and Bajaj Auto, too, start showing positive results, we should not assume that we have reached pre-COVID days of sales.

We need to factor in one critical factor which is that due to the pandemic, there is and there will still be a shift in the thought process of buyers, at least for some time until things normalise. Yet people are avoiding the use of the public transport system and are instead using two-wheelers or pre-owned cars. The Indian automobile sector is on a slow road to partial recovery but

Trump and visa politics

S President Donald Trump has once again targetted immigrants in building a nativist pitch for the elections. His latest clampdown bars H-1B visa holders from participating in federal Government contracts. Growing unemployment among Americans, rampant intellectual plagiarism and national security are the cited reasons for the latest move. This order, like the earlier ones, affects Indians the most. Ever since his ascendancy in 2016, Trump has been attacking the diversity-based fabric of American society. His latest canard against the immigrants is in line with his parochialism. It all began on April 22 when the issuance of family-based green cards was put on hold till the year-end. Then in June, he halted the processing of visas to various categories of skilled professionals, including H-1B. He followed it up with another draconian executive order in July that threatened the students holding F-1 and M-1 visas with deportation, thus jeopardising the future of a million of them. Trump had to roll back his ill-conceived diktat as Harvard and Massachusetts Institute of Technology went to court against it. Though the controversial order is withdrawn vet international students' right to study in the US remains precariously fragile. And now we have this ban on allotting federal Government contracts to H-

1B aspirants This is an election year and Trump, by pander-



ing to the nativism and White supremacist pride, is provoking an anti-immigration sentiment in the US. He has repeatedly been conveying to his voters that America is for Americans and that they need to bring him back to the White House. Little does Trump realise that it is the immigrants who have made the US what it is today. Be it culture, economy, fundamental research, inventions or innovations, they have enriched both American society and economy Though illegal immigrants need to be curbed, the crackdown on legitimate migration amounts to negating all that America has always stood for

SK Prabhakar Gurugram

Sir — The probe into Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death is going on for the past 40 days and has left two Bihar and States Maharashtra — warring during the pandemic. Now that the case will be handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), a fair probe must bring closure to what has become a needless mess.

MN Musaeed Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

False promises

there's a long way to go.

Bal Govind Sir — It has been a year since the abrogation of the special

status of Jammu & Kashmir but New Delhi's intent to establish peace and create economic development in the Valley has not yielded concrete results.

that such a decision would usher in economic development has not been successful. Most political leaders and

The Government's promise



FIRSTCOLUMN

Right moves on research

The National Education Policy 2020 has tried to balance equity and excellence in the country's higher education sector



igher Education (HE) is elitist by nature and it is also not free. So, only the best and those who can bag a scholarship or pay So, only the best and those who can pay a scholarship of pay are able to pursue it. The National Education Policy 2020 (NEP) has tried to balance equity and excellence. As of 2018, the participation of learners was 26.3 per cent which the NEP intends to increase to 50 per cent by 2030. The policy has presented an elaborate road map which reflects the determination of the Government to attain this goal. One of the major strengths of the NEP is that it is acceptable to all, the supporters of the Government and the Opposition, alike. The most salient feature of the NEP is its emphasis on research, leading to knowledge creation in all disciplines. Sadly, in our universities, research was ignored in the name of serving the large number of degree-seekers at the undergraduate level. The policy promotes research without losing sight of the teaching component. It proposes to establish a National Research Foundation (NRF) that will promote diligent individuals and institutions in research and weed out those who squander research funds. The policy has drawn a very clear roadmap for teaching colleges and research universities which will in the long run push all into becoming teaching-cum-research

The NEP seeks to restructure higher education and wants the existing three year undergraduate programme to be replaced by a four-year degree one. The last year shall be a substitute for the existing Master's programme. Graduates can go for either doctoral studies or teaching after the four-year degree course. This was done as there was a feeling that the existing Master's degree programme did not have much relevance. Also, a similar structure exists in a large number of developed countries and premier institutions. So why is the four-year degree necessary? In education, every dropout who leaves the system without acquiring a certificate, diploma or a degree is known as "wastage." To minimise this "wastage", the NEP has made the provision of awarding a certificate to those who wish to exit after one year, a diploma to those who leave after two years and a degree to those who complete four years of studies. This will minimise wastage as those with a certificate or a diploma can be considered for a job. Students who want to pursue doctoral studies can do so straightaway after the course as the need for a Master in Philosophy has been done away with

The NEP is apparently conscious of the pathetic state of teacher education colleges, which are approximately 16,000 in number. Higher education institutions (HEIs), which offer only a single programme and have fewer than 100 students, will be merged with multi-disciplinary institutions. The policy also suggests that the existing National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) be merged with the University Grants Commission (UGC). Though the importance of teacher education has been emphasised by all commissions since Independence and before, the establishment of NCTE (in 1993) has not been able to fulfil expectations. Hence, its merger with the UGC is a welcome move. A remarkable proposal of the policy is to see school education and higher education in continuum. It has taken cognisance of the role the latter must play in the development of school education and how both must function in synergy. It says "faculty development for the higher education system and support to school education' will be emphasised.

The NEP, through various proposals, has induced competition and promotion through peer review. It has suggested visible, transparent outcomes through rigorous processes. Attaining excellence through competition can be the only mantra for education, which this policy has clearly reflected. Globally, reward and punishment for good and poor research have been the norm but our research funding has not been linked with good output. The NEP clearly reflects its intention to induce rigour in research and promote good researchers and institutions. It proposes to "recognise outstanding research and progress achieved via NRF funding/mentoring across subjects, through prizes and special seminars recognising the work of the researchers.' Institutions and academics cannot attain excellence in isolation. By putting our institutions and academics in competition within the nation or abroad, we would tend to gain. With this in view, the NEP has advocated inviting foreign institutions to set up campuses in India. Some have criticised this recommendation but they are unaware of the fact that India is signatory to the General Agreement on Trade and Services and we have no option but to open our education sector to foreign agencies and nations.

Many new bodies are proposed like the National Higher Education Regulatory Authority, General Education Council, Higher Education Grants Commission and so on, with the clear intention of decentralised but coordinated decision-making. Universities excel only when they have autonomy and able leadership. A major drawback of our universities has been poor leadership. We will have to rethink the role of the Government and these bodies in institutions to help them function autonomously and also identify academic leaders to run them. (The writer is a professor of education, IGNOU)

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

analysis

INDIA IS EMOTIONAL TODAY AS DECADES OF WAIT HAVE ENDED. CRORES WON'T BELIEVE THAT THEY HAVE SEEN THIS DAY IN OUR LIFETIME.

—PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI





MR PRIME MINISTER, I AM ALSO EMOTIONAL **TODAY BECAUSE A MOSQUE STOOD** THERE FOR 450 YEARS.

—AIMIM LEADER **ASADUDDIN OWAISI**

Powerless power sector

The much-touted power reforms have not taken off as netas remain in election mode. As a result, industries continue to pay high tariff and discoms continue to report losses



UTTAM GUPTA

nder the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan scheme unveiled in May, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had promised a special loan of ₹90,000 crore to fledgling power distribution companies (discoms) to enable them to clear their dues to independent power producers (IPPs) and generators in the public sector *viz*. National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and so on, subject to their implementing certain reforms. The Government is now keen on hiking the loan amount to ₹1,25,000 crore and relaxing reform conditions.

This is not the first time that discoms are in dire financial straits and the Government has bailed them out, subject to their implementing reforms. Since 2000, three such bailouts were granted, the latest being in 2015 under the Ujwal Discom Assurance Yojana (UDAY) which condoned their whopping debt of about ₹4,00,000 crore. Each time, a promise was extracted from them and their owners (State Government) for carrying out reforms, only to be flouted with impunity.

From time to time, our policy makers have harped on reforming Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs); introducing "open access"; making the tariff-setting process transparent and reducing cross-subsidy; Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT); trading in electricity; increase in share of renewals and so on. In each of these reform measures, two objectives resonate. These are: Electricity supply to consumers at affordable rates and making discoms "viable." Yet, what we see on ground zero, is just the opposite.

A PPA is a contract between an IPP and a discom which lays down terms of electricity purchase by the latter from the former, including tariff which is subject to approval by the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs). Nearly 86 per cent of power is sold through long-term PPAs. Of the balance, 10 per cent is covered under short-term agreements and four per cent sold on trading plat-

Discoms purchase power from IPPs/NTPC besides their own generating stations and sell to consumers. While sale to poor households and farmers is normally made at subsidised rates/free, i.e. below the cost of purchase, wheeling and distribution, the charges for industries and businesses are much higher than the cost of example. But simple the much higher than the cost of supply. Put simply, the tariff policy uses excess payments by the latter to cross-subsidise the former.

those IPPs who can deliver power at the lowest possible tariff (in fact, the Central Government runs several schemes which help IPPs to reduce the cost of generation, say by lowering the cost of fuel such as coal or gas and so on) with the sole objective of making it affordable to consumers. Unfortunately, the reality is far from it. Let us look at a few examples.

In Andhra Pradesh (AP), promoters of 139 power plants based on solar and wind energy (aggregate capacity 8,000 mega watt or MW) had signed agreements with the discoms during 2014-19 under the erstwhile dispensation led by Chandrababu Naidu. Apart from being environment-friendly, the other advantage of buying electricity from these sources was the low cost of supply, about ₹2.43 per unit, which was nearly half of the cost of sourcing it from thermal power plants. Yet, under the PPAs, the discoms had agreed to pay IPPs ₹4.8 per unit i.e. almost double.

The new Government, led by YS Jaganmohan Reddy, set up a high-level committee in early July, 2019 to review those agreements, citing malpractices with a mandate to bring down the tariff. The



REFORM. UNDER IT. SUBSIDY IS GIVEN DIRECTLY TO THE BENEFICIARIES EVEN AS TARIFF IS MARKET-DETERMINED. IT WILL FOSTER COMPETITION, IMPROVE EFFICIENCY, REDUCE COST, ELIMINATE THEFT AND AUGMENT REVENUE. THIS IS THE MOST POTENT WAY OF MAKING **POWER** AFFORDABLE TO CONSUMERS ON THE ONE HAND AND MAKING DISCOMS VIABLE ON THE OTHER. BOTH THE UPA AND NDA REGIMES HAVE MADE TALL CLAIMS IN THIS REGARD



BUT NONE HAS

WALKED THE TALK



its order of September 2019, the APHC struck down the State's order on reviewing/renegotiating PPAs and asked the AP Electricity Regulatory Commission (APERC) to decide on the matter. During the interim period, it directed the discoms to pay these plants at a provisional rate of ₹2.43 per unit. Meanwhile, the State Government has asked APERC to levy transmission and distribution charges for wheeling power for these plants, which sell power directly to industrial consumers through the "open access" mechanism. These charges include ₹3 per unit wheeling, ₹1.5 per unit cross-subsidy and ₹0.5 per unit as distribution charge. Ultimately, the cost to consumers will be ₹7.43 per

decision was challenged by IPPs in Andhra Pradesh High Court (APHC). In

to charge low tariff, using the tariff-based competitive bidding (TBCB) method. Under the long-term PPAs signed by Tata Power Limited (TPL) and Adani Power Limited (APL) for their Ultra Mega Power Projects (UMPP) in Gujarat, these companies had committed to sell at the rate of ₹2.26 per unit and ₹2.35 per unit for supplies to discoms in the State. Both

unit. What is given from one hand is being

taken away from the other.

In 2012, TPL/APL petitioned the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) seeking "compensatory tariff." They argued that following an order of the Indonesian Government in September 2011, fixing a minimum export price (MEP) of coal, they were forced to pay more, which should be compensated. This was allowed by the CERC in February 2014 and confirmed by the Appellate Tribunal for Electricity (APTEL) in December 2016. The Supreme Court, (SC) after initially rejecting the claim, finally directed the CERC "to amend the PPAs to enable pass-through of fuel price escalation subject to a cap". In short, the lower tariff advantage emanating from the TBCB concept, that was promised on supplies all through the life of these UMPPs, was taken away. For all future projects, the Government excluded fuel costs from the bidding process, which is a "pass-through." This means that whenever there is a hike

in fuel cost, discoms have to pay more.

The policy of "open access" under the amended Electricity Act (2003) allows bulk consumers (those with consumption greater than one MW) to choose their supplier. This enables a consumer to draw electricity directly from an IPP who offers lower tariff. The SERC is expected to exercise regulatory oversight and ensure that the correct tariff is charged. But another provision in the Act requires him to the discom s/he wants to leave.

The State Governments fix the surcharge at a level so as to ensure that postswitch, the effective cost to the consumer viz. tariff charged by new supplier plus OAS is higher than what he pays to the discom. In other words, the levy of surcharge (embedded in the Act itself) kills the very soul of the "open access" policy. The OAS was meant to be temporary – to be reduced over a period of time — but States continue to use this as an instrument to shield discoms. In the above example, even as discoms in Andhra Pradesh are now required to pay IPPs at a lower rate of ₹2.43 per unit under orders from the APHC, consumers won't get this benefit as the State gears up to collect the OAS of ₹1.5 per unit (besides ₹3 per unit wheeling charge and ₹0.5/unit as distribution charge). In case the APHC decides in favour of IPPs, requiring discoms to pay at the rate of ₹4.8 per unit as per original

agreements (very likely), the tariff chargeable from consumers would be ₹9.8 per unit. This is bizarre.

Reducing cross-subsidy by lowering charges from industries and businesses (under the 'New Tariff Policy' in the works, discoms can recover only up to 15 per cent of under-recovered power supply cost from other consumers) is theoretical, to say the least. This connects with the larger issue of State Governments forcing discoms to charge less from poor households and farmers and revenue loss arising from large-scale theft and underbilling. As long as *status quo* continues in all these areas, it won't be possible to reduce tariff on supplies to industries and businesses.

DBT is a transformative reform. Under it, subsidy is given directly to the beneficiaries even as tariff is market-determined. It will foster competition, improve augment revenue. This is the most potent way of making power affordable to consumers on the one hand and making discoms viable on the other. Both the UPA and NDA regimes have made tall claims this regard but none has walked the talk.

Opening of power exchanges for trading is a good move enabling price discovery and may help some consumers get attractive price for their needs. However, given that electricity traded on the exchange is a miniscule four per cent of the total, this hardly makes an impact on he overall scenario.

None of the power reforms has taken off as our netas remain in election mode perennially and are unable to do all that s needed to make them work. Till they can deliver on their promises, industries will continue to pay high tariff and discoms will continue to make losses.

(The writer is a New Delhi-based pol-

End the annual flood of monsoon woes

Restoring the green cover, giving rivers back their floodplains and water harvesting are the only way to protect us from devastation



n most parts of the world, the rain brings with it relief and joy. However, in India, the monsoon season brings with it a host of prob-lems. For instance, a three-hour downpour on July 19 in the national Capital resulted in serious flooding on the city's streets, particularly under the Minto Road bridge and caused the death of a mini-truck driver by drowning. The State administration actually had to remove a Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) bus and the mini-truck along with other smaller vehicles submerged in the water that had collected under the bridge. In Uttar Pradesh, rain damaged the roof of a hospital in Bareilly and flooded a Coronavirus ward as patients watched in horror. Flood waters reached the COVID-19 ward of Osmania Hospital in Hyderabad, Parts of Kerala and Karnataka are

also witnessing floods and on the western coast, massive overflows are being reported from certain parts of Maharashtra and Gujarat. However, in the entire country, the States of Bihar and Assam are the worst-hit so far. The situation is grim in Bihar as waters from overflowing rivers, mostly those originating in Nepal, inundated large parts of the State, leaving over 55 lakh residents of over 1,000 villages affected. Till date, 4.18 lakh people have been evacuated and 23 teams of the National Disaster Response Force and some of the State Disaster Response Force have been pressed into service. However, the Government of Bihar is preparing for Assembly elections while the people are suffering from heavy rains and



and the floods have affected more than 56 lakh people in 30 of the 33 districts of the State, claiming 110 lives. More than 2.6 lakh hectares of the total crop area have been affected and the Kaziranga National Park is inundated, too, killing over 100 animals in the sanctuary. Though now the Brahmaputra and its tributaries have started receding, 7,000 people are still in relief camps and nearly four lakh people in 19 districts have been affected. Given the massive destruction, it is time to introspect why we have to go through punishing floods

ing and unchecked development, without any environmental concerns. The fact remains that changes in land use associated with urban development affect flooding in many ways Removing vegetation and soil, grading the land surface and constructing drainage networks increase runoff to rivers and streams after a heavy downpour. As a result, the peak discharge volume and the frequency of floods increase in nearby streams and rivers. Changes to channels of rivers and streams during urban development can limit their capacity to absorb flood waters.

Similarly, roads and buildings constructed in flood-prone areas increase the danger of floods, including inundation and erosion. Plus, deforestation in the green belt causes landslides which results in rivers changing course and flooding villages.

Floods used to happen earlier, too, but because there were miles of forests on the slopes between the hills and the plains, their effect was not as devastating as it is now and their duration used to be shorter too. Plus, as the flood waters carry nutrients and sediments, which they deposit on flood plains, enriching the soil, farmers would wait for them. Yet another advantage of floods is that they recharge the water table, ponds and other water bodies and flush out accumulated organic and chemical substances brought by untreated drainage water from farmlands and untreated effluents from factories. They restore the ecological health of stagnant rivers and streams by diluting them and providing clean water.

In 2015, well-known river expert and convenor of the Barh Mukti Abhiyan, Dr Dinesh Mishra, had suggested to the Central Government that it control unchecked urban development and remove obstacles to river and flood water flow. This would ensure that the flood waters were spread thin over a larger area and for a shorter duration. This would ensure that they could spread rich silt on the banks and the floodplains, recharge the water table and fill up and clean the water bodies in their path.

Even though the Government accepted the importance of Mishra's recommendations, nothing has been done to implement them and year after year the nation continues to suffer from the effects of devastating floods. Restoring the green cover, giving rivers back their floodplains and water harvesting are the only effective methods to protect us. If we choose to ignore conventional wisdom, we will continue to suffer.

(The writer is a social activist and





INCOMPETENCE By all appearances the Beirut

port disaster did not involve the usual suspects -Hezbollah, terrorists or Syria. The truth seems to be both duller and more disturbing: Decades of rot at every level of Lebanon's institutions destroyed Beirut's port. It is precisely the banality behind the explosion that captures the particular punishment and humiliation heaped on Lebanon.

(The NYT editorial)

More than 100 killed in huge blast in Beirut

ammonium nitrate likely fuelled Beirut explosion

Beirut: Rescuers searched for survivors in Beirut Wednesday after a cataclysmic explosion at the port sowed devastation across entire neighbourhoods, killing more than 100 people, wounding thousands and plunging Lebanon deeper into

The blast, which appeared to have been caused by a fire igniting 2,750 tonnes of ammonium nitrate left unsecured in a warehouse, was felt as far away as Cyprus, some 150

miles (240 kilometres) to the northwest.

The scale of the destruction was such that the Lebanese capital resembled the scene of an earthquake, with thousands of people left homeless and thousands more cramming into overwhelmed hospitals for treatment.

"We've had some dark days in Lebanon over the years but this is something else," said Rami Rifai, a 38-year-old engineer, speaking to AFP from a hospital where his two daughters were receiving treatment after sustaining cuts despite being half a kilometre from the seat of the blast.

"We already had the economic crisis, a government of

n't think it could get worse but now I don't know if this country can get up again. Everyone is going to try to leave. I will try to leave," he said, his voice choked by tears.

In the areas closest to the port, the amount of destruction caused by the long years of civil war between 1975 and 1990 was achieved in a second by a blast that levelled buildings within a radius of several hundred metres.

One resident of Mar Mikhail, one of the most affected neighbourhoods, said she saw bodies strewn in the middle of the street, apparently thrown off balconies and rooftops by the blast.



'3L left homeless by Beirut blast'

A huge blast in Beirut has left 300,000 people homeless and caused damage across half of the city estimated to cost more than \$3 billion, its governor told AFP on Wednesday. "I think there are between

250,000 and 300,000 people who are now without homes, said Marwan Aboud, adding that the estimated cost of the damage from Tuesday's explosion was between \$3.0 billion and \$5.0 billion dollars.

Engineers and technical teams have yet to conduct an official assessment, he said, adding that damage from the blast in the port area seems to have extended over half of the city

After port blast, Lebanon has less than a month's grain reserves: Min

Beirut: Lebanon's main grain silo at Beirut port was destroyed in a blast along with the wheat inside, leaving the nation with less than a month's reserves of the grain although other vessels with supplies are on the way, the economy minister said on Wednesday.

Raoul Nehme told Reuters a day after Tuesday's devastating blast that Lebanon needed reserves for at least three months to ensure food security and was looking at other

He said reserves now stood at "a bit less than a month".

The explosion was the most powerful ever to rip through Beirut, leaving the port district a wreck of man-gled masonry and disabling the main entry port for imports to feed a nation of more than 6 million people.

The Beirut silo was capable of holding 120,000 tonnes of grain, said Ahmed Tamer, the director of the port of Tripoli, Lebanon's second biggest city.
The port in Tripoli,

Lebanon's second biggest port, is not equipped with grain storage facilities but wheat could be transferred to warehouses 2 km (about one mile) away, he said.

At the time of the blast, the Beirut silo held no more than 15,000 tonnes of wheat as some millers had unloaded cargoes directly because of a delay in issuing letters of credit for payment, Ahmed Hattit, the head of the wheat importers union, told the local Al-Akhbar

switched diplomatic recognition to China in 1979, a move Beijing blasted as a threat to "peace and stability". The visit, headed by health chief Alex Azar, comes as rela-

Taipei, Taiwan: The United

Wednesday its highest-level

visit to Taiwan since it

announced on

biggest powers plunge to historic lows. "This marks... the first Cabinet member to visit in six years, and the highest level visit by a US Cabinet official since 1979," said Washington's

de facto embassy, the American Institute in Taiwan,

with no date yet given for the

tions between the world's two

Washington remains the leading arms supplier to the island but has historically been cautious in holding official

Beijing views Taiwan as its own territory -- vowing to one day seize it -- and bristles at any moves by other countries to recognise or communicate

with Taipei.

"China firmly opposes official exchanges between the US and Taiwan," Wang Wenbin, a spokesman for China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said as he called for the visit to be cancelled.
"We urge the US to abide

by the one-China principle... to avoid seriously endangering Sino-US relations, as well as peace and stability across the aiwan Strait.'

Taiwan said Azar would meet President Tsai Ing-wen.

'(The) timely visit is another testament to the strong Taiwan-US partnership based on our longstanding friendship and shared values," Tsai wrote on Twitter.

US plan for 'highest level' Taiwan visit to Taiwan visit in decades angers China **'endangering peace'** Relations have warmed dramatically under President

Beijing: China said on Wednesday a visit by a top US cabinet member to Taiwan was endangering peace and stability in the region, with relations between the two powers at historic lows.

China: US cabinet

Washington's de facto embassy in Taipei said US health secretary Alex Azar would lead a delegation to the self-ruled island, which Beijing claims as part of China and has vowed to one day seize.

"China firmly opposes official exchanges between the US and Taiwan," Wang Wenbin, a spokesman of China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said at a reg-ular briefing. "We urge the US to abide by the one-China principle... to avoid seriously endangering Sino-US relations, as well as peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait." The United States switched diplomatic recognition from Taiwan

French President travelling to Lebanon after deadly explosion

Paris: French President Emmanuel Macron is travelling to Lebanon on Thursday to offer support for the troubled country after a massive, deadly explosion that has drawn global pledges of medical and humanitarian aid.

Macron's office told The Associated Press on Wednesday that the French leader will meet with Lebanese political leaders. It provided no further details.

Lebanon is a former French protectorate and the countries retain close political and eco-

Name of the

Department

MS Pipe & Pipe Fitting

Cotton Thread & Polythene Sheet

Purchase/ Sale for Distillery Unit

Job Works for Sugar Mills

Operation and Maintenance of ETF

Tube Cleaning for Season 2020-21

Job Works for Distillery Unit

AMC & Operation of CO2 Recovery Plant

AMC & Operation of BIO Gas Plant of ETP

Stacking & Loading of Country Liquor

Cameras to CPCB/HSPCB Portal

AMC & Operation of RO & Nano Plant of ETP

Internal and External Cleaning of 04 Nos. Boilers

Rewinding, Re-insulation of 3125 KVA Jyoti Make

Dismantling, Repairing and Maintenance of Various

Shifting of Press Muu Cleaning, Painting and White Washing of Boiling House Rate Contract for Various Type L&T make Electrical Items

Environmental Consultancy Service Including Preparation of EIA Report for new Distillery Unit Plant Capacity 45

Annual Rate Contract for Data Connectivity of Existing IP

Dismantling, Fabrication and Erection of Fermentation

Molasses Based Enzyme

Pumps & Pumps Spares

Thermoplast Cluste

Anti Foam

12

13

15

16

17

20

28

29

Wooden Chips

Sale of CO₂

Steam Flow Meter

Sale of Press Mud

Sale of Molasses

Alternator Rotor

Shifting of Press Mud

AMC of AIR Compressor

AMC of Instrument

meter for Bio-Compost

Shifting of 220 KV HT Line

Tube Cleaning Material

Panipat

The Panipat Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd.

Purchase item for Sugar Mill

Dismantling, Erection & Modification of Texmaco make

Purchase, Installation and Commissioning of PIEZO

No

nomic ties. France is also sending several tons of aid and emergency workers after Tuesday's explosion in Beirut, which killed at least 100 people and injured thousands.

It was unclear what caused the blast, which appeared to have been triggered by a fire and struck with the force of an earthquake.

It was the most powerful explosion ever seen in the city Several other countries across the Middle East and Europe are sending aid

Name of Work

Notice/Tender

Russia to send 5 planeloads of aid

Amount E.Money

(in lac.)

00.10

00.10

00.10

06.00

00.05

00.08

00.60

10.00

06.00

04.64

00.30

00.10

00.05

00.05

00.12

00.25

00.25

00.25

00.20

(Approx.

in lac)

9.50

10.00

03.60

01.25

04.00

15.00

15.00

01.90

02.50

03.50

45.00

12.00

300.00

232.00

04.00

06.00

15.92

04.50

06.00

02.50

06.00

01.50

02.00

10.00

06.00

18.00

12.00

09.00

06.20

300.00

Beirut: Russia's emergency officials say the country will send five planeloads of aid to Beirut after an explosion in the Lebanese capital's port killed at least 100 people and injured thousands on Tuesday.

Russia's Ministry for Emergency Situations will send rescuers, medical workers, a makeshift hospital and a lab for coronavirus testing to Lebanon. France, Jordan and other

countries also say aid is on the

International aid in the form of emergency workers and medical personnel is head-

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"TENDER NOTICE"

ing to Lebanon a day after a massive explosion devastated Beirut's port, killing at least 100 people and wounding thou-

France says it is sending two planes with dozens of emergency workers, a mobile medical unit and 15 tons of aid. French President

Emmanuel Macron's office says the aid should allow for the treatment of some 500 victims.

French peacekeepers stationed in Lebanon, a former French protectorate, have been helping since the explosions, Macron's office said.

Website of

Department

https://etenders.hry.nic.in

the

Lanka election sees high voter turnout, Rajapaksa clan expected to win

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lankans, wearing face masks and carrying their own pens, turned out in large Batticaloa (76.15 per cent) and numbers to vote on Nuwara Eliya (75 per cent) poned parliamentary election which is expected to be won by the powerful Rajapaksa family-run Sri Lanka People's Party

According to Chairman of the National Election Commission Mahinda Deshapriya, the election, conducted amidst COVID-19 pandemic fears, concluded in a peaceful manner, with the voter

turnout being 70 per cent.
Ampara (72.8 per cent), Killinochchi (71.52 per cent), corona fears," he said.

Mannar (79.49 per cent), Vavuniya (74 per cent), Mullaithivu (76.25 per cent). Trincomalee (73.5 per cent),

The polls closed at 5 pm local time and the ballot boxes were transported to counting centers. The counting would take place only on Thursday a departure from the practice of counting the ballots from 8 PM on the election night.

The results would be announced by Thursday evening, Deshapriya said.

"We have to be grateful to the voting public for recording such a high turnout despite

For Parijat Paper Mills Limited

Amit Mittal

DIN: 00754471

Whole Time Director

Will end green card freeze, oppose H-1B visa suspension: Democrats Washington: The Democratic

Party in the US will end the freeze on green cards and take steps to end its backlog, if voted to power in the November presidential elections, the party's proposed 2020 platform said. Green Card, known offi-

Donald Trump, who has used

embracing democratic Taiwan

more closely as a way to hit

back at authoritarian Beijing as

he clashes with China on a

host of issues, including trade

ping its own virus outbreak -

and its emergence as one of

Asia's most progressive

democracies - has also earned the island growing

bipartisan support in

tion is increasing its relations

with Taiwan to a record-high level, sending a message to China that the US will not sac-

rifice Taiwan for its relations

with China," Eric Huang, an

international relations analyst

at Tamkang University in Taipei, told AFP. AFP

"The Trump administra-

Taiwan's success at stop-

and coronavirus.

Washington.

cially as a Permanent Resident Card, is a document issued to dence that the bearer has been granted the privilege of residing permanently

The proposed platform among other things has expressed opposition to the decision of President Donald Trump to temporarily suspend issuing of H-1B visas.

The H-1B visa is a non-

immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in speciality occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise. Technology companies depend on it to hire

tens of thousands of employees each year from countries like India and China.
The 2020 Democratic Party Platform, which is simi-India, would be adopted by the party's delegates during its national convention in Wisconsin. The four-day con-

vention from August 17 to 20 would formally nominate former Vice President Joe Biden as its candidate for the November 3 presidential elec-

17 killed as boat capsizes in B'desh

Dhaka: A passenger boat carrying about 50 people, including madrassa students and teachers, capsized on Wednesday in northern Bangladesh, killing at least 17 people, according to a

media report. The incident happened in Netrokona district's Madan upazila, the Dhaka Tribune reported.

A total of 48 people, including madrassa students and teachers, from Mymensingh, boarded the boat for a cruise. So far, 17 bodies have been

recovered, 30 people have been rescued alive, while one passenger remains missing, an official of Madan upazila was quoted by the paper as saying. The cause of the accident is

not immediately known. Such accidents are common in Bangladesh.

Poor safety standards of vessels and their reckless driving have been repeatedly blamed for frequent ferry accidents in riverine Bangladesh. In most of the cases, the ferries carry passen-

gers beyond their capacity. PTI

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NOTICE

Pursuant to Regulation 29 and 47(1)(a) of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the company will be held on Thursday, 13th August 2020 at 03:00 P.M to consider and approve the

Standalone Unaudited Financial Results of the company for the Quarte

The Intimation is also available on the website of the company

(www.parijatpapermils.com) and on the website of the Stock Exchange (https://www.msei.in/)

CIN: L21012UP1989PLC010589



Date: 05.08.2020

General public is hereby informed that one person Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: 60 Years, Height: 5'2", Sex: Male, Complexion: Shallow, Built: Thin, Face: Long, Hair: White, Wearing: Naked, Place of Recovery: Found dead on 31.07.2020 at Footpath of S.P. Mukherjee Marg, Near Nagpal Dairy, Angoori Bagh, Delhi.

In this regard DD No. 56A, U/s 174 Cr.P.C, Dated 31.07.2020 has been lodged at Police Station, Kotwali, Delhi. Any clue come to notice please inform undersign.

> DP/421/N/2020(UIDB) 8750870121

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that this person Namely: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown Age: 60-65 Years, Sex: Male, Height: 5'6" Complexion: Shallow, Built: Thin, Face: Oval, Identification Mark: On his right hand "OM SHYAMA MERA CHANDA CHAKORI SHYAMA PYARI" & "MAHALAXMI" was written on left hand, Wearing: Blue Colour T-shirt on which "ITTU SA

THA" was written and orange colour lower on which "Adidas" was writen has been found dead on 29.07.2020 at Jamuna River Dhai Pusta, Sonia Vihar, in the area of PS Wazirabad, Delhi. Dead Body has been kept preserved in

Subzi Mandi Mortuary for 72 hours for identification. In this regard a DD No. 73A, dated 29.07.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Wazirabad, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about

this person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.

P.S. PS Wazirabad, Delhi

Ph.: 011-23823161, 23827354

above website on or before 17-08-2020 up to 05:00 PM. The "TECHNICAL BID" will be opened on 18-08-2020 at 09:30 PM. If a tenderer qualifies in "TECHNICAL BID" then only "FINANCIAL BIDE" will be opened. The Negotiation, if necessary will be held in the presence of lowest tenderer or his representative who may be present at that time on 21-08-2020 at 11:00 AM. Managing Director

DP/425/N/2020

P.S. Kotwali, Delhi Ph.: 011-23977100, 23953442,

Markets pare early gains to end flat; focus shifts to RBI policy meet

Domestic equity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty surrendered early gains to end flat on Wednesday as profit-booking emerged in market majors Reliance Industries and HDFC Bank.

Investors also remained on the sidelines ahead of the RBI's monetary policy decision on Thursday, traders said.

After rallying 452 points during the day, the BSE Sensex slipped in the red to end 24.58 points or 0.07 per cent lower at

The NSE Nifty inched up 6.40 points or 0.06 per cent to close at 11,101.65.

HDFC Bank and Reliance Industries were the top drags on the Sensex, tumbling over 1 per cent, as investors booked profits after their recent bull

PowerGrid, Tech Mahindra, Infosys, Nestle India and HCL Tech too ended with losses.On the other hand, Tata Steel rallied 6.33 per cent, followed by Titan, Maruti, Bharti Airtel and M&M.

According to traders, despite positive cues from global markets and sustained foreign fund inflows, stock-spe-

market movement during the day. "Indian benchmark indices were volatile in trade before closing flat with a positive bias. Global cues were also positive while gold again jumped to record highs. Positive earnings reports are driving stocks and markets around the world, and the same trend is visible in the Indian markets too.

Liquidity is a major driver for the markets and it is chasing companies which are declaring stable earnings or outlook. Uncertainties remain while in the near term markets will look forward to the commentary and RBI actions at the end of the MPC meeting tomorrow," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

BSE energy, power, FMCG, utilities, IT and healthcare indices slipped up to 0.87 per cent, while metal, auto, basic materials, consumer durables and telecom rose as much as 4.05 per cent.

Broader BSE mid-cap and small-cap indices outperformed benchmarks, rising up to 0.85 per cent.

Meanwhile, India's services sector activity contracted for the fifth successive month in

restrictions stifled demand, a monthly survey said.

The IHS Markit India Services Business Activity Index stood at 34.2 in July, slightly higher than 33.7 in June. Global equities advanced amid encouraging corporate earnings, even as gold zoomed past the USD 2,000 per ounce mark on safe-haven buying.

Bourses in Shanghai, Hong Kong and Seoul settled with gains, while Tokyo closed lower. Stock exchanges in Europe were trading on a positive note in early deals. Global oil benchmark Brent crude jumped 2.09 per cent to USD 45.36 per barrel.

In the forex market, the rupee settled with gains of 10 paise at 74.94 against the US India's COVID-19 infection tally raced past 19 lakh on Wednesday, two days after it crossed the 18-lakh mark, with 52,509 people testing spositive in a day, according to the Union Health Ministry data.

The recoveries have mounted to 12,82,215, while the death toll has reached 39,795, the data showed.

Globally, coronavirus deaths have crossed 7 lakh.

Gold jumps ₹1,365; silver zooms ₹5,972

New Delhi: Gold prices jumped ₹1,365 to ₹56,181 per 10 gram in the national capital on Wednesday following a strong rally in global market, according to HDFC Securities. Silver also depicted a

strong trend as it zoomed ₹5,972 to ₹72,726 per kg from ₹66,754 per kg in the previous trade, it said. The precious vellow metal had closed at ₹ 54,816 per 10 gram in the previous trade. "Spot gold prices for 24 carat in Delhi rose by ₹1,365 with strong rally in international prices," HDFC Securities Senior Analyst (Commodities) Tapan Patel said. In the international market, gold was quoting with gains at USD 2,032 per ounce, while silver was trading at USD 26.40 per ounce. "Gold prices scaled new highs on weak dollar and concerns over economic growth amid rising virus cases," Patel said. Sriram Iyer, Senior Research Analyst at Reliance Securities, said, "Investors continue to remain buyers in the safe-haven gold as they expect that the metal will hold its value better than other assets as fallout from COVID-19 cripples the global econo-

Banks, NBFCs' asset quality risks remain elevated: ICRA

IANS NEW DELHI

sset quality risks for banks Aand NBFCs remain elevated despite the recent decline in loans under moratorium, ratings agency ICRA said on Wednesday.

Accordingly most of the banks as well as NBFCs have reported a decline in the loans under the phase 2 (June-August 2020) of the moratorium as compared to phase 1 (March-May 2020).

"This is due to the fact that the last 10-15 percentile of the borrowers who continue to opt for the moratorium will be more vulnerable to slippages," ICRA said in a statement.

"Although the gradual relaxations in restrictions imposed during the lockdown have helped in improving the collection efficiencies and thereby reduction in residual assets under moratorium, the pace of recovery seems lower than expected because of localised re-imposition of lockdowns by various states over the last two months."

The ratings agency has already cut the GDP forecast for the current fiscal to (-) 9.5 per cent contraction vis-a-vis an earlier estimate of a (-) 5 per cent contraction.

As per ICRA estimates, the median loans under moratorium would be around 25-30 per cent compared to a broad band of 10-50 per cent of total loan books with many of the borrowers being common under Phase 1 and 2.

"In general, the moratorium levels across banks are lower than those of NBFCs with private banks having even relatively lower levels," the statement said.

Early trends for July 2020 indicate a nominal improvement in collections over June 2020 levels but remain considerably lower than the pre-Covid levels of around 90-95 per cent for most asset class-

According to ICRA, given the commonality of borrowers under both phases, the asset quality risks are likely to continue to remain high for the lenders.

"However, unlike the previous asset quality cycle, where the stressed assets build-up was driven largely by corporate segment, this time, the stress is relatively higher for borrowers enterprises (MSMEs), agriculture and retail (especially selfemployed) segments," ICRA said.

"Therefore, the debate is now on the need for a further extension in moratorium or a one-time restructuring for the borrowers who continue to face challenges and remain under moratorium by end of August 2020."

Besides, ICRA said that while loan restructuring could postpone the recognition of stress in the lender book in the near-term, high share of such assets would be a credit nega-

"Also, the efficacy of this restructuring would be crucial as lenders would be faced with many requests coming from the smaller ticket size borrowers (in the retail and MSME space) vis-a-vis the large borrower restructuring done by them in the past," the statement said.Furthermore, ICRA said as the one-time restructuring window is made available, more borrowers may opt for it to ease out the near-term uncertainties, conserve liquidity and to smoothen their cash flow as the economy takes a

Railways changes freight policy to boost economy

New Delhi: With an aim to boost economic activities in the country during unlock 3.0, the Indian Railways is offering a slew of incentives, including 50 per cent concession in terminal access charges for covered wagons, to boost freight traffic.

A Railway Ministry spokesperson said that its new policy measures will further boost the incentives for all suppliers to transport their goods through railways. In the revised policy, the

Railways has worked on the alternate goods shed policy, under which terminal charge will not be levied on consignments booked from alternate goods sheds, instead of identified busy goods shed, the official said. The railways has already surpassed the freight loading figures in August so far, adding that 8.64 million tonnes of freight had been loaded compared with 8.37 million tonnes during the corresponding period last year. The official said that under the free-time relaxation for covered wagons, zonal railways are empowered to relax the free time up to double the normal free time and/or non-levy of demurrage/wharfage in case of covered stock up to Sep30. IANS

Lockdown measures subdue India's service sector output: PMI

IANS NEW DELHI

ockdown measures imple-Legislation Linearity Line outbreak continued to subdue Accordingly, the latest PMI

survey data showed that growth remained severely restricted by lockdown measures implemented to curb the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic in July.

"Further substantial reductions in both activity and inflows of new work were recorded, as ongoing lockdown restrictions stifled demand and forced companies to cease operations," IHS Markit said in a statement.

"Subsequently, firms made further cuts to staff numbers, with the rate of job shedding the most marked on record."

sAccording to the survey, the 12-month outlook for output was negative for a third successive month, with fears of a turn common among survey

Markit India Services Business

Subsequently, firms made further cuts to staff numbers, with the rate of

Activity Index registered a reading of 34.2 in July, and despite rising slightly from 33.7 in June, "signalled a further rapid reduction in service sector output". An index reading of above 50 indicates an overall increase in economic activity, or growth, and below 50, an overall decrease.

job shedding the most

marked on record

"Moreover, the latest reading was among the lowest recorded in nearly 15 years of data collection, surpassed only by the unprecedented falls in the previous three months," the statement said.

Furthermore, deceleration in manufacturing and services dipped the overall the Composite Output Index in July. Resultantly, the Composite Output Index fell to 37.2 in July, est figure was indicative of a quicker rate of contraction, Consequently, the IHS albeit not as severe as those in April and May."

Uber to hire 140 engineers in India for expanding tech, product teams

PTI BENGALURU/NEW DELHI

Ride-hailing company Uber on Wednesday said it is hiring 140 engineers for its tech teams in Bengaluru and Hyderabad to build products in various areas such as rider and driver growth, delivery and customer service.

The US-based company, which competes with Ola and others in the Indian market, has over 600 people in its Hyderabad and Bengaluru teams. In May, Uber had announced laying off about 600 employees in India - about a quarter of its staff in the country - as business had taken a major hit amid Covid-19 pandemic. The move had impacted driver and rider support operations, and other functions of its India operations "Uber is recruiting 140 more engineers for its tech teams in Bangalore and Hyderabad to build cutting-edge products in areas such as rider and driver customer service, digital pay ments, risk and compliance safety, and finance technology," a statement said.

Godrej Properties posts ₹20.23 cr loss in Apr-Jun due to Covid-19; raises ₹1000 cr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $R^{\text{ealty} \quad \text{firm} \quad \text{Godrej}}_{\text{Properties on Wednesday}}$ reported a consolidated net loss of ₹20.23 crore in the April-June quarter due to Covid-19 pandemic and announced raising ₹1,000 crore through an issue of debentures to improve liquidity. Despite the nationwide

lockdown during most part of the April-June quarter of 2020-21, Godrej Properties' sales bookings grew by 71 per cent to ₹1,531 crore in the quarter.

The company posted a loss during the June quarter as it was not able to recognise the revenue as construction activities were stalled due to lockdown, Godrei Properties Executive Chairman Piroisha Godrej told reporters through a virtual press conference.

Godrej Properties net profit stood at nearly ₹90 crore in the year-ago period. Total income declined to ₹195.66 crore in the first quarter of the current fiscal from ₹713.84 crore in the corresponding period of the previous year, according to a regulatory filing. During the last fiscal year, net profit stood at ₹267.21 crore on a total income of ₹2,914.59 crore. Godrej Properties is the real estate arm of the Godrej group.

On operational front, sales bookings increased to 2.51 million sq ft worth Rs 1,531 crore in the April-June quarter as against 1.35 million sq ft valuing ₹897 crore in the year ago period.The adoption of digital tool and attractive 10:90 payment plan offered to prospective customers helped the company achieve strong sales, Pirojsha said.

"Raised ₹1,000 crore in July through the allotment of unsecured, redeemable, nonconvertible debentures on a private placement basis for a term of three years at 7.5%, the lowest NCD rate achieved in the real estate industry," the company said in a statement. Pirojsha said the amount

will be utilised in ongoing projects and future growth opportunities. On market guidance for this fiscal year, he said it would be difficult to give any sales and collection guidance because on the pandemic. He said the company sees lot of opportunities in terms of acquisition of new projects as mar ket will consolidate due to liguidity crunch. Pirojsha said there will be pain in the sector in the short term but the company remains bullish in the medium to long term growth.

to 0.25 pc in AY 2018-19: FinMin New Delhi: Income tax returns The ministry, however, did

ITR scrutiny reduced

picked up for scrutiny has reduced to 0.25 per cent of the total ITRs filed in assessment year (AY) 2018-19, from 0.55 per cent in AY 2017-18, the Finance Ministry has said. "IT Dept is changing-

from just enforcement to facilitating better taxpayer services. In continuation of the same, the no. Of cases selected for scrutiny has reduced drastically over the years," the Ministry said in a tweet late on Tuesday. Official data released

showed the number of income tax scrutiny cases was 0.71 per cent in AY 2015-16, 0.40 per cent in AY 2016-17, 0.55 per cent in AY 2017-18 and 0.25 per cent in AY 2018-19.

not give the absolute number of cases picked up for scrutiny during these years. Štate-wise data also

showed while the scrutiny as percentage of income tax returns (ITRs) filed has come down, the number of returns filed during AY 2018-19 has gone up compared to AY 2017-18. Scrutiny cases in Odisha reduced to 0.12 per cent in AY 2018-19, from 0.37 per cent in the year before. Similarly, for Punjab, it came down from 0.40 per cent to 0.14 per cent in AŶ 2018-19.

As many as 10.29 lakh ITRs were filed in Odisha in AY 2018-19, against 8.31 lakh in AY 2017-18.

SCOPE and Center for Creative Leadership, USA launch study to develop Future Fluent Leaders in PSEs

Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE), apex body of Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs).

And The Center for Creative Leadership (CCL), USA, engaged in learning and development with focus on effective leadership development, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to con-

duct a study on 'Developing Future Fluent Leaders in PSEs. The MoU was signed between Mr Atul Sobti,

Director General SCOPE and

New Delhi: Standing Mr. Muniinder Anand, MD-India & South Asia, CCL.

The MoU aims at conducting a study on assessing the prevailing leadership gaps and curating a learning module on developing effective and efficient leaders in the Indian Public Sector.

The study shall adopt a qualitative and quantitative research methodologybased on responses and experiences of the present leadership which would be further analyzed to identify relevant skills, mind sets, and experiences for futurefluent PSE leader in India.

GODHAN NYAY YOJANA —

CM Baghel to transfer payment of cowdung procurement into accounts of beneficiaries

Raipur: Nearly 46 thousand 964 beneficiaries to receive ₹1.65 crore as payment

Mr. Baghel to pay tribute to Shaheed Mahendra Karma on the occasion of his birth anniversary.

Tendupatta Sangrahak

Samajik Suraksha Yojana to be launched in the memory of Shaheed Mahendra Karma Nearly 12 lakh 50 thousand

tendupatta labourer families in the State to be benefitted Chief Minister to interact

with cowdung sellers via video



conferencing Presentation on Ram Van

Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel will inaugurate the process of payment against cowdung procurement to the bank accounts of beneficiaries under State Government's

Godhan Nyay Yojana, in a

programme to be organized at

his Raipur based residence

office on August 5.

Mr. Bahel will also inaugurate Shaheed Mahendra Karma Tendupatta Sangrahak Samajik Suraksha Yojana on this occasion.

RO NO. 82104

HINDUSTHAN URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE LIMITED CIN: L31300DL1959PLC003141 Regd. office: 7th Floor, Kanchenjunga Building,

18, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi-110001, Phone no.: +91-11-23310001-05 Email: investors@hindusthan.co.in, website: www.hindusthanurban.com NOTICE OF SIXTIETH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND FOR UPADATION OF E-MAIL ADDRESSES AND BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS Notice is hereby given that the Sixtieth Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Compan

scheduled to be held on Friday, September 18, 2020 at 2:00 P.M. through Video

Conferencing ("VC")/Other Audio Visual Means("OAVM") to transact the business as se

out in the Notice of AGM which is being circulated for convening the AGM.

In view of continuing Covid-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs ("MCA") vide its Circular Nos. 14/2020, 17/2020 and 20/2020 dated April 08, 2020, April 13, 2020 and May 05, 2020 respectively ("MCA Circulars") permitted to hold Annual General Meeting (AGM) through Video Conferencing ("VC")/ Other Audio Visual Means ("OAVM") facility, without the physical presence of the Members. Accordingly, in compliance with the MCA Circulars and relevant provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and rules framed thereunder. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements Regulations, 2015 read with Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD1/CIR/P/2020/79 dated May 12, 2020 issued by the SEBI, the AGM of the members of the company will be held throug VC/OAVM.

In Compliance with the above mentioned Circulars, the Notice of Sixtieth AGM and Annua Report for the Financial Year 2019-20 will be sent electronically by the Company to those Members who have registered their email IDs with the Company/Depository Participant(s ("Depository") and/or Skyline Financial Services Limited ("RTA"). The Notice of AGM and Annual Report will also be available at the website of the Compan www.hindusthanurban.com and at BSE Limited www.bseindia.com.

Detailed instructions for attending the AGM and casting votes through Remote e-voting and e-voting at the AGM is being provided in the Notice of Sixtieth AGM. Further, Member of the Company who have not registered their e-mail addresses can also attend the AGM and vote by following the procedure being provided in the Notice of AGM.

The Members of the Company who have not registered their email address and bar details can register the same as per the following procedure:

(a) Members holding shares in physical form may get their email ids registered b submitting necessary details like Folio No., Name of shareholder along with scanned cop of valid share certificate (front and back both), PAN (self-attested scanned copy), AADHAF (self-attested scanned copy), email id and mobile number by e-mail to company a investors@hindusthan.co.in/RTA email id at info@skylinerta.com. The facility for registration of bank details for the members holding shares in physical form are available a www.hindusthanurban.comor by submitting a request letter containing the details like Folio No., Name and Address of the Shareholder, particulars of the bank account (Bank name Branch address, Bank account no, IFSC Code, MICR no) and send it to the RTA of the Company along with the self-attested copy of PAN and cancelled cheque leaf, so as to

b. Members holding shares in dematerialized form may also temporarily get their e-mail id registered by providing the Demat account details (CDSL-16 digits beneficiary ID or NSDL 16 digit DPID + CLID), Name, client master or copy of Consolidated Account statemen PAN (self-attested scanned), AADHAR (self-attested scanned copy) to company a investors@hindusthan.co.in /RTA email id at info@skylinerta.com. It is clarified that for permanent registration of email address, the Members are requested to register the same with their respective Depository Participant. Members holding shares in dematerialize form, are required to update the bank account particulars with their respective Depositor

The login details for casting the votes through e-voting would be provided to the Member (holding shares in physical form or dematerialised form) at their e-mail addresses registered for this purpose For Hindusthan Urban Infrastructure Limited

Date: 05.08.2020

Place: New Delhi

M.L Birmiwala Sr. V.P Finance & Secretary

PARADIP PORT TRUST

e-TCN No. EM/IOHP-28/2020 Name of the work "Design, Manufacture, Supply, Erection & Commissioning of 3200 TPH capacity Shiploader at IOB". Estimated cost: Rs.27,45,28,646/-. Last date and time of submission of bid: dt 25.08.2020 up to 18:00 Hrs. Refer our website for details https:// eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app

PPT/PR/157/20-21 Date 04.08.2020 **Executive Engineer** Iron Ore Handling Plant

Notice is hereby given to the public that Mr. Rakesh Kumar Malihotra, is the owner of First Floor of Property No. P-48, South Extension, Part-II, New Delhi, purchased from Mr. Anil Kumar Sood, Mr. Sunil Sud, Mrs. Mridula Sud & Mr. Gaurav Sood, vide sale deed dated 11.09.2018 original sale dated 23.05.1958 in favour of Mr. V.P. Sud was lost vide FIR LR No. 1259270/2018 dated 07.05.2018 all persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out. was lost vide FIR LR No. 1259270/2018 dated 07.05.2018 all persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of said missing document. If anyone has already carried out or being carried out or found the original document, kindly inform the undersigned in writing with documentary proof on the below mentioned address within 14 days of the present, known our client, Mr. Kartik Seth & Mrs. Mepha Seth want to purchase First Floor by taking a loan from ICICI Bank if anyone has any objection for sale or mortgage of the said floor or its ownership / title kindly inform the undersigned in writing with documents kindly inform the below mentioned address within 14 days of the present. Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants) Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants nd Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Moti Nagar, N.Delhi-15

WESTERN RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION OF OFFICER'S

REST HOUSE AT NAIR CAMPUS Dy.Chief Engineer (Construction)II Western Railway, Pratapnagar Vadodra - 390004, invites e-tender as per the details given below : E-Tender No. : Dy.CE/C/II/BRC/NRTI/05 Name of the work: "Construction o Officer's Rest House at NAIR Campus in connection with world class facilities for Railway Staff College, Pratapnaga Vadodara". Approximate cost work

Rs 190.85 Lakhs. Availability of online Tender for bidding : From 08.08.2020 at 11.00 Hrs. To 28.08.2020 up to 15.00 Hrs. Date of opening & time: 28.08.2020 up to 15.30 Hrs. Regarding detailed notice containing cost of tender documen Non refundable), EMD, eligibility criteria, Similar Nature of work detailed tender conditions, please visit www.ireps.gov.in.

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GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE 40UNT EMD NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUT NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL SR. No. CLOSING DATE NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER (APPROX.) IN CORP./AUTH (TIME) RUPEES AUGMENTATION OF 132KV S/STN KIRMACH FROM 20/25 MVA Rs 3280.00 132/33KV TO 40/50 MVA , 132/33KV POWER T/F, CREATION OF 1 NO. 132KV BAY AT BAY B-7 ALONGWITH ALLID EQUIPMENT for General, Rs.1640.00 for 0172-2583789 CLOSING DATE HVPNL, KARNAL https://www.hvpn.org.in AND CREATION OF 1 NO. 33KV BAY D-7 ALONGWITH ALLID EQUIPMENT AT 132KV S/STN KIRMACH. (SITE SURFACING, SUPPLY AND SPREADING OF CRUSHED BAJRI) (CIVIL WORKS) HARYANA LIVESTOCH EMD 05.08.2020 http://pashudhanharyana.go 9416172558 LIQUID NITROGEN CONTAINERS FOR VETERINARY USE 1.60 LACS 0172-2583789 HVPNL, PANCHKULA PROCUREMENT OF 200 KVAR CAPACITOR CELL (7.3KV) https://www.hvpn.org.in 60000/-Rs 3960.00 Pro@hvpn.org.ir CONSTRUCTING ADDITIONAL 1 NO 10/16 MVA 132/33 KV T/I for General, Rs.1980.00 for 0172-2583789 HVPNL, KARNAL https://www.hvpn.org.in 132 KV S/STN. BHADSON(CIVIL WORKS). (SURFACE DRESSING, SUPPLY&SPREADING OF CRUSHED BAJRI)
EMPANELMENT OF COMPANIES FOR DEVELOPMENT AND
SUPPORT FOR APPLICATION DEVELOPMENT/ NETWORKING,
SECURITY/ MOBILE DEVELOPMENT/ WEB DEVELOPMENT/ Society 04.08.2020 24.08.2020 0172-2560442 EMD 11 LACS HARTRON www.hartron.org.in rajendarhartron@gmail.com SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT/ SOFTWARE DESIGN/ QUALITY ASSURANCE/ WEB DESIGN ETC + 1 OTHER WORK

SELECTION OF SYSTEM PARTNER FOR STUDY, CUSTOMIZATION,
IMPLEMENTATION, OPERATION & MAINTENANCE OF ENTERPRISE 0172-2560442 HARTRON https://etenders.hry.nic.in RESOURCE PLANNING (ERP) SOLUTION OPENING CLOSING DATE 19.08.2020 CLOSING DATE CONST. OF VARIOUS STREET IN DAHIYA COLONY WARD NO. 25 M.C SONIPAT. MC SONIPAT 50.13 LACS MUNICIPAL COUNCIL CONST. OF RAILWAY PARK IN FRONT OF VIKASH NAGAR EMD 9350496582 SITUATED AT M. C. BAHADURGARH (NO. B) + 4 OTHER WORK: SPECIAL REPAIR OF VARIOUS LINK ROADS IN AMBALA CITY 5.75 LACS ETENDERS.HRY.NIC.IN H.S.A.M. BOARD, 05.08.2020 0171-2530675 CONSTITUENCY IN DISTT. AMBALA UNDER WORK PLAN 2018-19 www.hsamb.org.in 3.02 LACS (GROUP NO.2) (ROAD ID - 4288, 4299, 4308, 4314, 4316) + 1 05.08.2020 19.08.2020 EMD 3 LACS 10 SELECTION OF CONTRACTOR FOR REMEDIATION AND 9812139699 https://etenders.hry.nic.in COMMITTEE ASSANDE RECLAMATION OF EXISTING DUMPSITE AT ASSANDH.
CONST.OF ROAD FROM ANCHRA KHURD TO PATHRI ROAD + 1 CLOSING DATE 01681-252003 H.S.A.M.BOARD,JIND. http://etenders.hry.gov.in 241.49 LACS OTHER WORK
BIO-REMEDIATION OF THE LEGACY WASTE OF THE DUMP SITES 31.08.2020 CLOSING DATE etenders.gov.in 8222002777 EMD 12 MC BERI http://etenders.hry.nic.in AT MC BERI.

SPECIAL REPAIR OF VARIOUS ROADS (7 NO.) UNDER WORK
PLAN 2020-21 IN THE NOTIFIED AREA OF MC PANCHKULA AND
RAIPUR RANI IN CONSTITUENCY KALKA, DISTT. PANCHKULA 83900/ 20.08.2020 secy.mc.beri@gmail.cor CLOSING DATE 0172-2971280 http://etenders.hry.nic.in (GROUP-I). + 2 OTHER WORK

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

Trend

Sonakshi flaunts her curls

Actor SONAKSHI SINHA may have left Twitter after all the trolling but she sure seems to be winning over some social media buffs on Instagram.

In her latest post, she flaunts frizzy hair and her matching sultry look.

"Curly fries," she captioned the snapshot.

Sonakshi

recently joined Special IGP of Maharashtra Pratap Dighavkar and a team of cyber experts, on an initiative to end cyber bullying on



social media.

'You are my best(est) friend, my eternal laughter, my partner in crime, my happiness,

my guide, my enthusiasm, my excitement, my light, my life, and my everything. Wishing you a very Happy Birthday **Baiko. Growing young** with you is a blessing. **Happy Birthday Genelia.** Love you forever and always.'

-Ritesh Deshmukh

Singer SUNIDHI **CHAUHAN** recently sang Maskhari, a lighthearted song in Dil Bechara, the last film of late actor Sushant



"*Maskhari* is a fun song with so many beautiful and interesting parts in it. After all, it is A R Rahman sir (who has composed it) and it is always special for me to sing for him. Amitabh Bhattacharya has penned it incredibly and added so much more to the uplifting vibe of the song. Peedahaari balm *maskhari* is my favourite line in the song," said Sunidhi, who has sung the song along with singer Hriday Gattani.

Nick-Priyanka's coping strategy

Actors NICK JONAS and PRIYANKA CHOPRA are being extra cautious during the COVID pandemic.

Priyanka opened up on how the couple is coping during the global health crisis.

"I'm asthmatic and my husband's type 1 diabetic, so we have to be even more careful. But there have been a lot of Zoom calls and

Zoom brunches. We have a really large friends and family group, had a lot of birthily that have haprecently, so we've done a few socially distanced lunches,'

and I've days in my fam-

changed your perception towards the world?

theatre Film actors and directors remember

theatre director EBRAHIM ALKAZI's immense contribution to the performance arts and how he became an institution. By TEAM VIVA

Brahim Alkazi was like the Banyan tree of theatre. His branches (students) stood and spoke like him but he was the one who upheld everyone," said singer-actor Ila Arun while talking about the late theatre director. Alkazi, who was considered the father of the modern Indian theatre, was 94

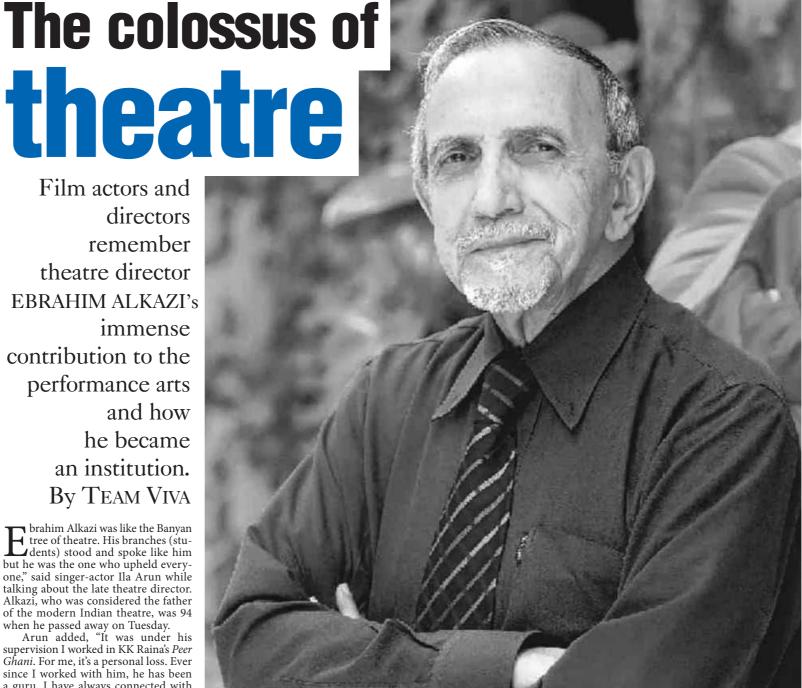
when he passed away on Tuesday.

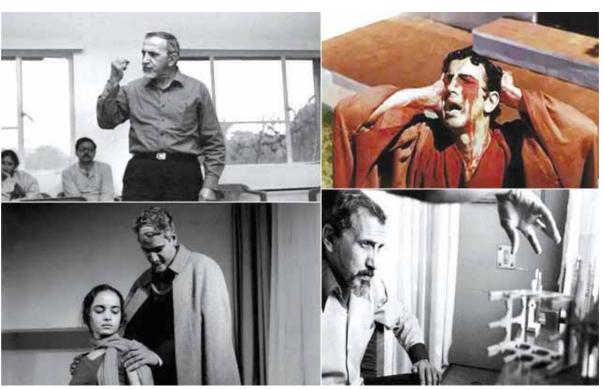
Arun added, "It was under his supervision I worked in KK Raina's *Peer Ghani*. For me, it's a personal loss. Ever since I worked with him, he has been agreed to be a green I have always connected with a guru. I have always connected with him. His teachings have stayed with me. The one thing about him is that no theatre connoisseur or student can learn without his examples. His experiences will be ever-important. He changed the face of Indian theatre and even today, actors and directors continue to follow his ideas. Be it stage craft, direction, expressions or body language, he has no comparison. It's because of him we have people like Anupam Kher, late Virendra Razdan, Naseeruddin Shah, Ratan Thiyam (Indian playwright) and many more. Aise teacher ab kabhi nahi milenge. It's certainly the end of an era."

Actor-filmmaker Kamal Haasan tweeted, "A beacon of Indian theatre art and mentor of many great actors, Mr Ebrahim Alkazi will be remembered for many generations. His love for theatre and the art is unmatched. My deepest condolences to the family and the NSD (National School of Drama) family."

Actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui tweet-"The true architect of the Modern Indian Theatre. The Doyen who possessed the extreme knowledge in all the aspects of art. The magician who nuryour brightest spark from the heaven

keeps us enlightening."
Actor Anupam Kher called Alkazi





his "acting guru," and wrote, "My acting Guru Ebrahim Alkazi Saab passed away. The tallest man ever in our lives. He taught us not only about theatre, acting or dramas but also about life. He made us discover ourselves. He was our reference point for great acting. He will be missed. Om Shanti!!"

Director Anubhav Sinha, who, even though "never met him or crossed paths," expressed sorrow and said, "I know so many artistes who are his devotees. Have seldom known any artistes that everyone barring none will have

that everyone barring none will have such wonderful things to say about him. What a loss for so many of my friends and also for the art of theatre."

Interdisciplinary actor and filmmaker Sujoy Prosad Chatterjee said, "Ebrahim Alkazi was a true interdisciplinary artist. The visual grandeur in his theatre his disintegration of themes and theatre, his disintegration of themes and texts, his acumen of contemporary stagecraft are matchless. We have lost someone who stands for how theatre is today. A modern mind and a sensitive

Alkazi was an avid art connoisseur and collector who founded the Art Heritage Gallery in New Delhi. He had staged more than 50 plays during his distinguished career and won the BBC

Broadcasting Award in 1950. Actor Kabir Bedi tweeted, "Mourning the passing of Ebrahim Alkazi, iconic giant of modern Indian theatre. I knew him from when he was the Director of the National School of Drama in Delhi in the1960s. He gave India a great theatre and created a new generation of actors and directors."

Filmmaker Ranjan Ghosh, whose film, Ahaa Re, was recently selected and screened at the 20th edition (virtual) of New York Indian Film Festival, 2020, said, "Ebrahim Alkazi is a name that we revere not only in theatre but also in cinema. As the director of NSD for 15 years, he had taught the likes of Om Puri, Naseeruddin Shah, Rohini Hattangadi, Surekha Sikri, Pankaj Kapoor and others. Imagine his contribution to the Indian cinemal He is the bution to the Indian cinema! He is the real father of modern Indian theatre. Alkazi's theatre productions reflected the ambitions of an India then while also reaffirming its cultural identity. His stories originated in Indian history and mythology but were presented to international audiences too. Probably, his training at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London could be behind this. He was a proponent of what we call the 'intimate theatre,' and wasn't fond of massive audiences. Cases in point are Ashadh Ka Ek Din (Mohan Rakesh), Waiting for Godot and Oedipus Rex. At the same time, he had grandly presented Andha Yug (Dharamvir Bharti), and Tughlaq (Girish Karnad). He had also staged several Greek tragedies and also Shakespeare's plays. He was indeed a colossus, a legend, an institution that strode like a lion on the stage of Indian theatre. He had led a worthy life, one that has enriched many.

Theatre director, actor and founder of Akshara Theatre, Jalabala Vaidya, said, "Ebrahim Alkazi was a legend in the world of Indian theatre. He was one of a kind."

Actor Rajit Kapur, a former graduate of NSD, said, "I never interacted with him but only knew the stories of was a theatre guru to many great actors of our time. It's a huge loss for the the-

In the middle of Mongolia

Through the series, The Misadventures of ROMESH RANGANATHAN, the presenter and comedian explains why common stereotypes against African countries did not matter to him. By TEAM VIVA

n today's COVID-hit world, our travel bags have barely seen any light since the past few months. However, for us to reminisce about how travelling felt like, comedian Romesh Ranganathan is travelling to some of the world's most unlikely holiday destinations. In his series, Misadventures of Romesh Ranganathan, he's seen heading to African countries like Mongolia, Zimbabwe, Colombia and Bosnia to find out whether there's more to these places than negative headlines and if they might in fact turn out to be some new and perfect holiday spots.

There's a problem, however. Romesh can barely negotiate a travel plug, let alone a hostile foreign situation — so he's going to need a local host to help him out. The series documents his encounters of extraordinary characters, bizarre subcultures and surprising shared passions. If he could only find a vegan meal, he might learn to love this life of adventure.

Excerpts:

☐ How did your journey as a traveller begin and how has it

Well, I came into travelling by accident, a few years ago. I did a Wednesday show for the BBC, which was based in Sri Lanka, a place my family originates from. After that, I ended up doing more and more such

works — delving deep into a new culture and place. I was not very much of a traveller when I started this whole experience. Now I have been lucky enough to visit so many different countries and probably the biggest thing which has happened to me is that I have become a lot more open to experiencing dif-ferent countries and of course, three children.

I would love to see them travelling as well as I never realised how valuable that was unless I started it myself. I see travelling as a privilege. It teaches you to appreciate the differences between people and societies.

scorching heat is a horror. We ☐ Where was your best miswent to Mongolia, the most adventure? vastly populated country in

Probably, in Ethiopia. I fell in love with that country food, people, and its scenic beauty. Everything about it was wonderful. It has got some amazing natural beauty. If you want to see it, then probably you could backpack around Ethiopia for some time but at the same time, if you want luxury, you could stay at hotels. It is a place I would go back to.

□ What were the challenges

optic. And filming in the

while shooting? There were a lot of environmental challenges like filming in very hot conditions to filming in very cold weather in the

really in the middle of nowhere.

I remember spending a night with some nomads. We were driving across the place and got completely lost. There were no landmarks or villages around us to look for directions. That was quite frightening. We did not know which side we were coming from or going to. There, we were all just walking around with the risk of getting ourselves stranded or being in an unusual situation and much more.

□ What has been the most amusing experience in your travel journey?

I would say in Mongolia. When I was there, we went to visit a wrestling camp which is an important and the biggest part of the Mongolian culture. They see wrestling as a part of the process of becoming a man. My co-host took me to a wrestling training camp, and I got to wrestle. To be honest, I found it quite painful but was a memorable experience.

☐ What is the secret behind the effortless blend of travel and comedy?

It is the matter of reacting to things genuinely. We often do certain things and if I find them funny, I react accordingly. It is very much led by the experiences we are having. It is about reflex actions to what is

going on around you and from

the world, and when you are in the middle of Mongolia, you are truth is we do things very carefully about how to walk that line about serious travel reflections and those on culture and comedy. That was the hardest part in the whole show.

☐ How have you observed the stereotypes in different places while travelling?

I think people have images of different places in their minds, which might not necessarily be true. For instance, there are many images of African countries in various places as their people starving. But that is not my experience of those countries. I went to Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, which I think are some magical places. I do feel that this show examined a lot of those stereotypes against South Africa.

□ Would you like to share some travel tips for the Indian audience?

Speaking as a vegan, taking some ready-to-eat snacks is quite helpful. They also at times remind you of home at a place unknown to you. I personally do that a lot! The other thing is about attitude because when you visit new places, the top travel tip is to go as open-minded as possible. Also, be ready for surprises because uncertainty is the first

thing that comes with travelling. (The series, which started airing on August 4, airs last on August 7 at 10 pm on Sony BBC



Hunters are back

 $T^{
m he}$ second season of the Amazon Original series *Hunters*, the hit conspiracy thriller created by David Weil and executive produced by Jordan Peele, is all set to stream exclusively on the OTT platform. The first season of the series starring Al Pacino, Logan Lerman and Jerrika Hinton premiered February 21.

I am grateful to Jen and the Amazon family for their extraordinary support for the series," said Weil. He added, "Alongside our incredible cast, crew, writers and producers, I am eager to share the next chapter of the *Hunters* saga with the world."

"With the series, Weil's vision and imagination powered a thrilling, twisty, actionpacked first season that engaged customers around the world. We are thrilled that David, Jordan and the *Hunters* will be back with us for more," said Jennifer Salke, Head of Amazon Studios.

The debut season of the series followed a diverse band of Nazi hunters living in 1977 New York City. The hunters, as they're known, have discovered that hundreds of high-ranking Nazi officials are living among us and conspiring to create a Fourth Reich in

the United States. The series also stars Josh Radnor, Kate Mulvany, Tiffany Boone, Greg Austin, Louis Ozawa, Carol Kane, Saul Rubinek, Dylan Baker and Lena Olin.

DUSHYANT A NEW VOICE OF HARYANA

has achieved a great feat in just seven years of his political career. Many may attribute it to his lineage, some may call it sheer luck but he has proved them all wrong

by fighting against all odds.
India has witnessed a plethora of political heirs in Parliament but very few could make their mark. Dushyant entered the Parliament after defeating a political dark horse and a two-term serving MP Kuldeep Bishnoi, son of Congress stalwart Bhajan Lal. At 25, he made a record of becoming the youngest MP. During his tenure as Hisar's MP, he stunned fellow members by reporting 84 per cent attendance and an active participation in 228 debates within the House. The two facts that prove his seriousness about raising people's voices he raised more than 630 questions in the House whereas other leaders of the state collectively could not ask even 250 questions; he alone introduced 20 private member bills whereas other MPs of the state could only move three. These figures speak a lot about his deep concern on the rooted issues pertaining to Haryana.

In December 2017, the Central Government took a decision to amend an act with respect to the treatment of tractor as a commercial vehicle and not an agricultural vehicle. This meant that farmers would have to pay toll tax at every toll booth across India. There was no voice of protest represented farmers' community or whose stand in politics is based on farmers' voting. To protest against tweaking of rules relating to the Motor Vehicles Act, Dushyant decided to ride a tractor to the Parliament. His efforts caught the eve of the media nationwide which led to a major uproar in the Parliament. Eventually, the Central Government was forced to withdraw this amendment.

The year 2018 saw a simmering 'power struggle in Indian National Lok Dal which led to the expulsion of Ajay Chautala's sons Dushyant Chautala and Digvijay Chautala from the Haryanabased party. With just a year left for Haryana's Assembly elections, this was a political turmoil, which saw a split of Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) and an emergence of a new political outfit -Jannayak Janta Party (JJP), founded by Dushyant. With a 10-month timeline to the Assembly elections, many political pundits termed it as a childish move. Also, there was speculation that it was an aspirational war for the CM candidate. But those who knew him closely were aware that he has joined to change the old political style which had continually annoyed many in the party. Dushyant was a 'mood of Haryana, he was a people's man and he wanted to discard sycophants within the party. There were issues pertaining to assertion and dominance of a



itics with a new symbol and a

new name. Many termed JJP as

'group of boys', 'students wing'

but Dushyant went ahead qui-

etly and worked day and night

on the ground. He even left his

house and stayed in villages at

his party workers' houses,

played cricket with local boys

and focussed on social media

outreach through a dedicated

team. Even while travelling in

a car, he conducted 'Facebook

live sessions' to interact with

the youth of Haryana. When

he visits villages, he is aware of

each booth level worker of his

party, he calls them by their

names, eats with them, hears

them and understands the

ground issues. This strategy

senior leader, which were disliked by party workers, the media and even the bureaucracy. This became more evident after a large rally at Gohana, where party workers demanded his name to be announced as a candidate for CM.

What surprised many is that he took a risk when he affirmed to form his own political outfit, rather than getting into a legal battle with his uncle Abhay Chautala over holding the reins of INLD. He did not contest for securing a party symbol like Samajwadi Party's Akhilesh Yadav, who had a strong rift with his uncle over "Jhanda-Danda" of party. JJP threw its hat in Haryana's pol-

alty towards him. This trait of knowing booth level workers' names is inherited from his grandfather Om Prakash Chautala, a five term Haryana

JJP decided to go alone in Haryana's Assembly elections. While leaders of other parties such as INLD, AAP, BSP were cobbling pre-election gathbandhans in party offices, Dushyant was doing five political rallies in a day covering around 500 km per day. His day started from 7 am and ended by 12 midnight. Dushyant decided to contest in one of the difficult constituencies, Uchana Kalan, held by the then BJP MLA Prem Lata, wife of former Union Minister and Haryana strongman Birender Singh.

The election result on October 24, 2019 stunned every political pundit as JJP won with ten seats and emerged in the kingmaker's role. The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party ended up winning only 40 seats in the 90-member Assembly. BJP sought the support of Dushyant's JJP to be able to form a stable govern-

ment in power. Some quick moves and a meeting with Union Home Minister and BJP president Amit Shah sealed the deal and the BJP-JJP coalition was formed with a respectable power sharing formula. Dushyant's hard bargaining got him the Deputy CM's post along with significant ministries. The top leadership of

his impeccable performance within a short span of 10 months. He settled the debate on the legacy of former deputy Prime Minister and Jat stalwart Devi Lal. At 31, he stands foremost among Jat leaders of

After resuming office, his main focus was to work on pre poll manifesto promises made by him. Among many one of the important and tough promise to fulfill was the reservation for youth of Haryana in employment opportunities. This was challenging as being industries minister he had to balance on industrial investment and jobs for locals. On July 9, 2020, The Haryana State Employment Local Candidates Ordinance, 2020 and 75 per cent reservation became a reality after passing through Haryana's Cabinet. This will soon be tabled in the assem-

Since allotment of his official residence and party office in Chandigarh, each day is dedicated to a Janta Darbar, where people from across the state come and meet him for their concerns and he patiently listens to them to resolve their issues.

Those who know Indian politics know that he is going to play a long innings and it is

just the beginning.
(The author, Prateek Som, is the practising Advocate in Supreme Court of India and National Spokesperson of Jannayak Janta Party.)

SHORT





A total of 1,83,059 candidates from 28 states, eight union territories and twelve countries (Middle East, Indonesia, Nepal, Nigeria, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, UK and Singapore), have applied for Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) BTech. Admissions 2020. The chancellor of VIT, Dr G Viswanathan said that admissions would be only on merit, based on the normalised PCM/ PCB marks, JEE/ SAT scores obtained by the candidates. These ranks are for admission to the 36 BTech and BDes programmes offered by



The Hapur Pilkhua Development Authority (HPDA) will construct two hundred sixty-six EWS buildings under the Prime Minister's Housing Scheme. Archana Verma, newly appointed vice-president of HPDA, inspected the construction site of PM Awas Yojana, Hindalpur and Textile Centre schemes, Pilkhuwa. In addition, she reviewed various development plans of the authority and the ongoing enforcement work. "Under this scheme, the unauthorised constructors scheme is not availed. After the completion of the scheme, strict action will be ensured against them. There will be no commitment of any kind in the development of Hapur," she said.

Manoj Joshi, General Manager, Metro Railway held a high level meeting with senior metro officers at Metro Rail Bhavan on Tuesday to review the safety, security and other important augmentation activities currently going on in Metro Railway. During the meeting, he instructed all officials to



complete passenger amenities augmentation works within the deadline. He also took stock of the condition of rolling stock and other important items and advised to carry on tunnels and viaduct inspection works according to the schedule. Senior officers of the department were present in the meeting.



Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW), a production unit of Indian Railways turned out 31 electric locos in July. It cumulative stands for 62 locos of FY 2020-21. despite COVID-19 related restrictions and supply chain constraints. With active commitment and support of staff, this has given impetus to the production line. It is expected that loco production will further gain



NTPC group's monthly power generation rose by 13.3 percent to 26.73 BUs in the month of July compared to 23.59 BUs June. Its coal stations registered a growth of 5.6 percent on a YoY basis with generation of 21.89 BU compared to 20.74 BU in July'19. NTPC Korba (2600 MW) in Chhattisgarh achieved over 100 percent PLF during the month of July. With a total installed capacity of 62910 MW, the group has 70 power stations.

Ayodhya station set for a makeover

Lord Ram's birthplace, the holy land faith and devotion — Ayodhya has been the focal point of spirituality since ages. It attracts innumerable devotees from all over the world which in turn increases the importance of its railway station. Railways is operating many trains

in Ayodhya, fulfilling its important role and responsibilities in convenient movement of passengers. It will provide high class infrastructural facilities, passenger amenities, cleanliness and various other facilities with high quality standards in the city's railway station. It is noteworthy that the construction work of a well-equipped building with the latest and modern passenger facilities of Ayodhya station



is in progress. For this building an approval of ₹80 crore were sanctioned in the financial year 2017-18, which has been increased to ₹104.77 crore

The station building is being constructed by the RITES, an enterprises of railways. The construction of this building will be in two phases, in the first one the development work will be in the current circulating and the holding area and platform numbers one, two and three. In the second phase, the construction of the new station building and other facilities will be taken into account. These facilities include renovation of the internal and external premises to expand the number of ticket counters,

tories. Other desired facilities include an additional foot over bridge, food plaza, shops, additional toilets. Apart from this, the tourist center and taxi booth will be added facilities. All these works are reviewed from time to time by the railways and in due course instructions are also passed to complete the work with high quality.

waiting rooms, restrooms and dormi-

Rajiv Chaudhry, General Manager, Northern & North Central Railways informed that in view of the importance of this city, the railways is modernising the Ayodhya railway station. Constant efforts are being made to provide modern facilities equipped with high standards to the visiting devotees and tourists.

Fighting the war against Corona

oronavirus is a global crisis and the biggest challenge which the world is facing today. From the world's most sophisticated healthcare systems to the world's largest spending healthcare system, every country is affected by the pandemic and still struggling to control it. The world is yet to come up with any targeted cure for it. In the absence of a vaccine, plasma therapy is being looked upon as a potential treatment. Moving ahead in the direction of plasma therapy, Northern Railway

Central Hospital, New Delhi, performed the first COVID Convalescent Plasma donation. The donor was a COVID warrior, post graduate medical

Chaudhry, Raiiv General Manager, Northern and North Central Railways, informed that the plasma availability at Northern Railway Central Hospital (NRCH) will definitely help in treating the critical COVID railway beneficiaries and will make the railways self reliant in plasma treatment.

A step forward in stemming the virus



s the entire world awaits Athe arrival of a vaccine to neutralise the COVID-19, SRM Medical College Hospital and Research Centre at Kattankulathur has joined a group of medical institutions with a basket of research projects led by its clinical trials of 'Covaxin', a 'promising vaccine candidate. The project is supported by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and developed by Bharat Biotech International Ltd (BBIL), Hyderabad in collaboration with National Institute

of Virology (NIV), Pune. SRM Medical College makes it one of the few private

universities in the country with a well developed laboratory and researchers. "These have helped catapult it to the league of 12 hospitals now doing these vital clinical trials as part of a national mission," said professor Lt Col S Ravikumar, Pro Vice Chancellor, Medical and Health Sciences, SRM Institute of Science and

Technology.

The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has accorded permission for Phase-I and Phase-II clinical trials of Covaxin. Those who have received the vaccine are doing well till date and they

would be given one more shot in the next couple of weeks. In a month from now, the results of the Phase-I trials should be available after complete clinical evaluation, coordinated by BBIL. The Phase-I trial country-wide involved 375 subjects in all as approved by the DCGI.

By the next week, "We hope to begin the Phase-II trials in the age group of 12-65 years," said Dr Melvin George. Hundred volunteers are needed for Phase-II trails. They would be checked for their general health status and screened for COVID-19 before being taken in.

STOP THE **SPREAD** OF COVID

t has been observed recently that I few cases of COVID-19 have come up in Chittaranjan township. As on date there are five positive patients of COVID admitted in the COVID ward of KG hospital. Nine patients were admitted recently with mild fever and some respiratory problems and their swab test was done. Five were found to be positive and rest four were discharged. The positive cases are increasing day by day in Chittaranjan & our Dankuni unit which is serious.

It is requested to Chittaranjan's railway employees, their families and the businessmen to maintain social distancing. While moving out, it is advised wear a mask and use hand sanitiser.

To further clip the spread of the virus in the city, the administration is taking precautions. The entry and exit gates of the township and the entry to the offices will be restricted from now onwards. Advisory has been issued to office staff and officers to refrain from meeting unknown persons and other guests from other states so that we can stop the spread of the virus.

Hardeep Singh Puri releases ARHCs knowledge pack

Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) released a ARHCs Knowledge Pack (AKP) via a video conformed Durge Shoelor video conference. Durga Shanker Mishra, Secretary, MoHUA presided over the function which was attended by senior officers of State Governments/UTs and representatives of NAREDCO, CREDAI, FICCI, CII and ASSOCHAM connected through webinar. COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in massive reverse migration of workers/urban poor in the country. In line with the Prime Minister's clarion call of Atmanirbhar Bharat, Union Cabinet on July 8 approved Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHCs) as a sub scheme under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) to provide ease of living to urban migrants/poor.

ARHCs will be implemented

through two models:

Model-1: Utilising existing government funded vacant houses to convert into ARHCs through Public Private Partnership or by public agencies for a period of 25



The scheme provides an opportunity for all States/UTs to convert their existing vacant houses constructed under various

Central/ State Government schemes into ARHCs.

A model RFP has been shared with all States for customisation and issuance by them to select a

concessionaire

Model-2: Construction, operation and maintenance of ARHCs by public/private entities on their

own on available vacant land for a period of 25 years.

A large portion of available vacant land is lying unutilised with various industries, trade associations, manufacturing companies, educational/health institutions, development authorities, housing boards, Central/State Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and other such entities. By providing with appropriate policy support, enabling suitable provisions and incentives, these lands can be utilised effectively for developing affordable housing facilities for migrants/poor.

Further, MoHUA will issue Expression of Interest (EoI) for shortlisting of entities by ULBs to construct, operate and maintain ARHCs on their own available vacant land.

The event had a large participation from States/UTs/ULBs from across the country, real estate industry captains and industry chambers. All stakeholders had first-hand familiarisation with ARHC scheme and its implementation tools in the form of AKP. MoHUA will extend all possible support for successful implementation of the scheme.

SAIL registers highest sales

Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) attained a sales volume of 15.83 lakh tonnes last month which is its best ever performance in the month of July. It recorded a growth of about 50 percent over July'19 sales which was 10.59 lakh tonnes. The company sold 12.73 lakh tonnes in the domestic market while it exported 3.10 lakh tonnes of steel during July this year, attaining a growth of 29 and 349 percent respectively over CPLY.

Anil Kumar Chaudhary, Chairman, SAIL commented, "The company is working hard and putting in a synergised team efforts in all areas to improve the overall performance. The challenging times have, in fact, ignited the zeal to stand stronger and explore every single opportunity before us. The efforts being put in have started showing in these record sales numbers, reduced inventory, improved collections and reduced borrowings. We are focused on reducing the borrowings further towards meeting the expectation of all the stakeholders."

He also stressed on calibrating the volumes as per the market demand and said, "SAIL is in go-getter mode and ready to service the market requirements. It has serviced the special requirements of Railways and Defence even during these challenging times and remains fully committed to do so

RAFA SAYS NO TO US Nagal gets direct entry into singles main draw of US Open



efending champion Rafael Nadal will skip U.S. Open because of the coronavirus pandemic, putting on hold his bid to equal Roger Federer's men's record for Grand Slam

> Nadal explained his decision in a series of tweets sent in Spanish and English on

'The situation is very complicated worldwide, the COVID-19 cases are increasing, it looks like we still don't have control of it," Nadal

The 34year-old from Spain called sitting out the tournament scheduled to begin Aug. 31 in New York 'a decision I never wanted to take," but added that he would "rather not travel.

> "Rafa is one of the greatest champions in

our sport and we support his decision," U.S. Open tournament director Stacey Allaster

The current No. 1-ranked woman, Ash Barty, already had announced she would be missing the U.S. Open. The U.S. Tennis Association's entry list announcements Tuesday noted that 2019 women's champion Bianca Andreescu is in the field - at least for now; players can withdraw until the start of play - but made no mention of Nadal.

The professional tennis tours have been on hiatus since March because of the COVID-19 outbreak, with play resuming for women on Monday in Palermo, Italy. The first men's event on the main tour is scheduled to be held later this

Open came shortly after the Madrid Open, scheduled for September, was canceled because of the pandemic. "We know that the reduced

Nadal's plan to skip the U.S.

tennis calendar is barbaric this year after 4 months stopped with no play," Nadal wrote on

"I understand and thank

for the efforts they are putting in to make it happen. In last year's thriller of a

men's final at Flushing Meadows, Nadal edged Daniil Medvedev 7-5, 6-3, 5-7, 4-6, 6-4 in 4 hours, 50 minutes. That gave Nadal four titles at the U.S. Open and a total of 19 across all the Grand Slam tournaments, just one away from Federer's career mark.

Federer will be absent from the U.S. Open, too, but because of two operations on his right knee this year.

The last Grand Slam tournament contested without either Federer or Nadal was the 1999 U.S. Open - four years before Nadal made his debut at one of the sport's four most prestigious events.

The USTA has given repeated indications it intends to go forward with the U.S. Open, despite the spikes in cases around the United States, saying in a news release last week: "New York State continues to be one of the safest places in the country as it relates to the COVID-19 virus."

That is currently true although the area was a major U.S. Hot spot early in the pan-

demic, so much so that a building at the U.S. Open site was used as a temporary hospital. New York hospitals saw

more than 18,000 patients with COVID-19 at a time in mid-April when infections surged and more than 750 patients with the illness died each day in hospitals and nursing homes. Those figures plunged in May, and rates of hospitalizations and new positive COVID-19 cases have been relatively stable since June.

There are still concerns about travel, as Nadal noted.

The USTA is planning a doubleheader of sorts at the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center. The Western & Southern Open, a hard-court tournament normally played in Cincinnati, was moved to the U.S. Open site this year because of the pandemic and is scheduled to be played Aug.

That is supposed to be followed by the U.S. Open itself. And then, two weeks after the U.S. Open closes on Sept. 13, the French Open is scheduled to begin in Paris, having been postponed from its usual May

PTI ■ NEW YORK

Young Indian tennis player Sumit Nagal is set to compete in his second Grand Slam main draw after receiving a direct entry into the US Open, which several top players will miss due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The world number 127 is the last man to receive a direct entry, according to the tournament website.

It will be Nagal's second appearance at the US Open, starting August 31, and he is the only Indian in the men's field with Prajnesh Gunneswaran, ranked 132,

"It feels good to make a main draw of a Slam again since I have only made one main draw yet. I understand the situation is not the same this year. I am looking to fly to USA after my challengers in Czech Republic," Nagal told PTI from Germany before a training session.

Last year, Nagal reached his maiden Grand Slam at the US Open after winning all his qualifying round matches to set up a dream encounter

We are supposed to stay in a bubble area and can only go to the hotel and back to the courts. We will have COVID-19 tests every second day." Three-time US Open champion and world no. 1

Novak Djokovic headlines the field with the likes of Federer and Rafael Nadal giving the tournament a miss.
While Federer has with-

drawn from all competitions this year owing to a knee injury, defending champion Nadal pulled out due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Former champion Stan Wawrinka, Nick Kyrgios, Fabio Fognini and Gael Monfils are the other top players missing from the men's

"I can't speak for the people who chose not to play. It's their own decision and you have to respect that," said Nagal when asked about a depleted field this year.

Professional tennis tours have been on a hiatus since March because of the coronavirus outbreak, with play resuming for women at Palermo Ladies Open this

TV umpires to call front foot no balls

 $F^{ront\ foot\ no\ balls\ will\ be\ decid-}_{ed\ by\ the\ TV\ umpire\ and\ not\ the}$ on-field officials for the first time in Test cricket with the series between England and Pakistan, the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced on Wednesday.

The ICC added that the front foot no-ball technology will be assessed before any decisions are taken regarding its use in future

"Front foot no-ball technology to be used in ICC World Test Championship series featuring England and Pakistan, with the support of both teams," the ICC

AP MANCHESTER

 $B^{
m abar}$ Azam reached a half-century just before rain brought an early tea on the first day of England's opening Test against Pakistan with the tourists 121-2 on Wednesday. After being invited to bowl first by

visiting captain Azhar Ali, the hosts will 53-2 - Jofra Archer and Chris Woakes with a wicket apiece. Woakes welcomed star batsman

Babar to the crease with a wonderful delivery that might easily have clipped either the outside edge or the off stump but the 25-year-old dominated proceedings in the afternoon session.

He hit nine boundaries as he reached 52 not out in just 71 balls, almost every one of them imperious,

"Performance of the technology in these Tests will be reviewed before any decisions taken on its

future use in Test cricket," it added. The front-foot no balls were exclusively monitored by the third umpire in the recently concluded

ODI series between England and Ireland, which was part of the ICC World Cup Super League.

Last year, the technology was put to trial in the limited series overs between India and West Indies. Pakistan vs England

> as he set about proving all of the praise he has garnered in recent

months is well placed. The players were forced off the field by a 3pm and would have welcomed the chance Babar's onslaught.

As well as stalling England's progress his efforts also placed Shan Masood in the 15 shade, the opener having

more than three hours.

England began by confirming an unchanged XI, Ben Stokes again selected as a specialist batsman as uncertainty over his nagging quad injury con-

Pakistan began their innings under moody skies and with the floodlights on, but openers Masood and Abid Ali showed sufficient composure to negotiate the first hour for 32 without loss. Both men were beaten on the

outside edge on a couple of occasions but stuck admirably to the task of seeing off the challenge of James Anderson and Stuart Broad. In the end it was the firstchange bowlers, retained here ahead of Sam Curran

> got England back into the conversation. Archer, who created more headlines off the field than on it against the Windies, needed just seven deliv-

and Mark Wood, who

eries to make his presence After pushing the batsmen back in his first over, he started the second with a fuller ball at Abid, jagging it in off the pitch and pegging back

He made his way back for 16, an exit made all the more frustrating by a brief rain shower which forced the sides off after only three more deliv-

It was only a brief recess but within 10 minutes of the restart Woakes sent captain Azhar Ali for a more permanent trip to the pavilion.

Babar gets fifty before rain forces early Tea | Vondrousová in 1st round of Palermo Open

AP ■ PALERMO

Slovenian qualifier Kaja Juvan Supset second-seeded Markéta Vondroušová of the Czech Republic 1-6, 7-5, 6-4 in the first round of the Palermo Ladies Open, the first official tennis tournament since March.

Vondroušová won the first set in just 29 minutes and then came from 4-0 down in the second to take a 5-4 lead and was just two points away from winning the match before Juvan recovered. Juvan took another 4-0 lead in the third set and secured the match when Vondroušová hit a forehand into the net. It was her first career win against a top-20 ranked oppo-"She started off really well and

I was a little bit nervous, she's my

first top-20 player," Juvan said in a video conference.

'The conditions were really hard but in the second and third set I calmed myself and I started playing much better." The WTA tournament marks the return of tourlevel tennis - men's or women's - following a five-month break for the coronavirus pandemic.

A limited number of fans were allowed into the 1,500seat stadium court and had to follow social distancing measures.

There are also strict rules for the players, such as handling their own towels, not shaking hands with their opponents, and no autographs or

photos with fans.

Juvan was spoken to by the umpire after throwing items including her visor and wristbands to the "Obviously we get

with the legendary Roger

clash, the 22-year old from

Jhajjar took a set off Federer

before going down 6-4 1-6 2-

Talking about this year, Nagal said," I don't have much

expectations, I just want to go

and do what I enjoy which is

to serve a quarantine period

after he reaches New York.

Nagal said he won't have

playing tennis."

In the much-anticipated

tested a lot so I understand their concern but it was actually like an instinct," Juvan said. "All of us that are here are negative and so I was like 'well I

got the result again today' so I thought I might as well give it to them. Yeah, maybe I won't do it the next few days." Juvan will next face Camila Giorgi, who became the fourth

Italian to progress to the second round after beating Rebecca Peterson 7-5, 6-4. Sara Errani, Elisabetta

Cocciaretto and Jasmine Paolini won their first-round matches on Monday.

Top-seeded Petra Martic eased into the second round with a 6-0, 6-3 win over Alison Van Uytvanck. The Croatian will face Russian qualifier Ludmilla Samsonova, who beat Kirsten Flipkens 6-4, 6-

"It's been such a long break and I don't think anyone knows what to expect when the real match comes," Martic said.

"I really just tried to focus on my own game and tried to enjoy the fact that we are back on court again and I think I managed both.'

Kohli, Rohit hold on to top 2 spots

PTI DUBAI

Tndia captain Virat Kohli and his 🧵 deputy Rohit Sharma retained the top two positions in the ICC ODI rankings for batsmen, while pacer Jasprit Bumrah held on to the latest list issued on Wednesday.

Kohli holds the numero uno status with 871 points, followed by Rohit (855) and Pakistan's Babar Azam (829), while with 719 points Bumrah continued to be steady at the second spot in the bowler's list, which is being headed by New Zealand's Trent Boult.

The batting chart saw some

movement with Ireland captain Andrew Balbirnie improving four places to 42nd spot after his 113run innings against England in the final match at Southampton, while his deputy Paul Stirling's 142 lifted him one slot to 26th.

Rookie Curtis Campher's impressive first series, which saw him score half-centuries both worthy entry into the batsmen's list at the 191st In the bowling chart, Ireland fast bowler

Craig Young's six wickets in the series has lifted him 40 places to a career-best 89th position, while Mark Adair (up six places to 138th) and Joshua Little (up 38 places to 146th) are the others to move up after the rubber, which ended 2-1 in England's favour. England captain Eoin Morgan, who also scored a century in the final ODI, has gained one place and is ranked 22nd, while

Jonny Bairstow has moved up a slot to 13th position, thanks to his knock of 82 in the second match. Sam Billings has re-entered the rankings at 146nd position after aggregating 132 runs.

Among England bowlers, leg-spinner Adil Rashid has advanced from 29th to 25th with five wickets in the series, while left-arm pacer David 30 in the opening match, not only won him the player of the series award but has also lifted him six places to 51st position.

England's series win got them 20 points in the ICC men's World Cup Super League, which will see 13 teams vie for direct qualifying places in the next World Cup in India in 2023. Ireland are on 10 points.

India and seven other teams will make it directly from the league with the remaining two getting a second chance through a Qualifier.

As captain, I'm least important | person in team: Rohit



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Selflessness defines a leader in Rohit Sharma's captaincy rulebook in calling himself the "least important person" in the Mumbai Indians team, the most successful franchise in IPL's history.

Indian cricket will hit the restart button with the IPL from September 19 in the UAE even as the world continues its frenzied battle to contain the COVID-19 pandemic.

The man, who led Mumbai Indians to four titles, knows that as captain, it will not just be about him getting back into the groove after a forced seven-month break.

"I believe in a theory that when you are captain, you are the least important person. Others become more important in the larger scheme of things. It works differently for different leaders but as far as I am concerned, this theory works for me," Rohit told PTI in an exclusive interview. Suresh Raina recently compared his cool quotient to that of Mahendra

Singh Dhoni. He prefers to play down the comparison but there is one undeniable similarity between the two —

Rohit can also remain as unfazed as the former India captain in the most

'That's a natural instinct that you have and you don't try and be someone that you are not. Try and be your-

it to your teammates. Hiding your emotions is the most crucial part." The Indian vice-captain believes that there is "enough time" before the IPL starts and he would slowly build on his strength, stamina and skills

during the next one month after the

long lay-off. "Hopefully, the gym will open this week and I can start my indoor (strength training) sessions. Right now, due to Mumbai monsoons, you can't train outdoor. I am planning to write a letter to MCA (on using indoor facilities)," he said.

Having won an Asia Cup in Dubai in 2018, he has a fair idea about what awaits his team next month in terms of conditions

Rohit said the plan is to build up slowly after being away from his bat for the longest he can remember.

"We have lot of time in our hands...I will be taking it slow. Luckily, I don't think there is any rush that I need to show. We have enough time. I will work on getting back to the ground slowly because the temperature in Dubai is 40 degrees. It's not easy," he said.

IPL will be full of challenges: Raina

Chennai Super Kings' star all-rounder Suresh Raina believes the upcoming Indian Premier League, to be played in the UAE amid the COVID-19 pandemic, will pose a lot of new challenges for the players, and clarity of thought would be key

for a player to succeed. The IPL this year has been shifted to the UAE because of the pandemic and will be held in three venues — Dubai, Abu Dhabi and

Sharjah — from September 19 to November 10 amid COVID-19 protocols laid down by the ICC and BCCI

"This IPL would be very interesting to see how the players are thinking," Raina said in a webinar after being named as the global brand ambassador for WTF Sports app. "You are playing in different circumstances and you have a lot of protocol from ICC and at the same time you are going to go through tests every two-three weeks." According to BCCI's Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), the Indian players and support staff will have to return negative for COVID-19 at least five times before they start training in the UAE and subsequently will be tested every fifth day during the IPL.

So, I would say coming out from all those tests you need to be clear with your head on what you are going to do on the field because at the end of the day when you are playing a sport, you need to enjoy the game," Raina said. Insisting that fitness would be key to success after being struck at home since March due to the pandemic, Raina said he was eagerly waiting for the tournament

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Beating arch-rivals England in their own den and achieving Test success in India are the "two big mountains" which Australian batting mainstay Steve Smith wants to climb before calling time on his career.

Australia had retained the Ashes in England last year with a 2-2 draw but the defeat in the last Test at The Oval still rankles Smith, who was the star of the series with 774 runs at an average of 110.57 from four

The 31-year-old had scored three centuries during the four-Test series in India in 2017 but Australia still ended up losing 1-2 and a Test win against

Virat Kohli and his men ranks high in his list.

Australia are scheduled to tour India in October 2022. They're the two big moun-

tains to climb and if you can do that, it would be pretty special. Hopefully I get another crack at it, we'll see how we go," Smith was quoted as saying by Cricket.Com.Au.

You never know how long I've got left, and you never know what the future holds. But it's certainly something to strive for, that's for sure." Talking about last year's



Smith wants to win Ashes in Eng & Test series in India

something I'd still like to do. "It just doesn't feel the same ... you get to the end of the series and we're there holding

up the Ashes but we'd just lost

the last Test match, and we

actually hadn't won anything. 'was cool to get them back, but I was actually more disappointed that we hadn't won them." Australia will hope to retain the Ashes at home in 2021-22 before getting a chance

to beat England away with the tour scheduled in 2023. "From my personal perspective, I think it's unfinished business. It's great to retain the Ashes but it just doesn't sit right with me when you don't win it. We drew the series - good, but

Harman excited about Women's T20 challenge

India captain Harmanpreet Kaur is excited about playing in the UAE for the first time and is looking forward to come out of the long break and headline the Women's T20 Challenge, to be held during the IPL in November.

The women's exhibition games were confirmed by the BCCI president Sourav Ganguly last week. The Indian team has not played since T20 World Cup final in March. The event will have three teams with

four matches expected to be played between November 1-10. 'Yes definitely (I'm excited for the Women's Challenge), because this is our first tour to Dubai and we haven't played there

before," Harmanpreet said during a webinar on Wednesday.

Harmanpreet was named as the global brand ambassador of WTF Sports, which

launched an app in India.
The T20 skipper is not perturbed by the conditions in the UAE. The event is also clashing with the Women's Big Bash in Australia and it remains to be seen how many star foreign players turn up in the

"I had questions like how the wickets would be. We need to play to our strengths because if you don't play to your strengths, then your natural game doesn't come out," added Kaur, who has played 114 T20s and

According to Harmanpreet, the players

would like to make most of the opportuni-"I hope that we grab the opportunity

that we get and we are equally excited for the women's IPL (Challenge) like the men's IPL. I hope we play good cricket in the four games that we will get and entertain everybody," added the dashing batter. Harman also said that after a big break,

it is the mental strength which is a key for any player. Cricket in the country has come to a grinding halt since mid March due to out-

break of COVID19. "When there is a long break and after

that however good touch you are in, you start doubting yourself. Mental strength helps here," she said.

difficult of situations. "Not showing anger is not a conscious effort," he laughs. self all the time," he said. 'You do get angry, lose temper at times but it's important not to show