RELIGION

**VS CULTURE** 

Ministry said.

ment noted.

'The situation in Eastern

Ladakh arising from unilater-

al aggression by China contin-

ues to be sensitive and requir-

ing close monitoring and

prompt action based on the evolving situation," the docu-

Incidentally, in an interview to some television chan-

nel in early June, Defence

Minister Rajnath Singh had

acknowledged that China has

moved troops in "significant numbers". Moreover, during

his visit to Leh in July, Rajnath

had said he cannot guarantee to

what extent the issue with

China would be resolved even

as the talks are on at military

In an effort to break the

ogjam, the two countries have

held five rounds of Corps

Commander level talks since

Iune but there is no noticeable

improvement in the situation

China continues to dilly-dally

in withdrawing troops from the

contentious Pangong Tso (lake) leading to tension. This despite

and diplomatic levels.

FB, TWITTER PULL TRUMP POSTS

OVER VIRUS MISINFORMATION

**Published From** DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH

\*Late City Vol. 30 Issue 218

NOT HERE TO CHASE FAME: RADHIKA 10 VIVACITY

# the pioneer www.dailypioneer.com

NEW DELHI, FRIDAY AUGUST 7, 2020; PAGES 12 ₹3

# **Chinese intrusion info** taken off Govt portal

said, "Neither has anyone

intruded into our territory nor

taken over any post. Our forces

are doing what they have to do to protect the country, whether

it is deployment, action or

counter-action. Our patrolling capacity has increased due to

newly built infrastructure,

Meanwhile, the deleted document said ground-level

interactions were held between

the Armed forces of both sides

to defuse the situation. A Corps

commanders' flag meeting was

held on June 6. "However, a

violent face-off incident took

place between the two sides on

June 15, resulting in casualties

ument, a second Corps com-

mander level meeting took

place on June 22 to discuss the

modalities of de-escalation.

"While engagement and dia-

logue at military and diplomatic

level is continuing to arrive at

mutually acceptable consen-

sus, the present standoff is likely to be prolonged," the

Subsequently, said the doc-

on both sides.

especially along LAC.

Document was on Defence about Chinese transgressions

Ministry website since Tuesday

The document was uploaded as part of the

monthly report on news section of the

Defence Ministry website and was there

Chinese aggression has been increasing

along the LAC and more particularly in

Galwan valley since May 5. The Chinese

side transgressed in the areas of Kurang

Nala, Gogra, and north bank of Pangong

Tso on May 17-18, the Ministry said in its

the fact that the two Corps

Commanders on July 14 par-

levs agreed for mutual and

complete disengagement of troops from the friction points.

Why PM lying?

attack on Modi

A fter the Defence Ministry's admitted that the Chinese

troops have transgressed into

the Indian territory in Eastern

Ladakh, Congress leader Rahul

Gandhi on Thursday asked

why the Prime Minister was

lying over the issue.
"Why is the PM lying?

Gandhi tweeted, renewing his

attack on Modi on the issue of

attacked Modi on this issue,

inviting sharp reactions from

government minister and BJP leaders.

Rahul has frequently

the standoff with China.

**Rahul renews** 

PNS NEW DELHI

What's New section on the website

There was no official word from the

since Tuesday

It was missing on Thursday

Ministry on this deletion

PNS NEW DELHI

At a time when the Government claimed the coronavirus spread has been contained, the number of cases on Thursday crossed over 20 lakh mark in the country. With 20.21 lakh cases, India is behind Brazil which is second spot with more than 28.62 lakh cases and the United States which continues to be the worst affected nation with close to 50 lakh cases.

India has added 10 lakh cases in just 20 days. Globally, over 18.82 million people have been reported to be infected by the novel coronavirus globally and 70,6779 have died so far. Brazil on July 17 Brazil crossed 20 lakh coronavirus cases with 76,000 deaths.

India, the third-mostaffected country by total cases and fifth by death toll, has added 30,3946 cases in the past six days alone. This is the ninth consecutive day that

coronavirus cases have increased by more than 50,000. On July 28, India had recorded 15 lakh cases. The new five million came in nine days, with an average of 50,000 fresh cases logged each day. The country has reported over 57,000 cases and over 800 deaths in the last 24 hours. Meanwhile, the World Health Organization urged the member nations of its Southeast Asia region to maintain essential health services and accelerate resumption of healthcare facilities hit by the pandemic as an integral part of the Covid-19 response.

As per the Government data, five most affected States by total tally of cases are Maharashtra (4,79779), Tamil Nadu (279,144), Andhra Pradesh (1,96,789), Karnataka (158254) and Delhi (141,531).

### India has added 10 lakh cases in just 20 days and is third-most-hit country and fifth by death toll

Covid count soars to 2 million

Maharashtra reported highest single-day spike of 11,514 cases, followed by Andhra Pradesh 10, 328 fresh cases, Karnataka 6805 and Tamil Nadu 5,684 cases. As the virus claimed another 316 lives in Maharashtra, the State's death toll climbed to 16,792. Mumbai reported 910 fresh cases of Covid-19 and 57 deaths in the last 24 hours.

After Maharashtra, racing closer to the two lakh mark, the coronavirus tally in Andhra Pradesh reached 1.96 lakh on Thursday as another 10,328 cases were added for the second consecutive day. Worsening further, East Godavari reported another 1,351 cases in the last 24 hours.



Health workers take blood samples for a random serological test to check for antibodies against the coronavirus in New Delhi on Thursday

16,792

4,571

1,753

2.897

4,059

1,918

TOTAL CASES

4,79,779

2,79,144

1,96,789

1,58,254

1,41,531

1,08,974

86,754

73,050

68.148

67,811

52,818

48,996

Continued on Page 2 Maharashtra

**TOTAL** 

CASES: 20,25,409 **DEATHS: 41,638 RECOVERED:** 

13,77,384 **ACTIVE: 6,05,933** 

### 8 virus patients die in Guj hospital fire

PNS AHMEDABAD

Eight coronavirus patients died in a fire inside the ICU ward of a private hospital in Ahmedabad city in the early hours of Thursday, officials said.
A para-medical staff mem-

ber of the hospital was injured in the tragedy. A cumulative compensation of Rs 6 lakh each for the families of the deceased was announced by the Centre and Gujarat Government. Continued on Page 2

Odisha 40,717 26,888 Haryana 39,303 32,640 Madhya Pradesh 36,564 Plasma therapy findings not

Tamil Nadu

Karnataka

Andhra Pradesh

Uttar Pradesh

West Benga

Telangana

Bihar

Gujarat

Assam

Rajasthan

A IIMS Director Dr Randeep Guleria told PTI on Thursday no clear mortality benefit of convalescent plasma therapy was seen during a trial conducted among 30 Covid-19 patients.

promising so far, says AIIMS
The much-touted convalescent plasma therapy was hardly effective in reducing mortality risk among Covid-19 mortality risk among Covid-19 patients, according to an interim analysis of a randomised controlled trial done at AIIMS here to assess the efficacy of this mode of treatment.

**RECOVERED** 

3,16,375

2.21.087

1,12,870

80,281

1,27,124

63,402

61,023

52,103

43,820

50,524

35,893

35,131

Continued on Page 2

# J&K L-G, Murmu appointed CAG

**MOHIT KANDHARI** JAMMU

PNS NEW DELHI

Control (LAC).

deletion

prolonged."

The Defence Ministry has pulled out a document

from its website giving details

about the Chinese "transgres-

sions" in Eastern Ladakh begin-

ning early May. It was the first

time that the Government offi-

cially admitted that the Chinese

Army had intruded into India

leading to the ongoing stand-offs at the Line of Actual

uploaded as part of the month-

ly report on news section of the

Defence Ministry website and

was there since Tuesday.

However, it was missing on

Thursday. There was no official

word from the Ministry on this

Acknowledging for the first time that the Chinese had

intruded into India, the report

said the present situation aris-

ing from "unilateral aggression"

by China continues to be sen-

sitive requiring close monitor-

ing and prompt action based on evolving situation and the

present standoff "is likely to be

been increasing along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and

more particularly in Galwan

valley since May 5. The

Chinese side transgressed in the areas of Kurang Nala,

Gogra, and north bank of

Pangong Tso on May 17-18,

the Ministry said in its What's

Modi in an all-party meeting in

June regarding the volatile bor-

der situation in Ladakh had

Prime Minister Narendra

New section on the website.

"Chinese aggression has

The document was

After the surprise exit of Girish Chandra Murmu as Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, President Ram Nath Kovind on Thursday appointed former Union Minister Manoj Sinha in his place to handle the administration of the trouble-torn

union territory

A day after his resignation from the L-G post, Murmu was appointed as CAG by President on Thursday evening till November 21, 2024 as CAG, till age 65. The 1985 batch Gujarat Cadre IAS, hailing from Mayurbhanj in Odisha was Principal Secretary to Narendra Modi when he was Chief Minister of Gujarat. Before becoming the L-G, Murmu was Expenditure Secretray. He will take over CAG's post on August 9 after the retirement of current incumbent Rajiv

Mehrishi The appointment of a grass root politician, who enjoys Prime Minister Modi's confidence, is expected to fill the 'political vacuum' in Jammu and Kashmir at this crucial juncture. Due to sustained anti-terrorist operations and elimination of top commanders of different terror outfits, the

## **CAPSULE**

#### LANKA POLLS: RAJAPAKSA HEADING FOR GRAND WIN Colombo: Sri Lanka's strongman

Mahinda Rajapaksa was poised to stage a political comeback on Thursday as his party took an early lead and was set for a bio victory in the twice-postponed general elections, according to results announced so far.

# FIVE KILLED AS RAIN BATTERS KERALA

Thiruvananthapuram: 5 people were killed as intermittent heavy rains and strong winds battered parts of Kerala on Thursday



Centre is aiming to kick start the stalled political process, especially in the Kashmir valin the coming months.

A large number of main-stream Kashmiri politicians, already released from deten-tion, are growing "restless" in the absence of political activity. They have even accused the Central Government of running its political agenda with out allowing them the space to operate and even preventing their movement out of their houses. "Presence of full time politician in the Raj Bhawan is expected to fill the vacuum and bridge the widening gap between the Government machinery and the common masses", said a political com-

Continued on Page 2

## BJP Sarpanch killed by ultras

**MOHIT KANDHARI** ■ JAMMU

Sending out a chilling reminder to the security forces "unidentified" terrorists on Thursday carried out yet another bloodiest attack on grass root Panchayat workers in which one BJP sarpanch was killed in Vessu village of Qazikund block in South Kashmir's Kulgam district.

Police identified the slain BJP sarpanch as Sajad Ahmad Khanday who camping in a secured migrant camp. Detailed report on P5

# Manoj Sinha new Guj cadre DIG heads CBI SIT on Sushant

#### **Re-registers FIR of** criminal conspiracy, abetment to suicide against Rhea

RAKESH K SINGH NEW DELHI

The CBI on Thursday registered a case in connection with the death of film star Sushant Singh Rajput and entrusted the probe to a Special Investigation Team (SIT). Rajput's girlfriend Rhea Chakraborty among others is an accused in the case.

Deputy Inspector General and IPS officer of Gujarat cadre Gagandeep Gambhir will supervise the probe into the sensational case that had led to a turf war between the Bihar Police and Mumbai Police over iurisdiction. Gambhir will report to Joint Director Manoj Sasidhar, officials said.

The move comes after the Bihar Government recommended a probe into the matter by the Central agency. "CBI has today registered a case relat-

Bihar Police chief warns of legal action if IPS officer 'quarantined' not released in Mumbai

PTI ■ PATNA

Bihar police chief Gupteshwar Pandey on Thursday warned of legal action if an IPS officer, who had gone to Mumbai to probe actor Sushant Singh Raiput death case, was not released from "forcible quarantine" by the end of the day.

Pandey expressed bewilderment over no positive response from the municipal authorities in Mumbai, whom he accused of keeping IPS officer Vinay Tiwari in virtual house arrest, despite being informed about the adverse remarks made by Supreme Court against their action.



Bihar Police team officials arrive back from Mumbai after meeting with Inspector General and submitting reports in Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajputs death nvestigation in Patna on Thursday

ed to the death of Rajput on the request of Bihar Government and further notification from the Centre and taken over the investigation of the case, earlier registered at police station Rajiv Nagar, Patna vide FIR no.241/2020 dated 25-7-2020," the CBI said in a statement. The CBI further said the case was registered against six accused and others and investigation is underway. "We are also in touch with Bihar Police," a CBI spokesperson said.

Taking cognisance of the Bihar Police FIR in this connection, the Enforcement Directorate has already launched

a probe to investigate the money laundering angle in the case. Besides Bollywood actress Rhea Chakraborty, her relatives Indrajit Chakraborty, Sandhya Chakraborty and Showik Chakraborty also her associate Samuel Miranda and Shruti Modi and others have been named as accused in the case.

The case has been registered under Indian Penal Code sections relating to criminal conspiracy, abetment of suicide. wrongful restraint, wrongful confinement, theft, criminal breach of trust, cheating and

criminal intimidation.

Continued on Page 2

# **Relief for Gehlot as HC** dismisses petition against merger of 6 **BSP MLAs with Cong**

PNS NEW DELHI/JAIPUR

 $The \ Rajasthan \ High \ Court \ on \ Thursday \ disposed \ off \ a \ petition \ filed \ in \ the \ case \ regarding \ the \ merger \ of \ six \ BSP \ MLAs \ in \ the \ Ashok \ Gehlot \ led \ Congress \ Government \ in$ Rajasthan giving some respite to Gehlot amid the ongoing political crisis in the State.

A division Bench of Rajasthan High Court gave relief to Gehlot and the Congress which is battling rebellion within since over a month now. The BSP and BJP legislators had appealed seeking a temporary freeze on the merger of its six former legislators with

Congress Government. The decision, expected on August 11, will have crucial implications for the Ashok Gehlot Government, which is struggling to hold on to its majority in face of the rebellion by Sachin Pilot and his 18 loyalist MLAs. Gehlot claims he has the support of 102 MLAs, one above the majority mark for the Assembly session scheduled on August 14. The BJP has 72 MLAs and with the rebel camp and three independents MLAs, the numbers of the other side will touch 97.

Continued on Page 2

## India slams Pakistan for criticism of launch of construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India on Thursday strongly rejected Pakistan's crit-licism of the launch of construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya and asked the neighbouring country to refrain from "communal incitement" External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Anurag Srivastava also asked Pakistan to desist from interfering in India's internal affairs. "We have seen the Press statement by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on a matter internal to India. It should desist from interfering in India's affairs and refrain from communal incitement," Srivastava said. "While this is not a surprising stance from a nation that practices cross border terrorism and denies its own minorities their religious rights, such comments are nev-

ertheless deeply regrettable," he added. He was responding to a question on Pakistan's criticism of the laying of foundation stone of the Ram temple in Ayodhya on the site of the Babri Masjid. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday laid the foundation of the Ram temple in Ayodhya at a grand ceremony. Last November, the Supreme Court paved the way for the construction of the Ram temple at the site where the 16th century Babri mosque was demolished in December 1992.

Continued on Page 2

# 'Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi' actor | Minor's rape: Girl stable after Samir found hanging in Mumbai home

PNS MUMBIA

Television actor Samir Sharma, best known for his roles in "Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi" and "Left Right Left", was found dead in his home in suburban Malad where he lived alone, police said on Thursday. The 44-year-old was found hanging from the fan of the kitchen on Wednesday night,

police officials said. He may

have been dead for two days

before he was found hanging,

they said. "We have not found

any suicide note at the spot. It

seems to be suicide case. It is suspected that he hanged himself two days back.

We have sent the body for an autopsy," Malad police station's senior inspector George Fernandes said. Sharma, who also worked in serials such as "Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki", "Yeh Rishtey Hain Pyar Ke" and "Wo Rehne Wali Mehlon Ki", lived in a rented flat in Chincholi Bunder locality in Malad (West). His body was discovered by the building's watchman, who peeped through the kitchenwindow and saw him hanging.

Continued on Page 2

SAMEER SHARMA

## surgery, Kejriwal visits AIIMS, offers ₹10 lakh help to family adding that such criminals

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

 $D^{\text{elhi Chief Minister Arvind}}_{\text{Kejriwal visited the AIIMS}}$ on Thursday to enquire about the health conditions of a 12-year-old girl, who was allegedly sexually assaulted, and said his Government will provide a financial compensation of ₹10 lakh to her family.

The girl is stable after surgery, says AIIMS doctor. Earlier, in a tweet, the Chief Minister said the incident

has shaken him to the core

serious, adding that he spoke to Police Commissioner S N Srivastava, who told him that the police are trying to nab the accused. He said the Aam Aadmi

roaming free cannot be tolerated. Talking to reporters after his visit to the AIIMS, Kejriwal

said the condition of the girl is

Party (AAP) Government will ensure strict punishment for the accused by engaging the best lawyers in the case.

DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA \*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

Detailed report on P3

# Minor rape case: Kejriwal visits AIMS Two held for beating man

## Accused arrested; Kejriwal promises ₹10L for her family

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A12-year old girl who faced a barbaric assault in Delhi on Tuesday is stable now. "Police have arrested the 33 year-old accused identified as Krishan on Thursdav. He is also found involved four crminal cases including murder and attempt to murder. Further investigation is going on," said Shalini Singh, Joint Commissioner of Police, Shalini Western Range.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday paid a

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

mid recent rift between

A India and China, the trade

associations have decided to

launch 'Quit India Movement'

against China on August 9

raise the bugle for a movement

against the across the coun-

try and will make a loud slo-

gan china Quit India" in about

600 cities, the Confederation

of All India Traders (CAIT).

ident and Praveen Khandelwal,

secretary general of the CAIT

said that in view of the way

China has occupied the retail

market of India through chi-

B C Bhartia, national pres-

The trade associations will

across the country.

visit to AIIMS to meet the 12year old girl. Following his visit to the hospital, Kejriwal said that the girl was in a critical state and was unconscious.

Keiriwal also said that he has spoken to the police commissioner who has assured him that they are trying their best to nab the culprits. "The Delhi Government will ensure the toughest punishment for the culprits in the court by appointing the best lawyers the case," he said.

Earlier in the day, Kejriwal had tweeted, "The barbaric

CAIT 'Quit India Movement' against China on Aug 9

nese products in the last 20

years under a long strategic planning and also the changed

circumstances, it is very impor-

tant to liberate the country's

retail market from Chinese

products and create a self-

reliant Indian market and to

reduce Country's dependence

try supported the CAIT cam-

paign of celebrating the recent Rakshabandhan festival as

Hindustani Rakhi and com-

pletely boycotted the Chinese

Rakhi as a result of China has

suffered a loss of Rs 4 thou-

sand crores rupees. It is clear

from the fact that if the peo-

ple of the country take a res-

'The people of the coun-

on China.



incident with a 12-year old girl has shaken me to the core. Such predators roaming free cannot be tolerated. I will be visiting AIIMS in some time to meet

Briefing the media following his visit, Kejriwal said, "The 12-year old little girl was

olution and boycott Chinese

goods, then India's business

can get independence from

China very soon and seven

crore traders of the country

under the leadership of CAT

have taken this resolution

that all the upcoming festivals

celebrated in the country will

be celebrated using Indian

goods and Chinese goods will

Chaturthi, Navratri, Dussehra,

Dhanteras, Diwali, Bhaiya

Dooj, Chhath Puja and Tulsi

festivals

They said that the upcom-

include

Ganesh

Khandelwal announced

firmly," they said.

not be used at all.

Janmashtami,

brutally attacked, and her conhas suffered serious internal injuries, which are very hard to "She is currently in a state of

unconsciousness, and the doctor was telling me that she was in a really bad condition when she was brought to the hospital on Tuesday. She has undergone surgery and the doctors are trying their best to save her. It would take around 24-48 hours to know and assess whether she will be out of danger. We hope that she recovers fully here and goes back to her home out of any danger," he said.

Kejriwal said, "I have spoto the Police Commissioner, who told me

investigation is underway. The toughest punishment will be given to the culprits on behalf of the Delhi Government. We will appoint the best of our lawyers on the court case so that the culprits get the strictest punishment for their crime."

The Chief Minister has also announced financial support of Rs 10 lakh for the family of the victim. "The Delhi government will offer the family of the girl financial assistance of Rs 10 lakh. This is a very brutal attack that cannot hold any value, but this is just a means of providing monetary support to her family," he

# To reopen gym, weekly baazar, Govt sends proposal to L-G again

SAPNA SINGH NEW DELHI

 $D_{\text{Arvind Kejriwal on}}^{\text{elhi Chief Minister}}$ Thursday sent a proposal for opening of hotels, gym and weekly baazar to Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal.

Citing the health bulletin reports of health department, Keiriwal mentioned in his letter to LG Baijal that scare of corona are decreasing in the country' Capital. In this way, hotels and gyms and weekly markets should be opened.

It may be recalled that earlier, Kejriwal's government's decision to reopen the hotels and weekly market was rejected by the Lieutenant Governor.

It was said that the situation arising out of Corona remains worrisome and the threat has not yet been ended.

However, after this decision of LG, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia write a letter to Union Home Minister Amit Shah instructing LG Baijal to open hotels and weekly markets.

According to Delhi government statistics, till August 5, a total of 140232 cases of coronavirus have been registered in Delhi.

# to death

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

22-year-old man was beat-A<sup>22</sup>-year-old man was been to death allegedly by two brothers who suspected him of stealing mobile phones and cash from their truck. Police said the two accused, Sandeep (30) and Sanjeev (32) have been arrested by the police.

The deceased has been identified as Vishal, a resident of Haiderpur village in northwest Delhi. The incident was reported to police on August 2.

The man was caught by the two brothers at the Azadpur Mandi as they suspected that he had stolen cash and mobiles from their truck.

After beating him up, they tied his hands and legs, threw him in the truck and started for Himachal Pradesh's Bilaspur district, from where they hail.

However, when the truck was stopped by a policeman for traffic violation on northwest Delhi's GTK road, the tied-up man was found in the back of the vehicle. The local police were informed who in turn rushed the man to the BSA hospital where he was declared brought dead.

According to Vijayanta Arya, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Northwest, police have registered a case at Mahendra Park police station and both the accused drivers have been arrested and sent to jail.

attended by other dignitaries **STAFF REPORTER** NEW from Maharashtra. The train will reach Danapur at 18:45 hrs Tn pursuance of announceon the next day covering the

**Rly to start Kisan** 

**Rail from Maha** 

to Bihar today

set to introduce "Kisan Rail", a

special Parcel Train from

Devlali (Maharashtra) to

Danapur (Bihar) on Friday.

The train will provide a seam-

less supply chain of perishable

normal train at 'P' Scale

Indian Railways will set up a

rent year's Union Budget by the

Finance Minister, Indian

Railways is introducing the

first "Kisan Rail" from Devlali

to Danapur Friday from

off via video conferencing by

Union Minister of agriculture

and farmers' welfare, rural development and panchyati

raj Narendra Singh Tomar and

Minister of Railways and

Commerce and Industry,

said that the event shall be

A senior railways official

The train will be flagged

As announced in the cur-

The move is expected to

produce.

Kisan Rail

Devlali.

Piyush Goyal.

ment made by the Finance Minister in Union Budget journey of 1519 kms in 31:45 2020-21, Indian Railways is all

"The train will provide a seamless supply chain of perishable produce. This train is a step towards realizing the goal of doubling farmers' incomes by 2022. Indian Railways aims to help double farmers' income with the launch of Kisan Rail," he said.

provide a great relief to the The official further said farmers as freight will be that this train will help in charged as per parcel tariff of bringing perishable agricultural products like vegetables, In the Union Budget 2020fruits to the market in a short 21, the Minister of Finance had period of time. The train with made an announcement 'to frozen containers is expected build a seamless national cold to build a seamless national supply chain for perishables, cold supply chain for perishinclusive of milk, meat, and ables, inclusive of fish, meat and milk, he said. fish'. It was also stated that the

"Over Central Railway, Bhusawal division is primarily an Agro based division. Nasik and the surrounding region produces huge quantities of fresh vegetables, fruits, flowers, other perishables, onions and other agro prod-ucts. These perishables are mainly transported to areas around Patna, Prayagraj, Katni,

Satna etc," he said. This train has scheduled halts at Nasik Road, Manmad, Jalgaon, Bhusaval, Burhanpur, Khandwa, Itarsi, Jabalpur, Satna, Katni, Manikpur, Prayagraj Chheoki, Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay Nagar and Buxar.

# 'Kyunki...

He then alerted members of the society who informed the

Police rushed to the spot and took Sharma to a hospital where doctors declared him brought dead, another official said. Efforts were on to get in touch with the family of the actor, who had been living alone since February, he said.

Based on primary information, an Accidental Death Report (ADR) has been registered, Fernandes said, adding that further investigations are

On July 27, Sharma posted his last words on Instagram with a poem on death and dreams. "I built my pyre and slept on it and with my fire it was lit. And all that was me I

burned in it. I killed my dream to wake up from it. Now my dream is gone," he wrote on his page. After that, he posted some photographs but no written content. His bio on Instagram reads "Actor. Writer. Poet" and mostly has shots of beaches and videos of him driving to scenic places.

Sharma's death comes at a time the entertainment industry is reeling from the shock of the death of Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput, who was found hanging at his apartment in suburban Bandra on June 14. Rajput's death, which will now be investigated by the CBI, exposed many faultlines in the industry.

"Depression is a lonely disease," Sharma had posted after Rajput's death. "Biopolar Disorder, Depression, and Schizophrenia etc. Do you know or understand what that Mumbai home. PTI

means or feels like? No you don't, unless you've been through it yourself. And any body who hasn't, will never ever be able to understand what that feels like," he wrote on July 22.

Bóllywood star Sidharth Malhotra, who worked with Sharma in "Hasee toh Phasee", condoled the actor's death. Sharing a picture with

Sharma from the film, Malhotra wrote, "Really sad unfortunate #RIPSameerSharma."

Actor Varun Dhawan also shared a picture on his Instagram stories and wrote #RIPSameerSharma".

On June 9, Rajput's former manager Disha Salian jumped from a high-rise building. The month earlier, on May 15. TV actor Manmeet Grewal had hanged himself at his

# India slams...

From Page 1 While allotting the Ram Janmabhoomi

site for a temple to be built by a trust, it ordered that a five-acre site should be found elsewhere in Ayodhya for a new mosque. Separately at a media briefing, Srivastava hit out at Pakistan for coming out with a new political map of the country incorporating Jammu and Kashmir and parts of Gujarat as its territories. He said this type of absurd claims showed that Pakistan wants to take control of more areas by using cross border terrorism. On Tuesday, he had described the Pakistani move as "political absurdity" and said these "ridiculous assertions" have neither legal validity nor international credibility. "We have national credibility. "We have seen a so-called 'political map' of Pakistan that has been released by Prime Minister Imran Khan. This is an exercise in political absurdity, laying untenable claims to territories in the Indian state of Gujarat and our Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and of Ladakh," he had said. PTI

# Gui cadre...

The CBI said it is also in touch with Bihar Police. "A Regular Case (FIR) is, therefore, registered under Section 341, 342, 380, 406, 420, 306, 506, 120B IPC against (I) Rhea Chakraborty and her family members (2) Indrajit Chakraborty (3) Sandhya Chakraborty, (4) Showik Chakraborty, (5) Samuel Miranda, (6) Shruti Modi & others and entrusted to Anil Kumar Yadav, Additional SP, CBI, AC-VI, SIT, New Delhi for investigation," reads the CBI FIR.

The CBI FIR also includes a six-page complaint of Rajput's father Krishna Kumar Singh (74) on the basis of which the Patna police had filed the original case in the abetment to suicide case of the deceased actor.

Apart from other things, Rajput's father alleged in the complaint that instead of unraveling the crime the Mumbai Police was busy questioning less relevant people instead of grilling the prime accused despite a lapse of 40 days.

Apart from the IPC Sections clamped in the FIR,

Singh had also sought probe under the Mental

Plasma...

From Page 1

The therapy involves tak-

ing antibodies from the blood

of a person who has recovered

from COVID-19 and transfus-

ing those into an active coro-

navirus infected patient to help

kickstart the immune system to

Randeep Guleria told PTI on

Thursday no clear mortality

benefit of convalescent plasma

therapy was seen during a trial

conducted among 30 COVID-

During the trial, one group

AIIMS Director Dr

fight back the infection.

#### Corruption in Gzb Municipal Corporation raises eyebrows in Ghaziabad Municipal

**ASHOK NIRWAN** GHAZIABAD

orruption in the Municipal Corporation is at the height. The latest case related to the property tax department of the Municipal Corporation where no tax has been imposed on 60 per cent commercial and non-commercial property till date, thus the corporation has to pay fifty crores as tax evasion every year.

Lime is being applied. All this is happening due to the connivance of big municipal officials and big property owners. House Councilor Rajendra Tyagi, leader of the BJP party

group only received standard

treatment. The number of fatal-

ities recorded in both the

groups was equal and there was

not much clinical improve-

ment in the condition of

interim analysis and we need to

do a more detailed evaluation

to see if any sub-group may

benefit from plasma therapy,

plasma has to be tested for its

safety and should have suffi-

"However, this is just an

He also underlined that

patients, he said.

Dr Guleria said.

Corporation, told a press conference here today that the Uttar Pradesh government has a clear directive that tax should be levied on every property falling in the corporation area, but the corporation officials met the property owners and taxed them.

]He also handed over a long list of evidences of tax evasion to the reporters. BJP's Fire Brand Councilor has alleged that Divyansh First Society in Indirapuram has 200 flats, out of which only 11 flats have been taxed by the corporation officials.

# 8 virus...

From Page 1

The blaze broke out around 3.30 am on the top floor of the four-storey Shrey Hospital in Navrangpura area, officials said. It is one of the 60-odd 'designated' private hospitals which have been authorised by the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) to treat coronavirus patients. "Eight coronavirus patients

admitted in the ICU ward on the fourth floor of Shrey Hospital have died due to fire. 41 other Covid patients who were in the general ward on bottom floors were rescued and shifted to SVP Hospital,' said Rajiv Kumar Gupta, an IAS officer.

Shrey Hospital was sealed for investigation, said Gupta, who has been deputed in Ahmedabad as an officer on special duty.

Preliminary investigation showed that the fire was caused by a short circuit, he said. Municipal

Commissioner Mukesh Kumar been asked to submit the and Principal Secretary enquiry report in three days,

"We have learned that an electric short circuit led to a blast. The blaze spread in the ward within minutes," said Kumar. According to Chirag Patel, a hospital attendant who saved the lives of three elderly patients, there were eleven patients on the fourth floor when the fire broke out.

The deceased were identified as Lilavati Shah (72), Jyoti Sindhi (55), Ayesha Tirmizi (51), Navneet Shah (80), Arif Mansoori (42), Narendra Shah (62), Arvind Bhavsar (78) and Manu Rami (82).

Additional Commissioner of Police R V Asari told reporters that Bharat Mahant, a trustee of the hospital, was being questioned. Chief Minister Vijay Rupani ordered an inquiry by Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Sangeeta Singh and her counterpart in the Urban Development Department Mukesh Puri.

The two IAS officers have

Hindu University and later

represented Parliamentary con-

in a statement.

Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel said another attendant received 25 to 30 per cent burn injuries while trying to save the patients. The attendant and 41 patients were shifted to SVP Hospital, he added.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief over the incident and announced exgratia compensation of Rs 2 lakh for the kin of the deceased and Rs 50,000 for the injured.

"Saddened by the tragic hospital fire in Ahmedabad. Condolences to the bereaved families. May the injured recover soon.

"Spoke to CM @vijayrupanibjp Ji and Mayor @ibijalpatel Ji regarding the situation. Administration is providing all possible assistance to the affected," the PM tweeted.

Chief Minister Rupani also announced a compensation of Rs 4 lakh for the kin of the deceased and Rs 50,000 for the injured.

# **Relief for Gehlot as HC** dismisses petition ...

From Page 1

The halfway mark in the 200 member assembly will also come down to 97 from the cur-

BSP and BJP had gone to court challenging the Speaker's decision in September 2019 allowing the merger of the six BSP MLAs with the Congress. The parties had demanded a stay on the participation of the six MLAs in the house proceedings -- crucial if the Ashok Gehlot government has to take a trust vote. The merger of BSP MLAs to the ruling Congress was a boost to the Ashok Gehlot-led government as it helped increase the party's tally of legislators.

Meanwhile. Union Minister Kailash Chaudhary claimed the Congress government in Rajasthan would collapse and its countdown has Chaudhary said with the

fall of Gehlot government, the Congress's politics too would come to an end in the State. Chaudhary, who is on a threeday visit to his parliamentary constituency Barmer, said the state government has lost the confidence of people and the chief minister has to confine MLAs to hotels.

"The Gehlot government will fail to prove its majority in the floor test in the Assembly. Not only the people of Rajasthan have lost faith in the government, ministers and MLAs too are not happy with the chief minister," Chaudhary said.

Amid a political crisis in Rajasthan, the MLAs supporting Gehlot are staying in hotels in Jaisalmer as the chief minister is trying to save his government, following a revolt by his former deputy Sachin Pilot and 18 other Congress legisla-

had openly favored the restora-

tion of 4G network for the peo-

ple of Jammu and Kashmir. His

observations prompted even

the center to inform the

Supreme Court that it will ver-

ify the statement of the

From Page 1
The area has been followed by Kurnool 1,285 and

19 patients.

Anantapuramu 1,112. Guntur registered 868 fresh cases, West Godavari 798, SPS Nellore 788, Visakhapatnam 781, Chittoor 755, Srikakulam 682 and Kadapa 604 till 10 am on Thursday. Karnataka is in the third

place with 6,805 new cases

With 1,299 fresh cases,

reported.Among states with more than 25,000 cases, the five with worst recovery rates at present are Karnataka (49.31%), Andhra Pradesh (55.97%), Uttar Pradesh (58.01%), Kerala (60.15%), and Maharashtra (65.25%).In general, large cities continue to be disproportionately affected by the coronavirus. Five urban centres-Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Pune Hyderabad—alone account for 29% of confirmed cases and 40% of deaths nationally.

toll of Gujarat, which was until

of patients was given conva- cient antibody to be useful to lescent plasma therapy along COVID-19 patients. treatment while the other

cent plasma therapy in moderate to severe coronavirusinfected patients was discussed in the third National Clinical Grand Rounds (CGR) on held COVID-19 Wednesday.

"Plasma is safe. As far as its

efficacy is concerned, we do not have a green signal yet. So the clinical use has to be very judicious and within the ambit of national guidelines," Dr Monish Soneja, additional professor in the Medicine department at AIIMS, said at the webinar.

# Covid...

including 2,544 in Bengaluru Urban) in a single day and 93 deaths, taking the total tally to 1,58,254, including 75,068 active cases, and 2,897 deaths till date. Uttar Pradesh recorded its highest daily increase in coronavirus numbers with 61 more deaths and 4,586 fresh infections. So far, 1,08,974 cases, including 1,918 fatalities, have been reported from the state. West Bengal recorded the highest single-day spike of 2,954 COVID-19 cases on Thursday, which pushed the tally to 86,854.

Delhi's COVID-19 tally climbs to 1,41,531; death toll rises to 4,059 with 15 more fatalities

Fifteen top cities account for 38% of confirmed cases and 53% of covid-related deaths in the country. Meanwhile, in southern

India, coronavirus cases and related deaths are still rising faster than most other states, but the pace has slowed down over the last week. The weekly growth rate of the death toll in Andhra Pradesh has come down to 42 percent, and Karnataka's to 33 percent. Both states had witnessed much steeper spikes in fatalities last month.

Karnataka has become the latest state to surpass the death

May one of the biggest hotspots of the virus. Andhra Pradesh has become the eighth state to 1,600 Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Karnataka and Guiarat have the highest tolls, with a 75% share in the national death count.By now, the death trajectories of Delhi and Gujarat appear to have stabilized. Maharashtra's trajectory, though not worsening, has been rising at a stable rate. Death tolls are rising rapidly in some other states. In the last seven days, the curve has become steeper for Bihar and Punjab, where the toll rose 31% and 37%, respectively, during the period.

The northeast is the latest region in the country where the coronavirus has begun to pick up in the last few days. Assam has the 10th high-

est number of active cases, states such as Nagaland, Manipur and Tripura have also seen new outbreaks in recent days. Their total case-load is a small fraction of that in the rest of India, but the four states together have recorded a 63% jump in active cases over the past week.

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# Manoj...

From Page 1

A section of political observers feel, Murmu, who was a man of a few words, was struggling for a long time to fill the political vacuum especially in Kashmir valley. These observers claimed,

tre decided to shunt him midway and brought another seasoned politician to bring back track". The newly-appointed Lt-Governor has tasted grassroot

"it is for the same reason centhe stalled political process on

in Srinagar in the afternoon politics since his students days. He remained President of the Students Union in the Banaras

stituency of Ghazipur in eastern Uttar Pradesh thrice in the Lok Sabha. He lost last Lok Sabha polls to Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) candidate Afzal Ansari. He has also served as minister of communications and minister of state for Railways. According to the official

sources, the oath ceremony of the newly appointed Lt-Governor Manoj Sinha is scheduled to take place in Srinagar on Friday. Meanwhile, Sinha arrived

and was accorded warm welcome and formal guard of honor at the technical airport.

Subrahmanyam, DGP Dilbagh Singh and Principal Secretary the Lt- Governor Bipul Pathak were present to receive He was later escorted

under tight security arrangements to the Raj Bhawan. Earlier, late Wednesday evening Lt-Gov Girish Chandra Murmu tendered

his resignation and the same

was accepted by the President early Thursday morning.
Before the arrival of newly appointed Lt-Governor Manoj Sinha, Girish Chandra Murmu , who was camping in Jammu, returned to New Delhi along

In the absence of any other Chief Secretary BVR senior officer in Jammu,

with his wife and children in a

special BSF plane.

Divisional Commissioner, Jammu Sanjiv Verma bid him farewell at the airport by presenting a bouquet. Speculations were also rife

in the corridors of power over the exact reasons behind Girish Chandra Murmu's sudden exit from Jammu and Kashmir. It is widely believed both Murmu and Chief Secretary

were not on the same page for

a long time. This was obviously affecting smooth implementation of the developmental package in Jammu and Kashmir. According to these observers, Murmu also paid the

price for speaking 'out of turn'

over certain contentious issues.

different media houses, Murmu

In a series of interviews to

Lieutenant Governor. GC Murmu's assessment over holding fresh Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir had also created ripples in New Delhi. This time, the Election

Commission of India had pulled up Murmu for his statement on the conduct of elections in Jammu and Kashmir saying holding polls is the mandate of the Commission and it was not the domain of the Lieutenant Governor.

# **SALIENT FEATURES**

(Through Video Link)

The programme can be viewed on http://www.youtube.com/railminindia

- First ever multi-commodity train will carry fruits like pomegranate, banana, grapes, etc and vegetables like capsicum, cauliflower, drumsticks, cabbage, onion, chillies, etc.
- The train will cater to the requirements of small farmers and small traders for carrying their perishables to distant places.
- The loading and unloading of perishable commodities will be permitted at all enroute stoppages.
- This will initially be once a week service. However based on user experience further modifications can be done.
- Kisan Special Parcel Express Train will have halts at Nasik Road, Manmad, Jalgaon, Bhusaval, Burhanpur, Khandwa, Itarsi, Jabalpur, Satna, Katni, Manikpur, Prayagraj Chheoki, Pt.Deendayal Upadhyaya Jn. and Buxar.

Flagging off by

# **Narendra Singh Tomar**

Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Government of India Presided over by

# **Piyush Goyal**

Minister of Railways and Commerce & Industry, Government of India

In the august presence of

# Suresh Angadi

Minister of State for Railways, Government of India

### **Raosaheb Danve**

Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Government of India

### **Devendra Fadnavis**

Leader of Opposition
Maharashtra Legislative Assembly

## **Chhagan Bhujbal**

Minister of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection, Government of Maharashtra, Guardian Minister, Nashik

**Venue:** Devlali Railway Station | **Date:** 07.08.2020 | **Time:** 10:30 am



# **Now GPS-embedded ventilators for Covid-19 patients**



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Life-saving ventilators for Covid-19 patients are now being embedded with Global Positioning System (GPS) chips ramp up their production. to ensure they are not misused or diverted and their movement is tracked on a real-time

Union Health Ministry has created a dashboard for tracking the real-time status of the indigenouslymanufactured ventilators being dispatched, delivered and installed for monitoring and feedback, said Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan.

"We can track the location of each of these devices as each ventilator is geo-tagged. We will get to know in real-time if a ventilator is changing loca-

tion," he said. On the issue of giving nod for export of ventilators, the official said that just about 0.27 per cent of total active Covid-19 cases are on a ventilator across the country. "At any given time, not more than 1 per cent of patients are sick enough to need ventilator support,"

The Government has set up a high-powered committee to address issues and encourage the domestic industry to manufacture ventilators and

Based on expert projections in March, the Health Ministry decided to procure about 60,000 ventilators for Covid-19 patients. About 18,000 ventilators have been so far supplied to states, central government hospitals, and Research Development Organisation facilities, said the senior official.

They have been installed in at least 700 hospitals across the country. Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) rolled out the first locally-made ventilator on May 30.

Bhushan said about 96 per cent of the 60,000 ventilators being procured are indigenous and most of them have been sponsored by the PM CARES Fund established to fight the Covid-19 pandemic. "The Make in India

[indigenous] ventilators have a share of more than 96 per cent% by volume and more than 90 per cent% by value."

The ministry's technical

# Spread of Covid-19 contained in country, says Min Vardhan

Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan on Thursday asserted that the spread of Covid-19 has been contained in the country, pointing out how half the total cases are from three states only and another 30 per cent from seven others.

His comments come even as India is all set to breach the 20-lakh mark of Covid-19 cases with over 40,000 deaths and record number of cases at over 50,000 infections being reported daily in the past few

Dr Harsh Vardhan was speaking at a virtual meeting of WHO's Regional Director, South East Asia, Poonam Khetrapal Singh with Health Ministers from the region on maintaining essential health services and public health programmes in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"The strategy of containment has been successful in that 50 per cent of the cases are from three states and 32 per

expert committee has come up

with minimum essential spec-

ifications for the basic ventila-

tors manufactured in India. All

the procurements are made

The plea, filed

Alakh Alok

states. The spread of the virus thus has been contained," he

The Minister said that the lockdown was effective in slowing down the rate of growth of cases and gave the government time to augment the health infrastructure and testing facilities.

"From one lab in January, India has 1,370 labs today. Indians anywhere can access a lab within three hours travel time. 33 of the 36 states and UTs (Union Territories) exceed WHO's recommendation of testing 140 people per million

Harsh Vardhan also said that the country was "preparing for the pandemic as soon as China informed the World Health Organisation on January 7", over three weeks before the first case emerged.

India had reported its first coronavirus case on January 30 when a student from Kerala, who was studying in China's Wuhan University, came back to India and tested positive for the deadly virus.

based on the committee's rec-

manufactured 30,000 ventila-

tors and Andhra Med-Tech

Public sector BEL has

ommendations.

stressed that earlier viral outbreaks like the Avian Influenza, H1N1, Zika and Nipah had provided institutional memory in designing containment and management strategies.

"India's proactive and graded multi-level institutional response to Covid-19 made it possible to have very low cases per million and deaths per million in spite of having a high population density, and low fractional GDP spending, per capita doctor, and hospital bed availability as compared to other developed countries," he

Despite India's population and low fractional GDP, the proactive and graded multilevel institutional response to COVID-19 by government has made it possible for the country to maintain "very low cases and deaths per million" population, the Union Health Minister said.

"India was preparing to fight the pandemic as soon as China informed WHO about it on January 7, Dr Harsh Vardhan said.

Zone 13,500. The prices of

locally-made ventilators range

between ₹1.5 and ₹4 lakh per

unit. Imported ventilators cost

between ₹10 and 20 lakh.

# Centre releases ₹890.32 cr as 2nd installment of virus emergency fund to 22 States, UTs

PNS NEW DELHI

The Centre has released ₹890.32 crore as the second instalment of the COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health System Preparedness package to 22 States and Union Territories, the Union Health Ministry said on Thursday.

The amount of financial assistance to each state and Union Territories is based on their COVID-19 caseload. Those who received finan-

cial assistance in the second instalment Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram and Sikkim, the ministry said in a statement.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced the Rs 15,000 crore package as part of the 'Whole of Government'

approach wherein the Centre is leading the COVID-19 response and management, and supporting the states and UTs through technical and financial resources.

The second instalment of the aid will be used to strengthen public health infrastructure for testing, including procurement and installation of RT-PCR machines, RNA extraction kits, TrueNat and CB-NAAT machines, bolster infrastructure for treatment and development of ICU beds, installation of oxygen generators and procurement of bedside oxygen concentrators among

It would also be used for engagement, training and capacity building of necessary human resources and incentives to healthcare workforce and volunteers, including ASHA workers on COVID-19 duties, the Ministry said, adding that wherever necessary, volunteers registered on the COVID Warriors portal may also be engaged in coronavirus duties.

The first instalment of Rs 3,000 crore was released in April to all States and UTs to aid and enable them ramp up testing facilities, augment hospital infrastructure, conduct surveillance activities along with procurement of essential equipment, drugs and other supplies, the Ministry said.

As part of this package, states and Union territories have been strengthened with 5,80,342 isolation beds, 1,36,068 oxygen-supported beds and 31,255 ICU beds.

Also, 86,88,357 testing kits and 79,88,366 Vial Transport Media (VTM) have been procured by them. As many as 96,557 human resource has been added and incentive has been given to 6,65,799 human resources.

The package has aided provision of mobility support to 11,821 staff, the Ministry said.

# PCI holds three-day health screening camp

PNS NEW DELHI

The Press Club of India (PCI) organised a threeday health screening camp for its 4,500 members and their

families from August 4-6, 2020. The screening campaign is part of the special initiative by Tech Mahindra, a leading provider of digital transformation, consulting and busi-

According to OP Singh, if

Miranda was kept in custody informally for a day, then he would have spilled the beans

about Chakraborty who was allegedly controlling Rajput's

Miranda, according to allegations, was recruited by

Chakraborty as Sushant's

life, reports said.

ness re-engineering services and solutions, to screen members for risk factors of COVID-19 through temperature and antibody test, blood pressure and blood glucose test.

# Students move SC, seek postponement | Sushant's suicide: ED grills Rhea's associate Samuel for second day of JEE (Main), NEET-UG exams

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, दशम मण्डल, उ०प्र० जल निगम, 4/4 संजय प्लेस, आगरा–282002 Ref. No.1029/NIVIDA/44 Date: 30-07-2020 E-Tender Notice

UP. Jal Nigam, E-tenders are invited on two bid system for Pipe line extension 63 mm dia to 160 mm dia HDPE pipe and Functional house tap connections (FHTC) works in New/Existing Water supply lines with all material, labour T&P etc. complete in Various W/S schemes under JJM in Distt. Mathura. Tender document shall be available at. e procurement website http://etender.up.nic.in Interested contractors may view & download the tender document and upload their tender duly filled online as per schedule given

below :- (i) Uploading bid document at website : Dated 06.08.2020 at 10:00 (ii) Pre-Bid meeting - Dated - 08.08.2020 at 15:00 (iii) Online Submission of ebids : Dated -13.08.2020 up to17:00 (iv) Opening of pre qualification bid/Technical bid Dated -14.08.2020 at 15.00.



 $R^{\text{eferring to the coronavirus}}_{\text{pandemic and floods' havoc}}$ in several parts of the country, a group of students on Thursday filed a petition in the Supreme Court on Thursday seeking postponement of JEÉ (Main) April 2020 and NEET-Undergraduate examinations, which are scheduled to be conducted in September.

The plea has sought quashing of July 3 notices issued by the National Testing Agency (NTA), by which it was decid-Examination (Main) April 2020 and National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET)-Undergraduate exams in

The plea, filed by 11 students belonging to 11 States, said that the authorities be directed to conduct these exams only after the normalcy is restored. As per the public notices issued by the NTA, JEE (Main) April 2020 is scheduled from September 1-6, while NEET UG 2020 exam is scheduled for September 13.

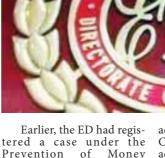
The plea, filed through

# through advocate

The Enforcement Directorate on Thursday questioned actress Rhea Chakraborty's associate Samuel Miranda for the second consecutive day in connection with a money laundering case relating to film star Sushant Singh Rajput's death.

The ED questioned iranda about the fi Rajput, sources said.

ED had lodged a money laundering case against Rhea Chakraborty and her family members after Rajput's father had filed a complaint before Patna police and accused the deceased actor's girlfriend of swindling his funds to the tune of Rs 15 crore.



Prevention of Money Laundering Act after taking cognisance of the Bihar police Miranda's questioning

Chakraborty's grilling as she has been summoned by the agency to appear before it on Friday in Mumbai.

Earlier, the agency had grilled Rajput's Chartered Accountant Sandeep Sridhar who had in his statement before the Mumnai police claimed that no major trans-

actions were made to Rhea Chakraborty from the late actor's account. Miranda's statement was

Miranda was reportedly named by Rajput's brother-inlaw and IPS officer OP Singh in his WhatsApp message to Mumbai Police DCP Paramjeet Dahiya. OP Singh wanted the Mumbai police to informally interrogate Samuel Miranda, according to Dahiya.

## house manager and was look-ing after the employees and house expenses.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE NGINEER, CONSTRUCTION DIVISION, U.P.JAL NIGAM, AMROHA

NIT No.: 1674/Nivida/58

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTICE Online percentage rate E recorded under the tenders in two bid system by Prevention of Money Notice no. 1674/Nivida/58, Laundering Act. Miranda has Dated 28.07.2020 for Pipeline Extension- 63mm dia to 200 mm dia, Functional House Tap Connections (FHTC) works In New/Existing W/S Lines with all materials, labour, t&p etc. Complete, and Repair of Over Head Tanks & appurtenant works in Various Village Water Supply Schemes of Various Block under JJM. in District Amroha U.P. are here by invited J.P. Jal Nigam from the reputed contractors having requsite work experience & financial capabilities. Tender document shall be available on e procurement website http:// etender.up.nic.in. latest by 05.08.2020 Interested bidders may view and download Tender Document and upload their tender, duly filled online latest y 17.08.2020 up to 12:00 Hrs. Jploaded Technical and Financial capacity evaluation cum technical bid shall be opened on dated 17.08.2020 day at 15:00 Hrs. The non refundable cost of e-tender document as GST or in accordance with GST

website www.upjn.org.

Bulandshahr circle, PWD Bulandshah

**CHANGE OF NAME** 

I, Dhiraj Singh Negi S/o Dhruv Singh Negi R/o House No. 1777-A, Gali No.54-B, Molar Band Extn. Badarpur New Delhi -110044, have changed my name Dhiraj Singh to Dhiraj Singh Negi.

PD(8706)A

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, दशम मण्डल, उ०प्र० जल निगम, 4/4 संजय प्लेस, आगरा–282002 Ref. No.1030/NIVIDA/45

Date: 30-07-2020 E-Tender Notice UP. Jal Nigam, E-tenders are

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## Bhushan seeks to present additional evidence if SC not satisfied with submissions on contempt

New Delhi: A day after the Supreme Court reserved its verdict, activist lawver Prashant Bhushan on Thursday moved a plea seeking to present additional evidence if the court is not satisfied with his submissions that the contempt was not made out against him for his judiciary.

had issued show cause notice to Bhushan after initiating the criminal contempt against him for his two alleged derogatory tweets against the judiciary, had reserved the verdict on Wednesday.

Senior advocate Dushvant Dave defended Bhushan before the bench, which also comprised Justices R Gavai and Krishan Murari, and had said on Wednesday that the tweets sustainable.

were against the judges regard ing their conduct in their personal capacity and did not obstruct administration of jus-

Referring to judgements in support of the plea, Bhushan said he had earlier submitted a preliminary reply to explain his tweets and the law laid down on the issue to highlight that be available on U.P. Jal Nigam the contempt notice was not

qualification bid/Technical bid Dated -14.08.2020 at 15.00. Details of work of e-tender will Office of The Executive Engineer

XI Division, U.P Jal Nigam, MBD, Ashiyana Phase-1, Near Over Head Tank, Moradabad-244001 Letter No. : 788 / M-14 / 64 Dated : 04.08.2020 VERY SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTICE
Online percentage rate basis

E-tender in two bid system for following works under Jal Jeevan Mission in dist. Moradabad are hereby invited by the undersigned on behalf of Chairman, U.P. Jal Nigam from reputed firms/ Contractors having requisite experience & financial capabilities firms/Contractors may view 8 download tender document (Prequalification cum Technical Bid & Financial bid) from 07.08.2020 and upload their tender, duly filled, online on e-procurement website http://etender.up.nic.in. Interested tender document and upload their tender document and upload their tender, duly filled, online as per schedule given below: - Date for - (i) Uploading bid document at website: 07.08.2020 at 17:00 hrs.(ii) Online Submission of e-bids: Up to 13.08.2020 at 12:00 hrs. (iii) Opening of bid hrs (iii) Opening of bid: 13.08.2020 at 15:00 hrs. The non refundable cost of e-tender document fee Rs. 3000.00 + 18% G.S.T., Rs. 5000.00 + 18% G.S.T.

Or as per latest G.S.T. Rules & Regulation. Details of e-tender will be available on U.P. Jal Nigam

The Superintending Engineer Bulandshahar Circle, PWD Bulandshahar Invites On behalf of Governo f Uttar Pradesh online percentage rate composite on two bid system from eligible registered contractors with UP PWD in Class-A Category for building works, registered contractor in any Central and State Departmer or government/semi Government undertaking for building works. The detailed document is available on the Government e-tender <a href="http://etender.up.nic.in">http://etender.up.nic.in</a> And UPPWD website <a href="http://www.uppwd.gov.in">http://www.uppwd.gov.in</a> Estimated Earnest (Excluding (in lac) GST) (in Lac of online bid

Office of the Superintending Engineer,

Bulandshahr Circle, P.W.D., Bulandshahr

**Short E-Procurement Tender Notice** 

Opening of technical bid Construction of multistory barracks of capacity of 200 persons in 49th PAC 1055.00 20.55 24 month (12:00 PM) Budh Nagar district. The Bid can only be submitted after deposition of Cost of bid document & EMD (Refundable) mone

through net banking on the tender portal site <a href="http://etender.up.nic.in">http://etender.up.nic.in</a> Through the available getaway an uploading of other document as specified in this bid document.

All registered contractors have to upload Turnover certified by CA of last 5 years and details of maximum.

cost work satisfactorily in last 5 years on Chanakya Software before submission tender. Details of E-Tende uploaded on <a href="http://etender.up.nic.in">http://etender.up.nic.in</a> shall also be uploaded on UP PWD Chanakya Software before las Period for downloading tender document 10:00 AM hrs. on date 11-08-2020 to 12:00 PM on date 18-08-

Last date of submission of bid 12:00 PM on date 18-08-2020 Opening of technical bid 3:30 hrs. dated 18-08-2020. The date of time of opening of financial bid to the qualified bidders shall be intimated by email and the list of qualified of bidders shall be upload on the tender portal. Details and conditions/rules related to bid available on Website http://etender.up.nic.in

(Ajay Shankar Singh) Executive Engineer Provi.Divi., PWD, Gautambudh Nagar

UP 154032 Date 4.8.2020 विज्ञापन वेबसाइट www.upgov.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।

ew Delhi, a separate advertisement will be released in respect of all Spacializations (Applied Art, ainting, Print Making, Sculpture and Visual Communcation) in the month of September 2020

### कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता लोक निर्माण विभाग, बिलासपुर मंडल, बिलासपुर

ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट निविदा सूचना Portal: https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in

छत्तीसगढ़ शासन, लोक निर्माण विभाग, बिलासपुर मण्डल, बलासपुर म निम्नलिखित कार्य नवीन ई-पंजीयन में पंजीकृत ठेकेदार हेत सरल क्र. 01 से 03 दिनांक 10.08.2020 एवं सरल क्र. 04 से 06 हेतु दिनांक 17.08.2020 तक निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

丣.	नि.आ.सू.क्र. /दिनांक	कार्य का नाम	लागत (लाख में)		
1	167	लो.नि.वि, उपसंभाग भैसमा अंतर्गत विभिन्न मार्गो का विशेष मरम्मत, मजबूतीकरण एवं चौड़ीकरण का कार्य। कोरबा संभाग कोरबा। तृतीय आमंत्रण।	50.00		
2	168 लो.नि.वि, उपसंभाग क्र—2 कटघोरा के अंतर्गत विभिन्न मार्गों में डब्ल्यू, एम.एम, बी.टी. पेंच, शोल्डर एवं ड्रेन का कार्य। कोरबा संमाग कोरबा। तृतीय आमंत्रण।				
3	169	लो.नि.वि, उपसंभाग कोरबा के अंतर्गत विभिन्न मार्गो में डब्ल्यू एम.एम, बी.टी. पेंच, शोल्डर एवं ड्रेन रिपेयर का कार्य। कोरबा संभाग कोरबा। तृतीय आमंत्रण।	65.00		
4	170	70 तहसील कार्यालय कोरबा में आम नागरिकों हेतु सुविधा का शेष निर्माण कार्य। कोरबा संमाग कोरबा। प्रथम आमंत्रण।			
5	171 विकास खण्ड रायगढ़ अन्तर्गत ग्राम महापल्ली में मिनी स्टेडियम इनडोर हॉल का निर्माण कार्य। रायगढ़ संभाग रायगढ़। प्रथम आमंत्रण।				
6	172	172 जिला रायगढ़ के बसीनबहरा से मुख्यार पहुंच मार्ग लंबाई 2.80 कि.मी. निर्माण कार्य। रायगढ़ संमाग रायगढ़। प्रथम आमंत्रण।			

1	167	लो.नि.वि, उपसंभाग भैसमा अंतर्गत विभिन्न मार्गो का विशेष मरम्मत, मजबूतीकरण एवं चौड़ीकरण का कार्य। कोरबा संभाग कोरबा। तृतीय आमंत्रण।	50.00	
2	168	लो.नि.वि, उपसंभाग क्र—2 कटघोरा के अंतर्गत विभिन्न मार्गों में डब्ल्यू, एम.एम, बी.टी. पेंच, शोल्डर एवं ड्रेन का कार्य। कोरबा संमाग कोरबा। तृतीय आमंत्रण।	60.00	
3	169	लो.नि.वि, उपसंभाग कोरबा के अंतर्गत विभिन्न मार्गों में डब्ल्यू एम.एम, बी.टी. पेंच, शोल्डर एवं ड्रेन रिपेयर का कार्य। कोरबा संभाग कोरबा। तृतीय आमंत्रण।	65.00	
l	170	तहसील कार्यालय कोरबा में आम नागरिकों हेतु सुविधा का शेष निर्माण कार्य। कोरबा संमाग कोरबा। प्रथम आमंत्रण।	23.51	
5	171	विकास खण्ड रायगढ़ अन्तर्गत ग्राम महापल्ली में मिनी स्टेडियम इनडोर हॉल का निर्माण कार्य। रायगढ़ संभाग रायगढ़। प्रथम आमंत्रण।		
6	172	जिला रायगढ़ के बसीनबहरा से मुडपार पहुंच मार्ग लंबाई 2.80 कि.मी. निर्माण कार्य। रायगढ़ संमाग रायगढ़। प्रथम आमंत्रण।	195.71	

विभाग के उपरोक्त बेबसाईट में देखे जा सकते है।

R.O. No:- 82783/7 अधीक्षण अभियंता लो.नि.वि. बिलासपुर मण्डल, बिलासपुर R.O. Date:- 04/08/2020

#### Srivastava, has also sought direction to the authorities to increase the number of examination centres for these exams

advocate Alakh Alok Srivastava has also sought direction to the authorities to increase the number of examination centres for aforesaid examination across India at such perilous time, is nothing else but putting lives of lakhs of young students (including petitioners herein) at utmost risk and danger of disease and

The best recourse at this stage can be to wait for some more time, let COVID-19 crisis subside and then only conduct these exams, in order to save the lives of the students and their parents," the plea

It claimed that NTA, which conducts entrance exams for admission in higher educational institutions in India, has decided to conduct JEE (Main) April-2020 through online mode and NEET UG-2020 exams through offline mode at 161 centres across India.

It alleged that NTA has indefinitely postponed the National Council of Hotel Management Joint Entrance Examination-2020, which was scheduled to be conducted on

two tweets allegedly against A bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra, which on July 22,

**COLLEGE OF ART** GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI

(Affiliated to University of Delhi) 20-22, TILAK MARG, NEW DELHI-110001 Phone Nos:- 23383612, 23070397& 23387485 http://colart.delhigovt.nic.in E Mail:- prcoa.delhi@nic.in **ADMISSION NOTICE** 

The Prospectus data for admission to BFA (Bachelor of Fine Arts) and Diploma for Hearing & Spee Impaired will be available on the College Website "http://colart.delhigovt.nic.in". The Applicati Form for admission will be available through a URL on the College Website The Application Form for BFA will be available from Monday, 17th August 2020 to Saturday, 29th August 2020. The filled up Application Form for BFA, along with requisite Fees and supporting documents, duly completed; should be uploaded through the same URL as mentioned/accessible on the College Website-Admission Portal, latest by Saturday, 29th August 2020.

Academic Session, 2020-21

Details regarding Qualifications, Intake Seats, Online Aptitude Test - General Knowledge of Fine Arts for all specializations, Centers for the conduct of entrance examination, Fees, Courses and Reservations are included in the Prospectus Data which is available on the College Website "http://colart.delhigovt.nic.in".

Note:
1. Only for the Academic Session 2020-21 due to the prevailing conditions of COVID-19, Admissions to undergraduate (BFA) courses are merit-based (that is, based on marks scored in Class XII Board-qualifying examinations) and marks obtained in the entrance test. The Admission Entrance test will be held Online, Aptitude Test - General Knowledge of Fine Arts for all specializations of BFA. No practical examination (Still-Life and Composition) will be conducted in the campus for any precedents. practical examination (starting and confidence) before the part of the properties of

For MFA (Master of Fine Arts) and Post Diploma for Hearing & Speech Impaired in the College of Art

Prof. B.S Chauhar

# **BJP sarpanch killed by** terrorists in S Kashmir

Sending out a chilling reminder to the security forces 'unidentified' terrorists Thursday carried out yet another bloodiest attack on grass root Panchayat workers in which one BJP sarpanch was killed in Vessu village of Qazikund block in South Kashmir's Kulgam district.

Police identified the slain BJP sarpanch as Sajad Ahmad Khanday.

According to ground reports, "Sajjad Ahmad was camping in a secured migrant camp in the area for the past several days. Early Thursday he stepped out of the camp and was 20 meters short of his home

Maha witnesses spike,

11,514 infected cases

Breaches 300 fatality mark 3rd time

Total infections mount to 4,79,779,

in a week, records 316 deaths

deaths go up to 16,792

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

In a major spike in the number of Covid-19 infections in

Maharashtra, an all-time daily

high of 11,514 people tested

positive for coronavirus on

Thursday, while 316 people

succumbed to the pandemic in

Surpassing the earlier record daily tally of 11,147

infections reported on July 30,

the State witnessed a new high

of 11,514 infections, taking

the total number infected cases

day in week, Maharashtra

recorded 316 deaths on

Thursday. Earlier, there were

322 deaths on August 1, the state recorded 300 deaths on

August 4 and 334 on August 5.

the total number of deaths in

Thursday, Pune accounted for

the highest 62 deaths, followed

by 57 deaths in Mumbai and 56

Pune, 57 in Mumbai and 56 in

Thane, there were 18 deaths in

Nagpur, 15 in Solapur, 13 each

Kolhapur, 10 in Palghar, 7 each

in Aurangabad, Parbhani and

Amravati, 6 in Latur, 5 each in

Raigad, Ahmednagar, Sangli

and Nanded, 3 in Buldhana, 2

each in Dhule, Satara and

Yavatmal and one death each in

Nandurbar, Ratnagiri and

19 toll in the city rose from

6591 to 6648, while the num-

ber of infected cases went up by

patients were discharged from

hospitals in the state after full

recovery, taking the total num-

from various hospitals after full

910 to touch 1,20,150.

With 57 deaths, the Covid-

On a day when 10854

patients discharged

Nashik, Jalgaon and

deaths in Thane.

the state mounted to 16,792.

With the 316 fresh deaths,

Of the total reported on

to a staggering 4,79,779. Breaching the 300 fatality mark on the fourth consecutive

various parts of the State.

records a new of

fired upon him". "Bleeding profusely he was rushed to the nearby hospital where doctors declared him brought dead", official sources said.

This is the second attack on a BJP worker in the last 48

hours in the region.
Earlier, BJP Panch Arif
Ahmad was critically wounded
after terrorists fired at him in Akhran Qazigund on the evening of August 4. Since June 2020 this is the fourth major terror attack on Panchayat workers in Kashmir valley.

Last month, former BJP district president Waseem Bari, his father and brother were killed inside their shop after terrorists fired on them from

recovery since the second week

of March this year to 3,16,375...

The recovery rate rose to 65.94 per cent. The mortality rate in

the state is 3.50 per cent. The State health authorities pegged

the number of "active cases" in

the state at 1,46,305.
Pune, which has emerged

continued to be the second-

deaths till now.

worst hit

Maharashtra.

had a 10-member police security and all of them were suspended and arrested because they were not with him when he was attacked.

On June 8, Congress sarpanch Ajay Kumar Pandita was killed outside his house at Lokbhawan in Anantnag.

Meanwhile, fearing for their lives three more BJP Workers of Kokernag constituency of Naropora Watnard Village Thursday resigned from basic membership of BJP party. These workers were identified as Shabir Ahmad Khan S/o Gh Rasool Khan, Reyaz Ahmad Rather S/o Ab Aziz Rather, Ab Khaliq Sheikh S/o Mohd Subhan Sheikh.



New Delhi: The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways on Thursday signed a MoU with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi to set up a Centre of Excellence (CoE) for use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in data driven decision making and advance data man-agement system for Highways. Under the partnership, IIT Delhi will work with NHAI on

developing advanced analytics based on AI and ML, prepare simulation models, enhance data storage and retrieval capacities to further strengthen NHAI's capabilities in data-driven decision making. The collaboration, according to a statement from the MoRTH, will be undertaken on the identified thrust areas like Project Management and Data Management, Highway Network Traffic Demand and Management, Highway safety, Highway Work-zone Management, Highway Pavement



### City remains under wet spell for 3rd day; landslide in downtown Mumbai, 15 wall, 360 tree falls, 47 short circuits mark day

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

Aday after the Island city of Mumbai registered a record rainfall in 46 years, the country's commercial capital and neighbouring area reeled under the intense wet spell for the third consecutive day on Thursday, resulting in dislocation in bus and suburban train services and inundation of the

low-lying areas.
A landslide along upmarket
Peddar Road, 15 wall collapses, 360-odd tree falls and 47 incidents of electric short-circuits were the highlights of Thursday's monsoon report card for the metropolis put out by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC).

In one of the major monsoon-related incident that disrupted the traffic towards south Mumbai, a portion of the land slid along with trees planted near the wall protecting the hillock along the Peddar Road. The landslide took place in the early hours of Thursday, at the edge of the Malabar Hill located just off the Kemp's Corner flyover.

The suburban train service services on the Main and Harbour lines of the Central and Central Railway were affected by the continued rains and consequent inundation of tracks at several places. This was the second landslide within Mumbai in three days — the other being the one reported earlier at Kandivli in north Mumbai along the Western Express Highway.

For most part of the day, team of civic workers were involved in clearing the piled up loose soil from the landslide and branches of the trees. As a consequence, the main arterial road remained out of bounds for the traffic movement for several hours.

Talking to mediapersons after visiting the spot, Maharashtra's former Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said: "I visited the Peddar Road in south Mumbai where the entire road got blocked due to landslide. Not only traffic got affected but water supply too".

Meanwhile, the Island city of Mumbai recorded 331.8 mm of rains during 24 hours between

8.30 am on August 5 and 8.30 am August 6, which incidentally was the highest rainfall in 46 years. The city suburbs recorded a rain of 162.3mm during the same period. Of the 15 wall collapses

reported on Thursday, six were reported from the Island city, six incidents took place in the eastern suburbs, while the remaining three incidents were reported from western suburbs of the city. Similarly, there were 361 tree falls — 274 in the city, 40

eastern suburbs and 47 in the western suburbs — were reported from across the metropolis, while 57 incidents of electric short circuits were reported from the different parts of the metropolis. Following the call by the weather bureau, the fishermen from the Coastal Konkan region chose not to venture into

Meanwhile, 16 fishermen who were stranded off Arnala off Thane district were rescued by Indian Coast Guard.

A crane in the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust collapsed but no damage to any vessel was reported, while winds caused extensive damage to the DY Patil Stadium in Nerul in Navi Mumbai.

In a related development, Kolhapur district in Western Maharashtra has been put on high alert with the Panchganga river flowing over the flood line in some places. The Panchganga river is flowing at 41.2 feet level whereas the alert level is 39 feet and danger mark is 43 feet

The movement on nine State highways and two dozen roads in the Kolhapur district were affected because of rainfall since the last three days.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray reviewed the situation in Kolhapur, along with the neighbouring district of Sangli which had in July-August witnessed deluge and floods. Uddhav advised Konkan and Pune divisional commissioners to focus on overflowing of rivers in Kolhapur, Raigad, Ratnagiri and shift local residents to safer places in view of

BSF dismisses constable from service for facilitating Pakistani smugglers

PNS NEW DELHI

The Border Security Force (BSF) has dismissed a constable from service for allegedly facilitating Pakistani smug-glers to sneak in contraband

like weapons and drugs.

BSF constable Rajendra
Prasad was arrested along with
two others by the Punjab Police
on July 28 from his native place at Sriganganagar in Rajasthan.

"As per the Punjab Police investigation report, Constable Rajendra Prasad of 71 Bn BSF was found guilty on the charge of collusion with smugglers. Subsequently, on August 4, under the zero-tolerance policy, Constable Rajendra Prasad (was) dismissed from the service under the provision of the BSF Act and Rule with effect from August 4," reads the state-ment of BSF (Punjab Frontier).

Prasad, posted at a border outpost (BÔP) in Chhina village in Taran Tarn district of Punjab, was found to be the part of cross-border drugs and weapons smuggling syndicate busted by the Punjab Police.

The Punjab police had recovered a.30 bore pistol along with five live cartridges and Rs 24.50 lakh in cash from Prasad and two of his accomplices — Surmail Singh and Gurjant Singh.

Punjab Police probe had revealed that Prasad had alleged-

ly helped the syndicate in getting 17 kg of heroin and two foreignmade pistols in May. During questioning by the Punjab police, Prasad's associates Surmail and Gurjant had revealed that they were working with a cross-border smuggler, Satnam Singh alias Satta, a resident of Taran Tarn district. Satta was closely linked with Pakistan-based smugglers for getting heroin and weapons supplies from across the border to Punjab. The duo had also disclosed that Prasad was also involved in the smuggling racket.

# Ex-RS member dies of corona

#### as the second worst-affected **DISCHARGE RATES RISING, FATALITY** district in terms of spread of the pandemic, has recorded 1,04,353 infections and 2496 RATES FALLING. SAYS MAMATA With 1,00,875 infected

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA Chakrabarty who had like Jyoti

district in The dreaded coronavirus **■** claimed yet another polit-Out of 24,87, 990 samples ical victim when veteran sent to laboratories, 4,79,779 Marxist leader, former Rajya have tested positive (19.23 per Sabha Member and an imporcent) for COVID-19 until tant member in Jyoti Basu Cabinet Shyamal Chakrabarty Currently, 9,76,332 peodied on Thursday. He was 77 and is survived by a daughter.

ple are in home quarantine while 37,768 people are in He had tested positive for institutional quarantine. the virus and, admitted to a pri-Meanwhile, Maharashtra vate hospital on July 31, sources said, adding he was suffering Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari e-inaugurated a new from comorbidities like renal Covid-19 testing lab at conditions.

Bhaktivedanta Hospital in Mira He was one of the five Young Turks" of the Left Road, one of the Corona hotspots, in the presence of the movement in the 1970s, includhospital Chairman Hrishikesh ing Buddhadeb Bhattachariee. Mafatlal, Mira-Bhavander Biman Bose, Anil Biswas and Municipal Corporation Mayor Subhas Chakrbarty all of whom Ivotsana Hasnale and MLA were close friends and rose to prominence as mass leaders.

A senior Trade Union leader who started his political career in the early 1960s from students' movement, Chakrabarty later went on to become CPI(M)'s central committee member known for integrity, dedication and gentleness, said Congress Sabha leader Adhir

The mortal remains of

Basu and other senior Marxist leaders had donated his body for medical research will however be handed over to the Kolkata Municipal Corporation for funeral in accordance with corona protocols, both his daughter Ushashie Chakrabarty and CPI(M) State secretary Suryakanto Mishra said.

"CPI(M) expresses its deep sadness at the demise of comrade Shyamal Chakrabarty a veteran trade union leader, a former minister and a central committee member," a party release said.

Condoling his death Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said "saddened at the passing away of ... Shyamal Chakrabarty. My condolences to his family friends and supporters."

Meanwhile the Bengal Government on Thursday claimed that about 87.6 percent of the total corona deaths in the State were caused due to comorbidity. Briefing the media the Chief Minister said there were "little more than 50,000 active cases" in the State adding "some 87.6 percent of fatalities were caused due to comorbid conditions."

## **Special Court to** pronounce verdict on Swapna's bail plea

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN CHENNAI

Both the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and the petitioner (Swapna Suresh, the kingpin in the gold smuggling racket through diplomatic channel at Thiruvananthapuram) Court in Kochi on the bail application moved by the latter. The judge has reserved the orders for August 10.

While the lawyer representing Swapna told the court that though the gold was smuggled into the country, the team probing the vase has failed to prove that it had any links with terrorism related activities. "It is an offence which could be resolved by

remitting the fine prescribed by the rule books, said the lawyer. He also disclosed that each and every gram of gold seized from Swapna's locker had been accounted for and there was no illegalities in her owning that gold.

But the NIA told in its reply that the accused was well aware of the implications of her action and she had confessed to the agency that she was not bothered about the possibility of the profitability from smuggling being diverted to anti-national activities and terrorism.

The revelations by the NIA to the court that the accused Swapna Suresh has close links with higher officials in the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) was a serious issue.

"She had approached her contacts in the CMO to get the gold released from the Customs. She was getting sufficient help from the police department of the State," said the assistant solicitor general Vijayakumar who represented the NIA

The lawyer for Swapna is opposing the slapping of the UAPA in this case which would make it impossible for the accused to come out on bail foe the next one year.

## 666 villages hit by floods in 17 dists

Lucknow: Amidst Met office forecast of rain or thundershowers at many places over eastern UP and at a few places over the western part of the state over the next 24 hours, as many as 666 villages have been affected by floods across 17 districts of Uttar Pradesh. According to the data released by the UP relief commissioner, major rivers are flowing above the danger mark at some places in the state. The Sharda river at Palia Kalan in Barabanki and Ayodhya and Turtipar in Ballia , and the Rapti at Birdghat in Gorakhpur are flowing above the red mark.

ex-Incharge BC RK Puram New Delhi Motor department -376516, 522035 522037, 522073, 669593 TO 669600 522047, 522074, 504191, 522048, 522075 504194,522049,572086,522182,522050,624211 TO 624225, 522192, 522310, 522197, 522034. Fire department -11-2 7 3 4 5 1 to 2 7 3 4 7 5 Misc department-48-791876 to 791900,48 791901 to 791925 ,48-791926 to 791950. The company is not responsible for any type of liabilities, arising from the issuance of these unused/lost cover Notes. Finders of these cover notes Please Contact Sr. Divisional Manager, The Oriental flow-PNS Delhi-110049 Tel No:011-24651386,

### **GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR** DIRECTORATE OF FLORICULTURE SRINAGAR KASHMIR

Tel-0194-2474234 Fax - 2482032 - email :- kasflori@rediffmail.com

Sub: Extension No. 02.

1. Period of downloading of

In view of poor response, the last date for submission of bids invited vide this office e-tender Notice No. 04 of 2020 dated: 25/06/2020 for Supply of Garden Sweet Soil for District Budgam, Ganderbal and Bandipora is hereby extended as per details given below: -

bidding document 21/08/2020 upto 02:00 PM. **Bid submission Start Date** 07/08/2020 from 10:00 am. 3. Bid submission End Date 21/08/2020 upto 02:00 PM.

Date and time of Opening of 25/08/2020 at 02:00 PM. Tenders

Other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid Tender Notice. By order

No. DIPK-3813/20 Dated:- 06-08-2020

Sd/-**Accounts Officer** (Member secretary)

06/08/2020 from 04:00 PM to

#### Delhi Transco Ltd, a Government of NCT of Delhi Undertaking, invites online

DELHI TRANSCO LIMITED

tenders for the work: Tender No. T20P080282: Augmentation work for replacement of outlived 11 kV switchgears with new 11 kV switchgears along with associated equipments/accessories at 220 kV sub station Lodhi Road Najafgarh, Pappankalan I, Okhla & Mehrauli on Turneky basis. Last date for bid submission: 03.09.2020 at 1.30 p.m. For downloading of tender documents and further details please visit website Delhi Govt website https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in Tender ID No.2020\_DTL\_193316\_1 and DTL website www.dtl.gov.in Unique No. DTL-7680-060820.



S.No. Job No.

Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida-201301 (U.P.)

#### SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTICE E-Tenders are invited from eligible contractors/firms for the following jobs

against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/ downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website. www.noidaauthorityonline.com & https://etender.up.nic.in. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

	Supply of Shreded Green Fodder in	
2.00	emporary Ashray Sthal Vill-Nagli Vajidpur, Noida.	6898500.00

Name of Work

Amount

at 11.00 AM Sr. Project Engineer (Public Health), Noida

**CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA** 

#### APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION General public is hereby informed



DP/166/WD/2020

that an unidentified person Namely: Jagdish @ Jagga S/o Unknown R/o Uttarakhand, Age: about 35-40 years, Height: 5'4", Complexion : Fair, Built : Thin, Face: Long, Hair: Black & Small, Wearing: White colour T-shirt and Blue colour Trouser has been found dead at in front of H. No. B1/164, Gali No. 4, Near Sunil

Dairy, Vishnu Garden, Delhi on 02.08.2020. In this regard a case vide DD No. 46A dated 02.08.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Khyala, Delhi. The Dead body has been preserved for 72 hours in Din Dayal Upadhyay Hospital Mortuary, Delhi. Any person having any information or clue about this dead

found person may kindly inform to the following:-

P.S. Khyala, Delhi West Distt., Delhi Ph. No. 011-28335696, 28335686



General public is here by informed that one girl Namely: Mala @ Simmi, D/o Raju Kharaliya, R/o H. No. 32/47, Trilokpuri, Delhi, Age: 22 years, Height: 5', Complexion: Shallow, Face: Long, Built: Thin, Wearing: Yellow Colour Suit and blue Colour Palazo, Jutti in Feet, has been missing since 23.07.2020 at

12.00 PM. from the area of PS. Mayur Vihar, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 97A dated 23.07.2020 has been lodged at

P.S. Mayur Vihar, New Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out

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

E-Mail: cic@cbi.gov.in Website: http://cbi.nic.in Fax: 011-24368639 Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641

P.S. Mayur Vihar, Delhi Ph. 011-22711048, 8750870626 DP/146/ED/2020

### SOUTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR(HORT.). HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT/WEST ZONÉ Room No. 403, 4th Floor, Dr.Sahib Singh Verma Nigam Bhawan Near Shivaji Collage, Shivaji Place, Raja Garden, New Delhi-110027 (Email ID: ddhwestzone37@gmail.com) PRESS NOTICE

NIT No.02/DDH/WZ/SDMC/2020-21 e-tender Line No.1. Online Item Rate open e-Tender are invited under signal stage-Two Bid system (Technical & financial) from reputed Firms / Contractors/ eligible bidders for the work of "Rate Contract for Hiring of Back Hoe Loader and Hydra Crane for removal & levelling of good earth and loading and unloading of Scraps at "Bharat Darshan Park" Punjabi Bagh Ward No.02-SWest Zone/SDMC" Estimated Amount:18.00 lacs, Period of Rate Contract of Scraps and Scraps at "Bharat Darshan Park" Punjabi Bagh Ward No.02-SWest Zone/SDMC" Estimated Amount:18.00 lacs, Period of Rate Contract: 12 months, Head of a/c: 1.130.1031, Tender Cost: Rs.1000/-, EMD: Rs.36000/- After getting themselves registered, if not registered earlier, the Bidding Documents with detailed terms & condition can be download & submitted through website - www.tenderwizard.com/ SOUTHDMCETENDER OR visit SDMC website www.mcdonline.gov.in/South Delhi Municipal Corporation/Tenders/e-tendering. For online tender assistance the bidders may call on Helpdesk No. 011-23227413 & 011-23227414 or mai to: mcd-lthelpdesk@mcd.gov.in The date of download/bid-preparation/ Has-submission is w.e.f. 07.08.2020 to 14.08.2020 upto 1500 hours. All details of Revisions, Clarification, Corrigendum, Addendum, time Extension etc., if any in respect of the tender will be uploaded on SDMC website only & will not be published in newspapers(s). Bidders should regularly visit the website to keep themselves updated. Dy. Director(HORT)West Zone Dy. Director(HORT)West Zone Ph. No. 011-25107680 Ro. No. 25/DPI/S/2020-21

# NEW DELHI | FRIDAY | AUGUST 7, 2020 <u>e pioneer</u>

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# **New L-G for Kashmir**

Will Manoj Sinha be able to fill the political vacuum and get things moving or will he just be another conformist appointee?



-hat Kashmir is drifting away with a current of people's angst — what with the widening chasm of trust deficit and clampdowns even one year after the abrogation of Article 370 — is evident from persistent militant activity and targetted killings. With no signs on the ground of the promised development, economic revival or civil engagement, its integration with the mainstream is increasingly looking like an exercise in political egoism, a tool that is disempowering than engaging, a punishment for history than an incentive for moving on. The spate of hitback killings of BJP leaders and sarpanches is worrisome as the office-bearers are seen

as extensions of Central authority. BJP sarpanch Sajad Ahmad Khanday was shot dead in south Kashmir's Kulgam district yesterday. It comes close on the heels of similar attacks over the past couple of months. A BJP-affiliated panchayat member, Arif Ahmad Khan, was also shot in Kulgam early this week, while last month, former BJP district president, Waseem Bari, his father and brother were killed as militants fired on them from close range. In June, Congress sarpanch Ajay Kumar Pandita was killed in Anantnag district. Only 7,528 of the 19,582 panch and sarpanch seats in Kashmir went to polls in 2018. Yet most of those elected are hiding out in hotels in Srinagar for fear of being attacked for participating in an electoral process initiated by the Centre. The BJP had hoped to build an alternative political pyramid with friendly leaders at the local level and devolving power to them. But that was not to be. Over 12,000 posts are still empty, affecting local administration and despite the former State's changed status, nobody is ready to engage till all known elected representatives are freed from detention. With credible leaders redefined as public enemies, as bad as militants, and basic rights and connectivity denied to locals, there is confusion, disenchantment and fatigue everywhere, one that can congeal to become a violent force if left to fester. Perhaps, that's the reason why the Government is sending a seasoned politician like Manoj Sinha to be the new Lt Governor of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. A low-key, subtle performer, he is probably being sent to test the waters and work out ways of connecting with people without disturbing the BJP's overall schematics in the Valley. That's a delicate exercise requiring fine negotiation skills. Most importantly, he could use his administrative depth and experience to fill up the political vacuum in the Valley. Although his predecessor GC Murmu was an establishment man, he was essentially a bureaucrat with a focus on policy, not politics. And he could not build a rapport with local bureaucrats. Besides, he did shoot his mouth off on two sensitive issues that the Government should rightly consider but would not talk about much at this stage. First was his comment on the restoration of 4G internet in the Valley, saying he was not afraid of how people of Kashmir would use it. This went against the Government's rationale that the services were shut because they could be misused by militants. He also advocated early elections in the Valley, running ahead of both the Government and the Election Commission, which would have liked to take a call on this in a measured manner and at a time of their choosing. This speaking out of turn almost amounted to embarrassing the Government and showed it as a reluctant decision-maker.

Sinha undoubtedly has a political acumen that could be banked upon for handling the sensitivities in Kashmir. Especially if implementation of the uniform civil code is on the agenda. And he happens to be in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's good books. His appointment is crucial at a time when political activity is picking up with the release of local leaders, some of whom are voicing strong opinions. National Conference leader Omar Abdullah has already claimed the moral high ground and with Saifuddin Soz scaling the walls of his home to call out the Government's "no detention" claim, the Government needs a politician to articulate its position. Known to be an amicable person, who is equally skillful in interacting with the media, which has been muzzled ruthlessly, Sinha fits the bill. At least he can be accommodative without appearing to be too conformist. But the Government has to realise that it cannot make any claim of transformative intent till it gets some kind of mediatory presence of local parties. The failed panchayat polls are proof enough. Demonising leaders has been costly as some of them have been lionised among locals. The BJP did raise the Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party (JKAP), drawing rejects from the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and NC, but it looks more sorry than credible. Sinha might be the interlocutor who could connect to people's representatives and get them to meet the Government half way constructively provided they didn't play a dual strategy with Pakistan. He could still use Omar to work a middle ground. But first, the Centre should restore normalcy and mainstream internet connectivity. The youth are already feeling punished for being left out of the digital education revolution and we cannot let them be radicalised. The economy is in shambles with disruptive clampdowns affecting the supply chain and the services sector. Even the traditional performing sectors like the apple trade, tourism and handicrafts have wilted and there is nothing that seems worthy of big ticket investment. There must be an enabling climate or Kashmir could go into a perennial freeze.

# **Monumental apathy**

Unpardonable callousness in storing ammonium nitrate causes Beirut's worst blast and the scars may take a long time to heal



t may not have been a terrorist attack, most expected in a conflict zone as flagrant as Lebanon, but is a man-made disaster no doubt. One that could have been avoided. Even as the people of Beirut pick up the pieces of their lives that have been shattered by the massive blast on August 4, anger is rising against official negligence, apathy and callousness. This simmering anger comes on the back of an official admission of carelessness by Lebanese authorities that led to the Hiroshimatype explosion in the port, flattened more than half of Beirut, killed at least 135 people, injured thousands and left many more homeless. Nearly 3,000 tonnes of ammo-

nium nitrate were stored without safety measures in a warehouse since 2014. Just six months ago, inspectors had warned the authorities against piling up the consignment and predicted a massive explosion. Yet, the port officials sat on the stockpile till it blew up and devastated whatever was left of an already comatose city that has been through the rigours and ravages of civil war, repeated bombings, a corrupt Government and the pandemic.

Now, as a firefighting measure, the Government of Prime Minister Hassan Diab has put a few Beirut port officials under house arrest. There is also a probe going on to find out how such highly explosive materials were stored less than 100 metres from residential areas. But this is not enough to assuage the anger of the people who are writhing under a bankrupt economy. They need answers, someone to be held accountable for this unnecessary suffering. They need the Diab Government to step up rescue and relief work, provide more hospital beds, restore regular power supply, mend the infrastructure to import and store essential goods at the earliest before a scarcity of food and other goods hits them. The world needs to come to Lebanon's aid as it has suffered enough. Its institutions of governance may be democratic but the Parliament does not represent the interests of the Lebanese people. Power has been divided between militarised factions, a fetid legacy of the 1975-90 civil war and the result is a barely functional statehood. The Diab Government has failed to halt the nation's slide towards bankruptcy and Lebanon is on the brink of failure. The International Monetary Fund and other lenders don't want to sink money into a corrupt machinery where a small group of power brokers put their personal and financial interests above the nation's stability. The blast has not just exacerbated Lebanon's plight, it has ripped its soul.

# op 5 nion

# Religion vs culture

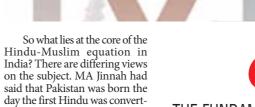
Never mind the differences between the deductive and inductive approaches. For domestic peace to prevail, we need to co-exist, respect each other's limits than be confrontationist



rala Governor Arif Mohammad Khan hit the nail on its head last week when he said that some people make the mistake of equating culture with religion. The former is about a consciousness and identity that set us apart as a people and wholly unrelated to the individual faiths we might practise. Yet some commentators look at things from a Western or Semitic frame of reference. The subject of logic has two broad sections, namely deductive and inductive. The former section begins reasoning with a clear-cut premise without any explanation. For example, Judaism asserts that Jehovah is god; Moses the Prophet and Torah the scripture. What follow are logical corollaries of this premise, all of which the believer must expectedly accept during his/her journey to heaven, which ends on Doomsday.

Allah, the merciful, is the god of Muslims. Muhammad is the last Prophet and the *Quran* the final message for all those who consider Abraham as the first Prophet of all. The Quran is supplemented by the Hadith or traditions and the Sunnah, which records the lessons of the Prophet's life. Between these scriptures, the momin or the faithful Muslim would get a complete prescription for how to live life individually as well as collectively. There is, as it were, no need to look left or right. The Islamic scriptures lay out all possible dos and don'ts, the halals and haraams about which the believer does not need to ponder or hesitate. The logic of the religion flows like a

Christianity preceded Islam, and among the Abrahamic religions, has more followers than either Islam or Judaism on paper. Islam acknowledges Jesus but as a Prophet and not as a son of God. Moreover, governance is covered by religion; whereas the *Bible* assigns politics to Caesar, as the emperor was called in those days. As a result, separating the Church from the State was possible when the "Reformation" came in the 16th Christ has grown into many denominations, each having a somewhat different theological view. By contrast, Islam stopped Ijtihad or reinterpretation of theology, which was reflected in the Sunni (about 90 per cent Muslims) attitude to the temple issue.



ed to Islam. In contrast, MK Gandhi had told the then British Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald in London in 1931 that Hindu-Muslim riots are coeval with British rule. The rule ended 73 years ago but riots still continue; remember the Partition was meant to be a solution to the problem. In that context, Jinnah's separatism did take the Islamic pressure off the other communities. He, however, had in mind a complete exchange of population, as designed by the League of Nations and implemented in 1923 between Greece and Turkey and between Bulgaria

Coming back to logic, the deductive section is clearly updown, given the premise followed by its corollaries and reasoning. Abrahamic faiths follow this approach. Inductive logic is the reverse; there is no given premise. The facts, data and sentiments are gathered from the iuna, me people ana me re soning move upwards until a conclusion is arrived at. This is free reasoning; nothing is given.

and Turkey. BR Ambedkar endorsed this proposal but

Congress leaders paid no atten-

tion to the idea.

Hinduism, Indic faith or what is often referred to as the Sanatan Dharma, or eternal faith or virtue, follows the inductive path. Which would



THE FUNDAMENTAL **DIFFERENCE** BETWEEN THE **DEDUCTIVE AND INDUCTIVE** APPROACHES IS CLEAR AND SHARP. THE FORMER INSISTS ON ITS VIEWPOINT AND DOES NOT **CONCEDE THE OPPOSITE** CONTENTION; HENCE FIGHTS AND WARS HAVE BEEN FREQUENT. FOR THE DEDUCTIVE TO BE AT PEACE WITH THE INDUCTIVE IS MORE DIFFICULT. 1HI2 12 1HF



SYNDROME

HINDU-MUSLIM

explain the multiplicity of Hindu denominations. One of the few common factors that runs through all of them is karma, leading to bhagya or fate; deed causes destiny. This equation is as near as faith can get close to science or physics;

for every action, there is an

equal and opposite reaction. To illustrate the liberality of the inductive approach, let us take a hypothetical example. Let us assume four Hindus from four directions of India discussing the subject of "roses." The person from the east could claim that "roses" are always white. One from the west could contend that "roses" are always red and no other colour. The northerner would insist that he and his friends have only seen pink "roses." The south Indian would probably laugh and contradict all the three, saying "roses" are yellow and he has seen none other. The argument could go on for a while but would not lead to a quarrel. There would not be any agreement on the colour of the roses but the four would most likely

to agree to disagree. If a person worshipping an Abrahamic religion were present at the debate, he could insist that roses are red; the other colours flowers other than roses.

This fundamental difference between the deductive and inductive approaches is clear and sharp. The former insists on its viewpoint and does not concede the opposite contention; hence fights and wars have been frequent. For the deductive to be at peace with the inductive is more difficult. This is the Hindu-Muslim syndrome. While the Sultans and Nawabs ruled, there was no way the Hindus could riot. This violent civil phenomenon began after these rulers were brought down and an

equalisation set in. Remember that the dethroning work was performed by the British East India Company; Robert Clive in the east vanquished Nawab Sirajuddualla in 1757. Lord Wellesley saw the conclusive end of Tipu Sultan in 1799 while Lord Dalhousie pushed out Nawab Wajid Ali Shah for the company to take over Awadh in 1856. These were the three corners of India. The western or fourth corner, comprising Rajasthan and Gujarat, remained mostly with the local principalities. Gwalior, Indore, Kolhapur and others survived as princely States until independence in 1947. Uncannily, there have not

been Hindu-Christian riots although there have been incidents of Muslims killing Christians, especially in Pakistan. What the circumstance is in that country we do not know. We do know though that we need alternative but to co-exist respecting each other's limits than being confrontationist. And to do so is not too difficult. As we are bound by Indic culture.

(The writer is a well-known columnist and an author. Views expressed are personal)

#### UNDBITE

If this lad was Virat Kohli, evervone would be talking about him but because he is Babar Azam. no one is talking about him

Former England captain –Nasser Hussain

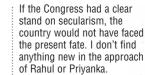
I've skipped many steps that many people have had to fight for. I've gotten chances that many people wouldn't have gotten easily. I've fast-tracked into this system already

Actor —Janhvi Kapoor



The world has seen China become more aggressive during the pandemic. It has deployed troops along the LAC with India and is acting out in a way that is inconsistent with international norms

**US Defense Secretary** 



**Kerala Chief Minister** –Pinarayi Vijayan



#### LETTERS

#### **Justice should prevail**

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Closure for Sushant" (August 6). The Centre's decision to order a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) inquiry into Sushant Singh Rajput's death has emboldened hopes for justice. Despite having a good professional reputation and high integrity, the Mumbai police so far has not been up to the mark in probing this case. It was surprising that the Mumbai police and the Bombay Municipal Corporation (BMC) forcibly quarantined Vinay Tiwari, the officer from Bihar who came to Mumbai for a detailed investigation of the case. People lost trust because of these feeble approaches, necessitating a CBI probe. One hopes that justice shall prevail. Tushar Anand

## **Reality beyond temple**

Sir — It is true that as far as Ayodhya is concerned, "history is being made and crores of Indians cannot believe that this

## Trolls and their impact on social media

f late, it has become an unpleasant fad for some social media users to target celebrities and post unsavoury comments about them. Most often such utterances are found to be irritable and repugnant. This is why sometimes celebrities lose their cool and are forced to stoop to the level of these people whose only aim is to get publicity and pose as a "hero" in the social media domain. In recent times, we have seen Indian superstar and Bollywood icon Amitabh Bachchan being targetted by some who have been commenting on his actions unsparingly and that, too, using immodest and indelicate words. A rude twitter troll even asked Abhishek Bachchan how he would fend for himself when his father was hospitalised after he tested positive for Coronavirus. Abhishek took his usual, graceful but impactful stance and said that he hoped for their good health. What these "commentators" forget is that by using derogatory remarks just for momentary fame, they themselves are degrading themselves on a public forum.



Freedom of expression is permitted but then many do not understand that using abusive and provocative comments does not come under this right. A response to such cheap commentary often leads to further conflicts that at times even lead to legal procedures and court battles. Let us learn from Big B, who often responds even to provocative comments in a decent and wise manner. M Pradyu

Pakistan at it again

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Now Pak in map war" (August 6). That Pakistan has released a territorially mislead ing map, which includes much of Kashmir and Junagadh into its territory, shows its desperation.

of Chinese connivance in the backdrop of the standoff along the LoC. This move drew a sharp reaction from New Delhi as it dubbed it an "exercise in political absurdity." But this time, we need to firmly refute its claims and reassert our territorial sov-Devendra Khurana

#### **Corona spiral**

Sir — It seems only a matter of time for India to attain the dubious distinction of topping the global charts of daily COVID deaths. Delhi, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, which reported the highest number of cases until now, have managed to bend the virus curve. Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal are the new hotspots. Sadly, many of these States are less equipped to tackle the virus load. Central coordination and support will be needed to fight the virus in the hinterland.

Shambhavi Via email

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

be a symbol of modern India but the reality cannot be wished away. The economy is in trouble; unemployment has affected many households and businesses have shrunk. Privatisation is on the rise and there is trouble as far as China

day has come." There is no

and Pakistan are concerned.

doubt that the Ram temple will Vivekananda's thought: "It is a privilege to serve mankind, for this is the worship of god. God is here, in all these human souls. He is the soul of man. The Government must reassess its priorities, particularly when the enemy is at our door.

Our leaders must follow Swami

**Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee** 

Brazen actions like these smack

NEW DELHI | FRIDAY | AUGUST 7, 2020

# analysis

#### FIRSTCOLUMN

# Race to space is hotting up

Investments in long-term space programmes require change in strategic, far-reaching thinking, which unfortunately is clouded by politics



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

hy go to the stars? Because we are the descendants of those primates who chose to look over the next hill, because we won't survive here indefinitely," wrote science fiction authors

James and Gregory Benford.

Take a moment off from the ongoing COVID-19 crisis to look up and wonder what lies beyond that beautiful cloud-filled August sky. And that is where the Indian space programme or "space diplomacy" should come in. While we were busy looking at the pandemic's impact, not many noticed the three intra-planetary objects launched across the globe. The first was the Hope orbiter from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), followed by Tianwen 1 by China and finally the Perseverance by the US. All three are expected to reach destination Mars by February 2021, thereby opening up a whole new chapter of Star Wars. No matter who reaches there first, or what their stated objectives are, the world is again welcoming a "highly-contested and thereby, surveillance-hungry and of course trillions of dollars worth of yet-to-be-explored space" right above our heads. The battle for global dominance has just gone into space.

Leading the race for interstellar supremacy is China, which has openly stated its objective of joining the elitist space club with selfreliant rockets, satellites and telescopes by 2049. The Mars Mission is part of a larger plan which aims to set up a space station orbiting Earth in the next two years. China has already shot most rockets into space with "shrouded ambitions" in 2018 and its BeiDou-2 navigation system has an impressive array of satellites, mapping every corner of the globe, providing an alternative to the European and US navigation systems. Meanwhile, China has taken the Moon seriously and wants to establish a lunar research centre within the next decade

So why does an edge in the cosmic sphere suddenly become so important, specially if it is led by terrestrial players, hungry perhaps, for new territories? First, it is about a strategy to occupy as much of the outer space as one can for global dominance. Remember the Cold War-era Moon rush between the then superpowers? Today a host of citizen services beginning with the internet, electricity, common city navigation via the GPS, high-tech military surveillance and missile and torpedo navigation can all be beamed from a satellite, with needle-edge precision, onto any tech-enabled receiver.

We are all aware of China's lust for territorial colonialism barely hidden under a veil of loans and infrastructure development projects — targetted towards those willing to barter away their sovereignty. In fact, the BeiDou-2 navigation system is an excellent example of how China aims to keep an eye on its strategically-chosen welfare partner countries and the globe. China knows that future wars will not be fought on terra firma. The second reason for China's space rush is to lay claim to trillions of dollars worth of unmined minerals, precious metals and rare earths that can be found just a few kilometres above the Earth, floating around in space and in our galactic neighbourhood, the Moon. A mineral-rich asteroid or comet if somehow pushed back to Earth can cover and provide for billions of dollars worth of space missions.

Clearly it is a heady combination of new horizons with dominance in existing spheres and India has just begun to look at opening its space programme to private players. The desire is to have indigenous companies like Blue Origin, Virgin Galactic and Space X — all of which are funded by billionaires who made their fortunes elsewhere — be a part of the race to space.

Investments in long-term space programmes require change in strategic, deep, far-reaching thinking, which unfortunately is mostly clouded by politics on the ground. In the land of great physicists and mathematicians like Bhaskaracharya, Aryabhata and CV Raman, there is a black hole of lost opportunities and scientific temper. Independent India was left plundered and poor by the colonisers. It has taken more than 50 years for India to be able to truly start telescoping between ancient knowledge with modern-day quantum theories to start rebuilding its starships.

It is here that the true human and monetary resources of the country need to be pooled together for an "Indian Century." A deeper focus on marketing and glamourising space studies with ample doses of creative imagination, mixed with scientific knowledge, would be a good start for young minds at school. After all, the Indian interstellar traveller of the future is perhaps still at school. Similarly, billions of worth of long-term bets without any visible returns in the near future can only be achieved by a clever mix of private enterprise and the taxpayer's money. Remember NASA can easily be dubbed as the most criticised and perhaps expensive space organisation in the world, yet it made communicating with anyone around the globe at the touch of a button possible. Mark Twain said, "There is something fascinating about science. One gets such wholesome returns of conjecture out of such a trifling investment of fact."

(The writer is a policy analyst)

#### POINTCOUNTERPOINT

BHOOMI PUJAN CEREMONY FOR THE RAM TEMPLE IN AYODHYA SHOULD BE SEEN AS A CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL UNITY, FRATERNITY AND CULTURAL AFFINITY. —CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY

PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA





WE DISAGREE WITH THE STATEMENT ISSUED BY PRIYANKA GANDHI ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE RAM TEMPLE. HER STATEMENT IS OUT OF PLACE.

— IUML MP **PK KUNHALIKUTTY** 

# A rural Indian spring

The harbinger of this change is a unique policy experiment in village-level governance, the Panchayati Raj Act, which has brought transformative results for village women



MOIN QAZI

n the last two decades, the gender landscape in rural India has been greening and women  $oldsymbol{\mathsf{L}}$  are now on the cusp of a powerful social and political revolution. The harbinger of this change is a unique policy experiment in village-level governance, the Panchayati Raj Act, which has brought transformative results for the weakest of the weak: The village women. In a country that has a bad scorecard in matters of gender equality, India has set a stellar example by becoming a crucible for one of social democracy's most innovative experiments in gender justice. Women innovative experiments in gender justice. Women now steer local governance in thousands of vil-

This revolution led to the discovery of several hidden gems and one of them is Shalan Shelke, an intrepid and passionate woman with a unique brand of earnestness and determination. She has galvanised the poor, unlettered women in Sangamner, a remote corner of India's deep hinterland. Sangamner is the site of the confluence of three rivers: Pravara, Mhalungi and Adhala in Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra.

Now a 49-year-old firebrand, Shalan was one of those emerging backyard leaders, who realised early on that powerful things could happen if marginalised communities were themselves involved in finding solutions to issues plaguing them. She is now a crusader for a number of social causes. By giving marginalised women a stake in the outcome of their communities, Shalan and her band of workers are trying to unlock human potential, both for themselves and for thousands of women in villages around

Shalan was 20, barely out of college, when she became a social activist and entrepreneur. Although she had mentors and friends to sup-Although she had mentors and friends to support her, the journey was hard. She taught herself advocacy and business skills in a male-dominated culture. "Being a woman in this space is challenging," says Shalan. She recalls how "scary" it was when her initial efforts landed her in trouble but relatives and friends rallied around and

She had seen women of her mother's generation bearing multiple burdens. The drudge work that goes into cultivation is mostly done by women. They till the land, sow the seeds, de-hull mary caregivers to their families, that include children and elders. We all are aware of this but do little to change some of the harsh realities of our country. But Shalan was made of sterner stuff and instead of being resigned to status quo, she decid-

Shalan's voice is one among many pushing for women's rights. In recent years, women have felt more empowered to call out men's wrongdoings, leading to conversations about the power dynamics that women are subjected to in the home and beyond. In many ways, it is still a man's world, yet women are working to change that in their communities. Change is seldom easy. The patriarchal status quo is deeply entrenched, especially in traditional societies where challenging the system comes at a hefty cost.

Shalan's journey began with the founding of Nirmiti Mahila Udyojik Sahakari Sanstha (called Nirmiti for short) in 2001 in Sangamner. It supports local communities to transition from a supply-led to a demand-driven approach and harnesses resources from the departments of agri-



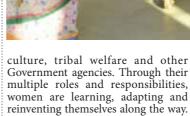
YEARS, WOMEN HAVE FELT EMPOWERED TO CALL OUT MEN'S WRONGDOINGS, LEADING TO **CONVERSATIONS** ABOUT THE POWER DYNAMICS THAT WOMEN ARE SUBJECTED TO IN THE HOME AND BEYOND.

IN MANY WAYS, IT IS STILL A MAN'S WORLD, YET WOMEN ARÉ WORKING TO CHANGE THAT IN THEIR COMMUNITIES. CHANGE IS SELDOM EASY. THE PATRIARCHAL STATUS QUO IS DEEPLY

> **TRADITIONAL** SOCIETIES WHERE CHALLENGING THE SYSTEM **COMES AT**

ENTRENCHED.





The society now has about 900 mem-

bers with a yearly turnover of about ₹90

A chance encounter in 2003 helped Shalan make her mark as a business leader and also put me on a wonderful journey. I was posted in Mumbai to head my bank's State operations in micro-finance. Shalan was heading a federation of self-help groups (SHGs) federation of self-help groups (SHGs) of women in Sangamner. She was also a prominent face on various platforms in Mumbai and Pune for rural women. I was amazed at her understanding of global economics, particularly her ability to analyse local issues in the international context. I continue to marvel the located precision with which she at the logical precision with which she presents the economic and social case of marginalised women.

It was around this time that Shalan organic fertiliser manufacturing unit. One of the primary livelihood activities of women in her federation was the collection of neem seeds, which were processed and then supplied to manufacturers of fertilisers and pesticides. Shalan and her associates decided to set up their own production facilities to enhance employability for locals. The loan processing was fast-tracked and the money released in time, thanks to Shalan's perseverance. However, due to her lack of experience and the technical inadequacy of the team to whom the job of assembling the plant was outsourced, the unit couldn't take off.

It was a major setback but Shalan fought back. She and her partners didn't let the bank down either. They paid off the entire loan from their own savings. Shalan has grown wiser in the process and has preferred to spread her risks evenly by opting for joint ventures.

While pursuing her entrepreneurship journey, Shalan didn't lose sight of her primary mission: Advocacy for broader social issues of poor and discriminated women. In 2006, she started a magazine to channel the voices of these women. It is named Bahina, after a local poetess Bahinabai Choudhari, who was herself unlettered but composed inspiring verses. The coverage of rural issues in the mainstream media is very spotty and Bahina filled an important space. It has a distinct activist flavour and serves as a hyper-local plat-form. The region's arid expanse overflows with social and economic strife. This has been channelised into the magazine's writings where issues are reported and analysed from a woman's per-

The magazine brought about immense change in the lives of the readers. It has been able to capture the groundswell of discontent and package the subtle nuances of the discourse in a highly palatable form. It has been able ild the perspective that they are equipped in their effort to upend the feudal system that kept their women ancestors trapped in servi-

Shalan has also tapped business pportunities for women to have a reliable and consistent source of income. In 2011, the co-operative set up a canteen at the girls' hostel in the local university campus. The canteen caters to 500 girls, providing nutritious, hygienic meals made from locally-grown crops and vegetables. Three years later, the Nirmiti started canteen services for the students of the Lok Panchayat Rural Technology College in Sangamner. In 2016, Nirmiti set up its own Co-operative Credit Society. It has 1,237 members with a share capital of ₹20 lakh and fixed deposits of ₹1.25

Shalan's entrepreneurial dreams found sturdy wings when she collabo-

rated with an acclaimed food company to set up a bakery. Reema Sathe, a well-known entrepreneur, has mentored this project which provides employment to farmers, workers at the baking unit and retailers. Nirmiti has also been able to use the time-honoured native knowledge of seeds to build a cadre of "seed mothers" who are now the stewards of biodiversity, protecting the genetic wealth of the country through "seed vaults." They are conserving the indigenous seed heritage and preserving heirloom races of crops.

Now, more than ever, these women, many of whom escaped poverty through the SHG route and know what it is like to be destitute and poor, are living up to their motto of self-help and solidarity. For these women and communities crisis is not new They communities, crisis is not new. They have lived through failed crops, unpaid debts and recurring droughts which they have faced almost every single year. Nirmiti's approach of self-reliance and self-empowerment has helped strengththat is steering them through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Shalan has come a long way since she started out. She shepherds a federation of almost 350 SHGs, all of which are actively engaged in a variety of socio-economic activities. Her success story underscores the importance of giving poor people access to loans, savings accounts and other financial services that can help them create businesses and reach their full potential. It is worth understanding that sheer grit and a helping hand can sometimes blaze trails where none seems possible. "It feels so good," beams Shalan. "I really feel like a seasoned business leader." Women leaders like Shalan present us with shiny, silver glimmers as they steer their communities through these tenuous times.

(The writer is a well-known development professional)

# India is choking its rivers with sewage

The country must establish new STPs to increase the current 37 per cent treatment capability to at least 80 per cent of the waste generated



**KOTA SRIRAJ** 

Thile crossing the Kalindi Kunj bridge over the Yamuna in Delhi, have you ever wondered about the reason for the white, frothy foam floating on the river's surface? This toxic foam, that is usually seen in abundance in July, prompted the National Green Tribunal (NGT)-appointed special committee to instruct the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) to submit a report to it on the issue. The report concluded that sewage flowing into the Yamuna contained an abnormally high amount of detergent. This, coupled with the churning of the waters at the barrage, led to the formation of the toxic foam on the river's surface. The problem was compounded by the

presence of traditional laundries along the banks of the river and 23 drains from Delhi directly discharging sewage containing phosphate detergents and industrial effluents into it.

The two-member Yamuna monitoring committee got this information with the aid of the nine quality monitoring stations of the DPCC along the banks of the river. Now that the cause for the toxic foam on the river's surface has been found, it is for the Government to convert the findings of the report into verifiable and meaningful action. Sadly, rivers in urban India have

always been the dumping ground for sewage, effluents from industries, riverside laundries and tanneries, ashes of the dead and even bodies of those who are not cremated. The Yamuna is no exception and has endured pollution of all kinds, for centuries. The most visible form of a river lodging a silent protest against pollution is the appearance of the toxic

The Bellandur Lake in Bengaluru is another such water body that has



been in the news for spewing excessive white, toxic foam. The pollution level in Bengaluru's largest lake is an example of the apathy and inefficiency of the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board in managing sewage disposal. To make matters worse, the dumped chemicals and oil in the lake tend to float to the surface and also catch fire intermittently, thus adding to air pollution. This level of pollution in our water bodies raises pertinent questions about the role and efficiency of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs)

that are primarily installed to treat the water and ensure that the pollution remains in a controllable range in our water bodies and rivers. In 2014, the Ministry of Environment and Forests stated that 70 per cent of India's STPs were dysfunctional and the main reason for this was the high cost of maintenance and the ever-growing gap between the sewage to be treated and the capacity of the STP to handle it. Six years down the line, the situation is not any different. The facts present a grim picture and a break for India's long-suffering rivers seems far off as nearly 70 per cent of the sewage treated in India does not meet the acceptable standards and there is a 78.7 per cent gap between sewage generation and the STP's installed capacity to treat it. Even if the additional 1,742.6 million litres a day (MLD) of sewage treatment capacity is factored in, that is either in the planning stages or under construction, there will still be a gap of 72.7 per cent in the sewage treatment capacity in the

The situation is expected to get

worse, as according to a report by the CPCB, sewage generation in India is 61,000 MLD or enough to fill 24,800 Olympic-sized swimming pools daily. Against this, we have a paltry sewage treatment capacity of 23,277 MLD. Adding to the problem is the absence of a centralised sewerage sys-

tem that allows for correct channelling of sewage output. The 12th Five-Year Plan Report on Urban Development highlighted that a shocking 4,861 cities and towns in India do not have a basic central sewage system. Large cities such as Bengaluru find themselves in this list as nearly 50 per cent of the city's households do not have a proper sewage system that is connected to a central system. This naturally means that these households channel their wage to the nearest water body.

The impact of all this pollution on water bodies is devastating to say the least. Aquatic life and biodiversity suffer irreversible damage and so do humans who are dependent on the water bodies for their livelihoods.

There is an urgent need for the Government to set up special action

committees that can look at the underlying causes for the inoperable STPs and those that require repairs to be functional again.

To save our rivers, there is a need to attach top priority to the establishment of new STPs that can increase the current 37 per cent treatment capability to at least 80 per cent of the sewage generated. This can be done by opening the STP sector to entrepreneurship platforms and providing the necessary technical expertise, funding and subsidies on encouraging terms. This will serve the twin purpose of creating employment-generating enterprises, besides also narrowing the gap between sewage generated and sewage treated. India needs an action-oriented initiative to turn around the urban rivers and water bodies that are plagued by pollution such as the toxic white foam seen on the Yamuna's surface. Till such action is taken the white foam on our rivers will be a reminder that we have failed

(The writer is an environmental





MAPPING OPTIONS

Repression, custodial killings, internet blackout, whichever way one looks at it, India has truly lost the people of Kashmir. Does Pakistan have policy options to address this situation? Marches and highway renamings are all fine but insufficient to be dressed up as strategic policy. The challenge for the foreign policy establishment is clear — and it is not situated inside the comfort zone. (*Dawn* editorial)

#### FOR 2020 PRESIDENTIAL POLL

# Republican, Trump campaign raise \$1 bn

**Washington:** The Republican Party and the Trump campaign have collectively raised over \$165 million in July, surpassing the billion-dollar threshold with a total haul of \$1.1 billion.

The joint re-election effort continues their cash in hand advantage, with an over \$300 million war chest, the Republican National Committee (RNC) announced on Wednesday.

"With 90 days until victory, our teams and supporters are in overdrive working to re-elect President (Donald) Trump and Republicans up and down the ballot," said RNC chairwoman Ronna McDaniel.

According to the RNC, July's massive haul is not only a record for the month, but also eclipses the total raised in any single month of 2016.

July was also the largest online fundraising month ever for the re-election effort, it said. "The enthusiasm behind President Trump's re-election continues to grow as July's



massive fundraising totals prove," said Bill Stepien, Trump 2020 campaign manager.

'Voters express their support for President Trump in many different ways and donating to his campaign is one of the most personal, because they feel invested in his success and the future success of the country. The President's support continues to increase while Joe Biden just posted a down fundraising month from

his basement," he said. The RNC recently announced the hiring of an additional 300 field staffers, bringing the total Trump

Victory operation to over 1,500 - double that of Biden's field operation.

With a grassroots army of 1.8 million Americans, the Trump Victory field effort is on pace to surpass the 2.2 million volunteers that helped re-elect President Barack Obama in 2012, the media release said.

Seeking re-election for his second consecutive term, Trump, 74, is pitted against Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden, 77, in the November 3 presidential elections. Most of the opinion polls show that Biden is several points ahead of Trump. **PTI** | Anthony Romero.

# 'See you in court': ACLU files nearly 400 cases versus Trump

**New York:** The day after Donald Trump's election in Civil Liberties Union posted a message to him on its website: See vou in court."

As president, Trump hasn't personally squared off against the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) from the witness stand, but the broader warning has been borne out.

As of this week, the ACLU has filed nearly 400 lawsuits and other legal actions against the Trump administration, some meeting with setbacks but many resulting in important

Among other successes for the ACLU, it prevailed in a U.S. Supreme Court case blocking the administration from placing a citizenship question on the 2020 census. It also spearheaded legal efforts that curtailed the policy of separating many migrant children from their

"The assault on civil liberties and civil rights is greater under this administration than any other in modern history," said the ACLU's president,

ing with a three-alarm fire in every part of our house." Since the day Trump took office, the ACLU — according to a breakdown it provided to The Associated Press — has filed 237 lawsuits against the administration and about 160 other legal actions, including Freedom of Information Act requests, ethics complaints and

Of the lawsuits, 174 have dealt with immigrant rights, targeting the family separation policy, detention and deportation practices and the administration's repeated attempts to make it harder to seek asylum at the U.S.-Mexico border. The other lawsuits address

administrative complaints.

an array of issues high on the ACLU's agenda: voting rights, LGBT rights, racial justice and others. In one long-running case, the ACLU succeeded in blocking the administration's policy of barring young immigrant women in government custody from getting abortions.

"Donald Trump has provided a full employment program for ACLU lawyers on all of our issues," Romero said. AP

### **FB**, Twitter pull **Trump posts** over virus misinformation

Washington: Facebook Inc has taken down a post by US President Donald Trump, which the company said violated its rules against sharing misinformation about the novel coronavirus.

The post contained a video clip from an interview with Fox & Friends earlier on Wednesday, in which Trump claimed that children are "almost immune" to COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus.

"This video includes false claims that a group of people is immune from COVID-19, which is a violation of our policies around harmful COVID misinformation," a Facebook spokesman said.

A tweet containing the video that was posted by the campaign's Trump @TeamTrump account and shared by the president was also later hidden by Twitter Inc for breaking its COVID-19 misinformation rules.

A Twitter spokesman said the @TeamTrump account owner would be required to remove the tweet before they could tweet again. AGENCIES

# Joe Biden launches new national ad aimed at Black Americans

Detroit (US): Joe Biden's Democratic presidential campaign has launched a new national ad focused on Black Americans, urging them to stand up to President Donald Trump the way their ancestors stood up to "violent racists of a generation ago."

The one-minute ad, which was shared exclusively with The Associated Press before its digital and television release on Thursday, is meant to drum up support among Black Americans, a key constituency for Biden, ahead of November's general election.

The ad, titled "Better America," also takes a direct swipe at Trump, without mentioning the Republican president by name.

"We must choose to fight for that better America," the narrator states. "And just like our ancestors who stood up to the violent racists of a generation ago, we will stand up to this president and say, 'No more,' because America is better than him. So we choose to be bigger. We choose to be bolder. We choose to bring back justice, respect and dignity to this country. We choose Joe Biden to lead us all towards that American promise together." African Americans have largely supported Biden's presidential bid and have been credited with single-handedly transforming the Democratic presidential race and cementing his status as front-runner after his decisive primary win in South Carolina.

But Black Americans, who form one of the party's most loyal voting blocs, have been hit doubly hard by the COVID-19 pandemic - they have died from the virus at disproportionate rates across the country, and they've borne the brunt of its economic fallout.

And in recent months, historic protests against police brutality and systemic racism have changed the national discourse around race, thrusting it into a national spotlight and at the heart of the presidential campaign. The ad is part of the Biden campaign's planned \$280 million digital and television ad buy that was announced Wednesday and will run through the fall.

# Sri Lanka election: Early results show Rajapaksa clan heading for landslide win

Colombo: Sri Lanka's powerful Rajapaksa family-run Sri Lanka People's Party (SLPP) appeared to be heading for a landslide win in the country's twice-postponed parliamentary election, according to early results announced on

The SLPP has polled more votes than its rivals, scoring over 60 per cent of the total votes in the 16 seats declared so far from the South, dominated by the Sinhala majority community. The party won 13 seats out of 16.

In Galle destrict, the SLPP won seven out of nine seats on offer while in the neighbouring Matara district they did even better by winning six out of seven seats on offer.

The nearest rival is the new party formed by former presidential candidate Sajith Premadasa who has relegated his mother party, the United National Party (UNP), of forpremier Ranil Wickremesinghe to the fourth

NAME OF DEPARTME

NT/ BOARD/

Chief

Technology

RO NO. 82120 Dt. 06-08-2020

1 Total Income from operations

(after tax)]

Rs. 10 each)

1 Basic

2 Diluated

Date:- 06.08.2020

Place:- New Delhi

Appointment of an

agency for Meter Reading, Spot Billing and Bill Distribution for

Consumer under UHBVN

**Particulars** 

Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and /or Extra-ordinary items)

Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax

Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax

[Comprising Profit/ (Loss) for the period

Paid up Equity Share Capital (Face value

Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)

as shown in the audited Balance Sheet of

accounting Years 2019-20 and 2018-19

8 Earning Per Share (Rs) (Face Value Rs. 10)

renewal) and on the website of the Stock Exchage www.msei.in.

Board of directors in their meeting held on 06.08.2020

(after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)

(after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)

Total Comprehensive Income for the period

after tax) and other Comprehensive Income

Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna

The SJB has won only three seats from both districts. In the polling division results from other districts where counting is in progress, the SLPP has taken unassailable leads, sources said.

In the Tamil minority dominated north, the main Tamil party - Tamil National Alliance (TNA) - despite bagging a few polling divisions had also suffered unexpected reversals at the hands of SLPP's Tamil allies - the Eelam People's Democratic Party (EPDP).

The counting began in the morning after the polls were closed on Wednesday.

As the counting of votes began, SLPP founder and its National Organiser Basil Rajapaksa — who is the younger brother of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa with the eldest being Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa — said that the party is all set to form

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Email Id:- premiummerchants123@gmail.com, website:- www.pmltd.in

Extract of Unaudited Financial Results for the quarter ended on 30th June, 2020

(Audited)

13.43

13.43

10.04

14.12

99.80

1.01

1.01

1) The above is an extract of the detailed format of unaudited results filed with the stock exchnage under

2) The detailed audited results and this extract were reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the

regulation 33 of SEBI (Listing obligation and and Disclosure Requirement) Regulation, 2015. The full format

of the Unaudited results are available on company's website www.pmltd.com (under the process of

AMOUNT /

(APPROX.)

10,00,000/

WEBSITE OF THE

DEPARTMEN'

etenders.hry.nic.ir

Quarter Ended on

30.06.2020 31.03.2020 30.06.2019

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(25.03)

(25.03)

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(818.64)

99.80

(1.80)

(1.80)

(Audited) (Unaudited)

(2.81)

(2.81)

(0.36)

6.77

99.80

(0.04)

(0.04)

OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)

Closing date

19-08-2020

upto 13:00 Hrs.

# Survivors mark 75th anniversary of world's 1st atomic attack

Hiroshima: The dwindling witnesses to the world's first atomic bombing marked its 75th anniversary Thursday, with Hiroshima's mayor and others noting as hypocritical the Japanese government's refusal to sign a nuclear weapons ban treaty.

Mayor Kazumi Matsui urged world leaders to more seriously commit to nuclear disarmament, pointing out

"I ask the Japanese gov-

Beirut: Lebanese officials tar-

geted in the investigation of the massive blast that tore

through Beirut sought to shift

blame for the presence of explosives at the city's port,

and the visiting French presi-

dent warned Thursday that

without serious reforms the

country would "continue to

NODAL OFFICER/

CONTACT

**DETAILS/EMAIL** 

seproject@uhbvr

The blast Tuesday, which

TENDER REF.

NO. / TENDER

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year Ended on

31.03.2020

(Audited)

50.71

23.95

23.95

27.30

(773.35)

99.80

2.74

2.74

5.828.99

LEBANON PROBES BLAST AMID

RISING ANGER, CALLS FOR CHANGE

the (bombing survivors) to sign, ratify and become a party to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons," Matsui said in his peace declaration.

"As the only nation to suffer a nuclear attack, Japan must persuade the global public to unite with the spirit of Hiroshima." His speech highlights what survivors feel is the hypocrisy of Japan's government, which hosts 50,000

by an accidental fire that ignit-

ed a warehouse full of ammo-

nium nitrate at the city's port,

rippled across the Lebanese

capital, killing at least 135

people, injuring more than

5,000 and causing widespread

ated the country's coronavirus

outbreak, as thousands flood-

ed into hospitals in the wake

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NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of Securities and

29 read with Regulation 47 of Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company.

ameeing of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Friday, 14th August, 2020, at 11:00 A.M. at Registered office of the company, at 1212, Hemkunt Chamber 89, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 to inter alia, consider and approve the Unaudited Standalone Quarterly Financial Results for the quarter ended June 30, 2020 along with

the Limited Review Report of the Auditors for the

Pursuant to this and as per the amended SEB (Prohibition of Insider Trading) (Amendment) Regulations, 2018, the Trading Window for dealing in shares of the Company for all its Designated

Persons and their immediate relatives was closed from Wednesday, 1st July, 2020 and will be opened

after 48 hours from the announcement of the

Unaudited quarterly financial results of the Company for the Quarter ended 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2020 to the Stock Exchange. You are requested to take a note of the closure of the Trading Window as above.

I/s Bharat Bhushan Finar & Commodity Brokers Ltc CIN: L67120DL1992PLC049038

Office: 503, Rohit House, 3, To

ght Place, New Delhi - 110 00

orresponding period.

It also may have acceler-

destruction.

ernment to heed the appeal of American troops and is protected by the US nuclear umbrella

Tokyo has not signed the nuclear weapons ban treaty adopted in 2017, despite its non-nuclear pledge, a failure to act that atomic bombing survivors and pacifist groups

The US dropped its first atomic bomb on Ĥiroshima on August 6, 1945, destroying the city and killing 140,000

#### Afghan council to decide whether Kabul releases 400 Taliban

Kabul: Afghanistan officials say a traditional consultative say a traditional consultative council will convene on Friday to decide whether the last 400 Taliban prisoners will be released as part of a peace agreement, even as its Health Ministry says half of Kabul's residents are infected with the coronavirus.

any changes to the deal they signed in February with the US

That deal calls for 5,000 Taliban prisoners to be freed by Kabul and the Taliban to free 1,000 government personnel, including security officials, ahead of the start of intra-Afghan negotiations to map out a framework for a future Afghanistan. The release of the 400 prisoners is the final hurdle to the start of negotiations.

The Taliban have freed the 1,000 prisoners they were holding and US And NATO soldiers have already begun withdrawing troops in line with the agreement.

#### No hoopla: Virus upends Trump, Biden convention plans

Washington: At the last minute, President Donald Trump and his Democratic rival, Joe Biden, are searching for places to impressively yet safely accept their parties' presidential nominations as the spread of the coronavirus adds fresh uncertainty to the campaign for the White House.

Trump said Wednesday he's considering giving his Aug. 27 acceptance speech on the grounds of the White House, a move that could violate ethics law. Biden, meanwhile,

scrapped plans to accept the Democratic nomination on August 20 in Milwaukee, where the party has spent more than a year planning a massive convention. Presidential conventions

are a staple of American politics and have played out against national traumas as significant as the Civil War and

#### **Obama's Medicaid** expansion keeps gaining ground under Trump

Washington: President Donald Trump is still trying to overturn "Obamacare," but his predecessor's health care law keeps gaining ground in places where it was once unwelcome. Missouri voters this week

approved Medicaid expansion by a 53 per cent to 47 per cent margin, making the conservative state the seventh to do so under Trump.

The president readily carried Missouri in 2016, but the Medicaid vote comes as more people have been losing workplace health insurance in a treacherous coronavirus econ-

That leaves only a dozen states opposed to using the federal-state health program for low-income people as a vehicle for covering more adults, mainand ly people in jobs that don't pro-AP vide health care. AP

#### **Indian-American doc** wins Democratic **Congressional** primary in Arizona

**Washington:** Dr Hiral Tipirneni, an Indian-American emergency room physician, has won the Democratic party primary for the US House of Representatives in the US state of Årizona. New polling showed that Tipirneni is just three points down to the Republican incumbent David Schweikert. The seat is said to be a Republican stronghold.

"I am honoured to be the nominee in Arizona's 6th Congressional District. For nearly a decade, our district has been represented by a DC politician who puts the profits of his special interest corporate donors over positive change that will make life better for working families here in Arizona," Tipirneni said. Tipirneni was three years old when her family immigrated from India to this country to pursue the American dream. *PTI* 

# No idea how I'm not dead: Journalist recounts horror of Beirut twin blasts

was finding the cat.

It was an irrational sentiment but I kept thinking: If I could find Sunday, then every thing would suddenly be OK.

don't even normally like pets, and have no idea how during lockdown, I fell in love with this ginger cat who's constantly swishing her bushy tail. I kept imagining that dramatic tail lying flat, her eyes glazed over, dead under a beam.

But if Sunday was alive, I decided, then maybe my close friend, a fellow journalist, was

been with him, speeding to the scene on his motorcycle like we often do when news breaks in Beirut. So when I saw him tweet that the city's port was on fire, I grabbed my helmet and changed into a pair of

My boyfriend asked why I was going. He said the fire didn't seem like big news. "Why are you wasting your time?" he asked as I walked into the living room. Then everything blew up.

Every door inside my

12103.56 13,553.90

ripped out of the walls. So was my air conditioner. My big fan split right in half. My massive living room windows flew at me. The glass didn't just shatter; the windows themselves flew clean off. I genuinely, even now, have no idea how I am not dead. I stood in a whirlwind of nails and glass and splintered wood. I saw Sunday for a split second. Then we heard loud humming that sounded like planes and within moments, the second **AGENCY** blast hit.

16906.33 62174.49

### (6) **GULSHAN**

#### **GULSHAN POLYOLS LIMITED** CIN:L24231UP2000PLC034918

Regd. Off: 9th K.M., Jansath Road, Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh Ph.:0131-3201231, Fax: 0131- 2661378, website: www.gulshanindia.com ct of Un-Audited Financial Results for the Quarter ended 30th, June 2020

**FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS Q1 FY 2020-21** 

Anuradha Malik (Company Secretary and Compliance Officer) M. No. A60626	tary and EXT	
Bhushan Finance dity Brokers Ltd.	SI.	
0DL1992PLC049038 00900, Fax: 011-49800933	12.1	Total income from Net Profit/ (Loss)
ities@bharatbhushan.com,		Net Profit/ (Loss)

NOTICE Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 47 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 ("listing regulations") that a meeting of the Board of Directors of M/s Bharat Bhushan Finance & Commodity Brokers Limited ("the Company" will be held on Monday, 17th August, 2020 a its Registered Office situated at 503. Rohit House, 3, Tolstoy Marg, Connaught Place New Delhi - 110 001, inter-alia to consider approve and take on record, the Unaudited Financial Results of the Company for the

Further, pursuant to Regulation 47(2) of listing egulations, this intimation is also available on the website of BSE Limited a www.bseindia.com) where the Company's securities are listed and shall also be available on the website of the Company at (http://www.bbinvestments.in),

guarter ended 30th June, 2020.

**Particulars** 30.06.2020 31.03.2020 30.06.2019 31.03.2020 (Unaudited) (Audited) (Unaudited) (Audited) m Operations ) for the period (Before Tax, Exceptional and / or Extraordinary Items)

Net Profit/ (Loss) for the period After Tax ( After Exceptional and / or Extraordinary Items Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period) (After Tax) and other Comprehensive Income (After Tax)

Paid-up equity share capital (Face Value of Rs. 1/- each) Reserves Excluding Revaluation Reserve Earnings Per Share for Continuing and Discontinued Opreations

(Before & After Extraordinary Items ) (Face Value of Rs. 1/-each)

for the period Before Tax (After Exceptional and / or Extraordinary 2742.22 718.78 336.15 978.16 518.17 278.20 728.94 2058.40 2039.39 469.17 469.17 469.17 469.17 30059.90

The Auditor has conducted Limited Review of these Financial Results. The results were reviewed by the Audit Committee. The Board of Directors has taken on record the financial results at its meeting held on August 06, 2020.

2 The statement has been prepared in accordance with the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015 (IND -AS) prerscribed under Section 133 of the Comapanies Act, 2013 and other recognised accounting practices and policies to the extent

3 The Company's operations and financial results for the quarter ended June 30, 2020 have been adversely impacted by the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic and the consequent lockdown announced by the Government of India due to which the operations were suspended for part of the quarter and gradually resumed with requisite precautions. The results for the quarter are, therefore, not comparable with those for the previous quarters.

4 Figures for the previous period have been regrouped/ rearranged wherever necessary to make them comparable with current figure. For and on behalf of the Board

Dr. C. K. Jain

**Chairman and Managing Director** 

Date : 06th August, 2020 Place: New Delhi

Place: New Delhi Date: 07-08-2020 DIN:- 00027438

sd/ **Balbir Singh** Director

For Premium Merchants Limited

By order of the Board

(Nisha Ahuja)

# **RBI** extends debt restructuring for MSME to March

**PTI** MUMBAI

In view of the continued need to support the viable MSME entities on account of the fallout of Covid-19, the Reserve Bank on Thursday extended the one-time debt restructuring for small businesses by another three months to March

Besides, the central bank has also relaxed some of the existing provisions for availing this scheme by the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs)

With Covid-19 continuing to disrupt normal functioning and cash flows, the stress in the MSME sector has got accentuated, warranting further support, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said while announcing the central bank's bi-monthly mon-

"Accordingly, it has been decided that stressed MSME borrowers will be made eligible for restructuring their debt under

the existing framework, provided their accounts with the concerned lender were classified as standard as on March 1,

This restructuring will have to be implemented by March 31, 2021," he said. As per the existing scheme, the borrower account had to be standard as on January 1, 2020.

Asset classification of borrowers classified as standard may be retained as such, whereas the accounts which may have slipped into NPA cat-egory between March 2, 2020 and date of implementation may be upgraded as 'standard asset, as on the date of implementation of the restructuring

However, the RBI asked banks to maintain additional provision of 5 per cent over and above the provision already held by them for accounts restructured under these guide-

The RBI has also retained

# Rate-sensitive bank, realty, auto stocks close mixed on RBI policy day

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Interest rate-sensitive bank realty and auto stocks closed on a mixed note on Thursday after the RBI left interest rates unchanged but maintained an accommodative stance to shore up growth.

Shares of Bandhan Bank declined 3.57 per cent, RBL Bank 0.49 per cent, Axis Bank

dipped 0.43 per cent and SBI 0.29 per cent on the BSE.

In contrast, City Union Bank rose by 2.50 per cent, ICICI Bank gained 1.97 per cent, HDFC Bank 1.24 per cent, Kotak Mahindra Bank 0.44 per cent, IndusInd Bank 0.39 per cent, and Federal Bank 0.19 per cent. The BSE Bank index closed 0.71 per cent higher. From the auto pack, TVS Motor Company rose by 2.22 per cent, Tata Motors 1.13 per cent, Maruti Suzuki India 0.49 per cent, Hero MotoCorp 0.26 per cent, and Ashok Leyland 0.10 per cent.

However, Mahindra & Mahindra dipped 0.75 per cent,

The BSE auto index closed registering a marginal rise of 0.07 per cent.

O.07 per cent.

Among realty companies,
Prestige Estates Projects
jumped 8.49 per cent, Sunteck
Realty 5.48 per cent, Oberoi
Realty 2.94 per cent, Sobha 0.57
per cent and DLF 0.21 per cent.

Godrej Properties
fell 1.48 per cent, Indiabulls
Real Estate 1.35 per cent and

Real Estate 1.35 per cent and Mahindra Lifespace Developers 0.31 per cent. The realty index closed with a gain of 1.15 per cent.

"The status quo was largely on the expected line. The apex bank is closely monitoring the impact of various measures announced in the past and now prefers to wait and see how the COVID situation pans

out for further action. Having said that, their accommodative stance and expectation of easing in inflation keep the possibility of a

"Besides, the additional

Bajaj Auto 0.67 per cent and measures announced to sup-MRF 0.42 per cent. measures announced to sup-port the stressed sectors were port the stressed sectors were also received well by the market," said Gurpreet Sidana, chief operating officer, Religare Broking Ltd. Sensex surged 362 points to close at 38,025.45.

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), headed by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, left the benchmark repurchase (repo) rate unchanged at 4 per cent.

"Given the uncertainty surrounding the inflation outlook and extremely weak state of the economy in the midst of an unprecedented shock from the ongoing pandemic, the MPC decided to keep the policy rate on hold," Das said. He said the central

bank would remain "watchful for a durable reduction in inflation to use the available space to support the revival of the economy." The committee unanimously decided to continue to keep its accommodative policy stance "as long as necessary to revive growth".

# Lockheed Martin shares new partnership opportunities with Indian suppliers

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

US aerospace giant Lockheed Martin shared information about new partnership opportunities with the Indian companies during the five-day virtual annual suppliers conference that ended on July 31, said an official statement on Thursday.

These opportunities with the Indian industry are in areas like space, aeronautics, rotary and mission systems (RMS) and missiles and fire control (MFC), the company said.

"A highlight from the company's RMS group is future work with MH-60R (naval helicopter) for India.

There is an offset requirement for the programme, and so as part of that, Lockheed Martin will put more indirect work over in India," it stated. During the February visit of US President Donald Trump, India announced that it will procure 24 MH-60R helicopters, worth

around USD 2.6 billion. Lockheed Martin on Thursday

said its RMS team will work with capable Indian companies over the next 7-8 years and provide opportunities to the

industry to integrate into the global supply chain.

"RMS' Supply Chain team already works with several industrial partners in India. industrial partners in India and plans to expand that list, strengthening its commitment to the country," it added. In April last year, the Indian Air

Force issued an RFI (request for information) or an initial tender to acquire 114 multirole fighter aircraft at a cost of around USD 18 billion, which is billed as one of the world's biggest military procurement in

The top contenders for the deal include Lockheed's F-21, Boeing's F/A-18, Dassault Aviation's Rafale, the Eurofighter Typhoon, Russian aircraft Mig 35 and Saab's

## No layoffs so far but surging Covid-19 cases in some States cause for concern: Bata chairman

**PTI** ■ KOLKATA

Bata India Chairman Windlass on Thursday said it has not laid off any employee so far, but admitted that there is not much clarity on "where the footwear major is heading" amid the raging Covid-19 pandemic.

As of March, the company had 9,762 employees across functions and locations, of which 4000-4500 are on thirdparty contract, he said.

There is no layoff till date. Bata has friendly HR policies," Windlass told shareholders at the 87th annual general meeting of the company."I don't think we have complete clarity about where we are heading. Intermittent lockdowns and the surging pandemic in some states is of concern for us. At the end of the current quarter, we will be better placed to analyse and calibrate our strategies," he said.

The management has taken a number of measures to safeguard and reopen stores, while according top priority to employee and customer safety, company officials said.

"Actual demand recovery shall be concurrent with the overall recovery of the economy, which is inching up now.

Complete reinstatement of pre-COVID state of affairs is still sometime away," the chairman said in his address at the virtual AGM. has achieved 35-40 per cent of the pre- COVID business lev-

"Moreover, the RBI moratorium will help bolster the huge supply chain for Bata," Windlass told PTI. Of the footwear major's 1,500 stores across the country, around 85 per cent are now open, he said, adding, the manufacturing units are also operating smoothly, while adhering to health and safety protocols.

# FICCI, OYO develops online certification course for hospitality industry

Industry body FICCI and hospitality firm OYO on Thursday said that they have joined hands to develop and design an online training and certification course specificaly for the hospitality industry.

the aggregate exposure limit of

the existing guidelines. As a

result, the exposure limit also

including non-fund based facil-

ities of banks and NBFCs to the

borrower should not exceed Rs

25 crore as on March 1, 2020.

The MSME sector plays an important role in the growth of

the Indian economy as it con-

tributes over 28 per cent of the GDP, more than 40 per cent of exports, while creating

employment for about 11 crore

people. Commenting on the

scheme, PwC Partner Kuntal

Sur said it is a good move by

the RBI and would help

MSMEs impacted by COVID-

19 to get time and space to ser-

vice debt when cash flows are

under pressure due to uncer-

restructuring framework is

already in place for MSMEs, he

said it was subject to restruc-

turing being implemented up

to December 31.The scheme

has provided relief to a large number of MSMEs, he added.

Noting that a

'The course will focus on redesigning the sanitisation protocols and minimising person-to-person contact for a hotel in line with the standard operating procedures announced by the tourism ministry," according to a joint statement. The course will help bud-

get, mid-segment and boutique hotels and homestays in India as well as hospitality professionals to maintain and improve their safety and hygiene standards in line with government and industry benchmarks, it added.

OYO Hotels and Homes founder and Group CEO Ritesh Agarwal said, "The certification course will enable hospitality professionals and hotels across the country to determine new ways of working, understand government guidelines and align with best practices and re-imagine operations in a manner that helps both customers and employees feel safe, secure and comfortable."FICCI will enable and support the implementation of information technology (IT) infrastructure and the online delivery platform for the online certification course, the statement said. OYO has developed and designed the course materials for the programme, it added. "This course has been designed to help develop

## **India Inc,** experts welcome RBI announcements

PTI NEW DELHI

nnouncements made by Announcements made 1, the Reserve Bank, partice ularly the one on resolution of loans, have been welcomed by the industry as well as market players and experts.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday announced a loan restructuring window for corporates follow-ing the demand from bankers and the industry.

The restructuring will be allowed as per the prudential framework issued in June 2019, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das

Last week, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had said that the government is working with the RBI on the need for restructuring of loans to help the industry tide over the impact of COVID-19.

# GDA board meeting pass many important resolutions

PNS GHAZIABAD

A total of 12 proposals were presented in the 156th board meeting of the GDA on Thursday, of the Ghaziabad Development Authority, most of which were presed. The of which were passed. The special thing is that in the board meeting, the sector rate was freezed by 31 March 2021 to dispose of the undocumented properties.

The mitigation policy 2020 was also approved. The meeting was chaired by Mandalayukta and GDA Chairman Anita Seen Meshram. In addition, the Board approved the mitigation policy 2020.

GDA Vice President Kanchan Verma said that the GDA chairperson has given instructions to make an inquiry on the proposal to terminate the interest due to non-intimation of the outstanding amount to the



allottee in the Authority's scheme and recover it from the employee concerned. Declining the proposal to amend the cyber use of the proposed educational land use in the map of the Kaushambi Residential Scheme, dismantling the cyber hub in view of the land use of the land blocks to be kept educational only and the desired area for the cyber hub is not completed. The proposal for has been

approved. On the proposal made in connection with the progress of high-tech and integrated township schemes being implemented in Ghaziabad.

## Wipro partners Intel to enable remote IT support

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

T services major Wipro on Thursday said it has part-nered Intel to enable its LIVE Workspace solution with the latter's vPro platform that will help customers drive business continuity by enabling remote

IT support and solutions. Wipro integrated the Intel vPro platform into LIVE Workspace, a suite of digital workplace services to provide remote manageability of devices, a statement said.

This extends to users at nome or in the office and provides enhanced protection and security against firmware-level attacks, it added.

The combined solution provides practical business continuity services to enable enterprises to rapidly design, deploy, and manage a true remote work experience.

# Business optimism for Jul-Sep quarter slips to record low: Report

for the July-September quarter slumped to a record low due to

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

my Clients (1) Shri Kamlesh Kumar Jair S/o Shri Om Prakash Jain & (2) Mrs. Shashi Jain W/o Shri Kamlesh Kumar Jain both R/o KP-300, 3rd Floor, Pitampura Delhi, have severed off / disconnected a their relations / connections with their sor Shri Anu Jain and his wife Mrs. Dipika Jain, and have debarred / disowned them from their all moveable & immovable properties anybody deals with them, he / she shall be fully responsible for all future consequences Niranjan Singh Tomar (Advocate) En. No. D-1543/2008

PUBLIC NOTICE

We inform you that Mr. Devende who was working in KBS TRAVELS

handling Passports and othe

Services. He was working since las

years in KBS TRAVELS. Now Mi

Devender Kumar is left or

29.07.2020 from our organization.

any types of dealing with him. KBS TRAVELS is not responsible for any

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN

types of dealing

the extension of lockdown in containment zones and staggered easing of restrictions, according to a report.

Dun & Bradstreet Composite Business Optimism Index for the July-September quarter fell to a record low of 29.4. The index registered a decline

of 40.6 per cent over the last quarter. The BOI covered about 350

senior executives in June this

positive Covid-19 cases, the extension of lockdown in containment zones and the staggered easing of restrictions affected the business optimism levels," said Arun Singh, Global Chief Economist, Dun & Bradstreet.All six optimism indices -- volume of sales, net profits, selling prices, new orders, inventories and employees -- have registered a decline as compared to the previous quarter, the report said.

# Exchange's subsidiary can administer, supervise registered investment advisers: Sebi

PTI NEW DELHI

advisers, markets regulator Sebi on Thursday said a whollyowned subsidiary of a stock exchange can administer and supervise such advisers.

a uniform set of self-regulating guidelines," FICCI Secretary General Dilip Chenoy said.

Besides, the regulator put in place the criteria for grant of recognition to a stock exchange's subsidiary and its

A mid growing number of number of registered provides that Sebi may, at the net worth of Rs 200 crore, The subsidiary will put in place decided to recognize a whollyowned subsidiary of the stock exchange (stock exchange subsidiary) to administer and supervise IAs registered with Sebi," the regulator said in a cir-

> Under IA Regulations, Sebi can recognise any body or

"Considering the growing of regulating IAs. It further years, should have a minimum the purpose of regulating IAs. body, delegate administration and supervision of IAs to such body or body corporate on certain terms and conditions. Sebi said the recognition

of stock exchange's subsidiary will be based on eligibility of parent entity. The parent entity should be in exis-

body corporate for the purpose tence for a minimum of 15 minals as well as investor grievance redressal mechanism, including arbitration, the circular said. Besides,

the stock exchange needs to have investor service centres (ISCs) in at least 20 cities. Sebi said the exchange will either form a subsidiary or des-

administrative action against IAs, maintain data, share information with Sebi. The subsidiary needs to have the necessary infrastructure like adequate office space,

equipment and manpower to

effectively discharge its respon-

**RO NO. 82122** 

**GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA** TENDER NOTICE NAME OF DEPARTMENT OPENING DATE WEBSITE OF THI DDAL OFFICER/CONTAC DETAILS/EMAIL CONSTRUCTION OF GOVT. COLLEGE AT JUNDIA DISTT. KARNAL (PDG. 3D HOLOGRAM, VIRTUAL REALITY BASED EDUCATIONAL MODULES FOR POST GRADUATE COLLEGES). 2020\_HRY\_135908\_2 8 OTTHER WORKS PWD B&R, KARNAL 79.52 LACS PROVIDING FIRE FIGHTING SYSTEM TO BE INSTALLED AT CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDING OF GOVT. COLLEGE FOR WOMEN AT AMBALA CITY. PWD B&R, AMBALA 19.76 LACS AMBALA CITY.

CONSTRUCTION RETAINING WALL IN RD 0.060 TO 0.220 ON BABIL TO PALHERI ROAD IN DISTT PANIPAT (ROAD ID 8171) CONSTITUENCY 25 PANIPAT RURAL IN PANIPAT DISTT RECALLED TENDER NOTICE FOR THE WORK OF RAIPUR - PROVIDING FUNCTIONAL HOUSEHOLD TAPS CONNECTIONS (FHTC.) AND LAYING OF PIPE LINE UNDER 3JM. LAYING OF 4"DI WATER SUPPLY PIPE LINE INCLUDING DI/CI SPECIALS AND FUNCTIONAL HOUSE HOLD TAP CONNECTION IN VILLAGE RAIPUR UNDER JIM. + 1 OTHER RAUL DETAIL ESTIMATE FOR AUG. OF WATER SUPPLY SCHEME CONSTRUCTION OF BOOSTING STATION & RENOVATION/UPDATING OF STRUCTURES OF EXISTING WATER WORKS TEHSIL & DISTT. HISSR. 05.08.2020 18.08.2020 14.80 LACS 01251-254086 eeph2jhajjar@gmail.con 33.38 LACS 131.90 LACS https://etenders.hry.nic.in Executive Enginee FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

# Govt. \*\* of Bihar

#### Police Headquarters, Bihar, Patna Notice Inviting Tender No.-03/2020-21

1. Name of the Department: Office of Director General of Police, Bihar, Patna.

- 2. Last date & time for the acceptance of the tender: 01/09/2020, Till 02:00 PM
- 3. Date & time fixed for the opening of the tender: 01/09/2020, At 04:00 PM
- 4. Place fixed for receiving & opening the tender: Office of Director General of Police,

5. Details of Jobs

S.N.	Item name	Quantity
1	F.T.I.R. Spectrophotometer	02
2	Deep Freezer	05
3	Ion Chromatograph	02
4	Flash Point Apparatus	02
5	Aniline Point Detector	02
6	Automatic Distillation Analyzer	01
7	Ballistics Botoscop	02
8	UV Visible Spectropotometer	01
9	Water Purification System	03

from this office or may be downloaded from the website state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar or www.biharpolice.bih.nic.in AIG (Q) PR-04596 ( POLICE ) 2020-21

Bihar, Patna नोवल कोरोना के संबंध में विस्तृत जानकारी एवं सहयोग हेतु 🚧 राज्ञ Free No.: 🕇 🛛 🕰 पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं।

AD76 - 060

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS E-TENDER NOTICE NAME OF THE WORK: Operation and maintenance of

COVID Laundry activities like collection, washing, drying and ironing of linens. Both the works for the period of 06 (Six) months. (a) TENDER NOTICE No. Med/G/ Preventive of COVID-19(1). (b) TENDER NO. Med/G/ Preventive of COVID-19(1). (c) Cost of Tender Form (Document): ₹1,000.00 (Rupees one thousand ) only. (d) Approx. Value of the work (Tender Value): ₹ 3,44,479/-(Rupees three lakhs forty four thousand four hundred seventy nine) only. Sl. No.: 1; Item No.: 1; Description of item: Operation and maintenance of COVID Laundry activities like collection, washing, drying and ironing of linens. Both the works for the period of 06 (Six) months.; Unit: Lump sum ; Qty: 01 ; Rate: ₹3,44,479/- ; Amount: ₹ 3,44,479/-; **Total** : ₹ 3,44,479/-. (e) Earnest money to be deposited : ₹ 6,900/- (Rupees Six thousand nine hundred) only. (f) Completion period of the work: 180 days. (g) Tender Submission Closing Date: 28.08.2020 at 13.30 hrs. (h)Tender Bid open date: 28.08.2020. (i) Tender submission start date: 14.08.2020 from 13.00 hrs. (j) Type of Tender: Work. Complete details of tender can be seen in the Railways website: www.ireps.gov.in & www.clw.indianrailways.gov.in

> KGH/CLW/Chittaranjan Like us on : www.facebook.com/clwrailways

Place: NEW DELH **DEEPAK SAWHNEY** 

#### following share certificate of KEC INTERNATIONAL LTD. having its Registered Office at RPG House, 463, Dr. Annie Besant Road, Worli , Mumbai, Maharashtra-400030 registered in the name of the following Shareholder/s have been lost by them, registered in the name of the following Shareholder/s have been lost by them.

Name of the Shareholder SAWHNEY Folio No. R027678 Certificate No. 10272 10125061 -10125560 No. of Shares

The Public are hereby cautioned against purchasing or dealing in any way with the above referred share certificates Any person who has any claim in respect of

the said share certificate/s should lodge such claim with the Company or its Registrar and Transfer Agents Link Intime India Private Limited, 247 Park, C-101, L.B.S. Marg Vikhroli (West) Mumbai-400083 within 15 days of publication of this notice after which no claim will be entertained and the Company shall proceed to issue Duplicate Share

#### **NORTHERN RAILWA** TENDER NOTICE (Through e-tendering)

at Garhi Harsaru in c/w Re-Location of the proposed handling line No. 1 & 2 of Phase-II inside the GRFL Premises at Garhi Harsaru Station on Delhi-Rewari section App. Cost of the work (₹) | ₹ 20,96,335/- only Earnest Money Deposit (₹) ₹ 41,900/- only Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-I, Northern Railway, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Annexe-1, DRM office, Address of

New Delhi-110055.

up to 15.00 hrs.

Provision of GRFL Inland Container Depot Railway Siding

Tender uploading / closing date & time - 02.09.2020

See the Northern Railway website www.ireps.gov.ir

& Notice board at S&T branch, 3rd Floor, DRM Office

State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055.

KBS TRAVELS Date & Time for upload the (A Unit Group of KBSantosh Travels Pvt. Ltd tender / closing of tender Website particular & notice

Name of work

tender can be seen etc. No. 558-Sig-16-M-Tender-1346 Dated: 05.08.2020

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

**SEARCH FOR MISSING PERSON** 

General public is hereby informed that this person namely Sanjeev Kumar S/o Parmanand R/o H.No. H.No. 103, Bargad Mohalla, Salahpur Majra Dabas, Delhi Age: 45 years, Height: 5'7" Complexion: Sallow, Face: Oval, Build: Thin, Identification:

Sanjeev Kumar Mentally Sound, wearing purple colour shirt, blue colour jeans and brown colour shoes in feet, has been missing since 04.07.2020 from his house. In this regard DD No. 65-A dated 22.07.2020

Any person having any information or clue about this missing person may kindly inform to the following. F-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in

has been lodged at P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi.

Website: http://cbi.nic.in Fax: 24368639, Tel.: 24368638/24368641

8750870324

SHO: P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi Ph.: 011-25951486.





#### I'm not here for fame: Radhika

Actor RADHIKA APTE says she does not want to get stuck in something convenient or be satisfied, and she is not chasing fame.

"I'm not here for fame. I do like the perks sometimes, but I don't take success and failure seriously because these are temporary and all very rela-

tive," Radhika said. "You can't take either seriously, but you can't just ianore them. They are very important aspects in your journey you need appreciation, you need to pat your back many a time, you have to love the appreciation as well and you have to also learn from your failure and not get dejected. So I have a balanced approach," she added.



'Music has been my sanity. It is an integral part of my life and I feel blessed to be able to share

it. Edge is an attempt at portraying and owning your inner chaos and loving parts of yourself that are imperfect. When you stop looking at perfection in others, the journey of understanding and accepting yourself begins.'

-Shruti Haasan

Looking ahead in time, actor **URVASHI RAUTELA** feels history books in the future will need to dedicate an entire chapter to the year 2020.



seen one disaster after the other. "My prayers are with Beirut, Lebanon. I am heartbroken by the loss of life in this tragic event. Solidarity to all those affected and those working tirelessly to help. I can't even imagine the predica-

#### Katy on her split with Orlando

ment of the people witnessing

this out there," she said.

KATY PERRY and actor Orlando **Bloom** are now a happy couple, but they have gotten through a lot of hell, says the singer.

"It's really about an individual journey that makes the whole thing better. We both had to decide to go on that journey separately because it's not my half and

your half that makes a whole. It's my wholeness and your wholeness that makes this whole thing happen," Perry said. In the track

Champagne Problems, Perry sings about overcoming

their toughest times. "It's a song that really talks about how intense it's gotten and how many things we have had to go through. Yes, we have problems. Everybody has challenges in a relationship," she said.



# The unlock diaries

A survey, conducted by a dating app, finds out the reasons behind infidelity during the lockdown

A lot of love stories have blossomed in last few months of the lock-down and the new couples are eagerly waiting to meet their loved ones. From the outset, it's hard to judge when this global health crisis is going to leave the country but one thing is for sure, love is unhindered from the outside surrounding and blooming like never

A dating app, Gleeden, conducted a survey after the beginning of 'Unlock 1.0' and found out that about 75 per cent of its users are willing to meet their love interests if provided an opportunity. The survey was rolled out among 1,000 of its newly joined users and was conducted across metropolitan cities like Mumbai, Delhi NCR, Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad and Pune. The findings from the survey are pretty exciting and it also addresses the untouched side of the reasons behind infidelity. Here is a glimpse of the same.

The heart is always dicey

spouse and still love them at spouses.

the same time? Well, the answer to this question is as tricky as the question itself and the users are no exception. About 45.6 per cent of them think that their shared intimacy won't affect their current relationship, while 47 per cent of them believe that they cannot share the same level of emotions with two different people. A minute 7.4 per cent are indecisive about their stand on

Why partners cheat

Infidelity is considered as a taboo worldwide and there are a lot of factors leading up to the same. Lack of intimacy and compatibility in a relationship are just the kick-starters to the ultimate fate. Interestingly, it has been found out that 37 per cent of people cheat their partners because they want to try out something new or spice up their existing relationship. About 36 love with someone else other than their spouses, while for the remaining 27 per cent, the decision of committing infidelity was taken when they realised that their current partner is not the right match for them both emotionally as well as physically.

## Blame it on the night

It has been found that people usually try to make new connections while infidelity because they are in at a club party; it can range ing for anything serious.

from an office function to a reunion. About 23 per cent of the people admitted that they look for new relationships or flings in a party gathering, while 22 per cent of the people would prefer it on a vacation or while travelling. For 19 per cent of them, the best time is when their spouse is not at home or is out for a business trip. Also, about 12 per cent of the people are willing to find new connections within their office premises, while the remaining 24 per cent of the total users are willing to try out multiple measures to find out their love

Keep it casual It seems that casual relationships are the need of the hour for 38 per cent of the app users, who would like to get into a new relation-ship without making serious future commitments. About 23 per cent of the users still believe in the old school romance and are looking for future life partners. Interestingly, about 39 per cent of users are only interested in one-

# From the scratch

Actor TAHIR RAJ BHASIN says that every project has taught him to focus on being true to the process

Actor Tahir Raj Bhasin is an outsider with no connections in the industry. He debuted with *Mardaani* to show his acting prowess as a villain and since then, Tahir is delighted about how his career has been shaping up. After making a mark in *Mardaani*, which earned him the Best Supporting Actor and Best Villain awards, Tahir decided not to look back. His powerful performances in the subsequent films like *Manto*, *Chhichhore* and many more made him grab projects like 83 and *Looop Lapeta*. He is thrilled jects like 83 and Looop Lapeta. He is thrilled

about the fact that he has shaped his own destiny in the Bollywood.

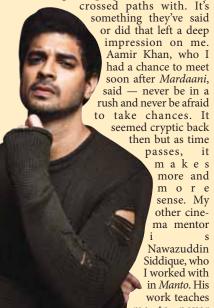
"I'm very proud of the journey I've had in Bollywood. When you start from the scratch, you value the recognition that your work gets and the opportunities you've earned because they are built solely on the basis of your talent. I consider the parts I've done so far to be a personal collage of experiences," he says.

The actor credits the directors he has collaborated with for having faith in him. "I've been fortunate enough to work with some amazing filmmakers. This has led to my growth as an actor and as a person. Every project has taught me to focus on being true to the process. What matters is making a part fun to watch and authentic. The next exciting turn of my career is going to be equally challenging. *Looop Lapeta* is a thriller comedy and pairing up with a talent like Taapsee (Pannu) is something I really look forward to."

Tahir discloses his journey in cinema makes him proud. "The part in YRF's Mardaani challenged me to stretch my abilities as I was a staring opposite an icon like Rani Mukerji. The uniqueness of the part made it a great one for me. From doing that to shifting gears in a light hearted college drama *Chhichhore* and now to a romantic lead in *Looop Lapeta* is incredibly fulfilling and gives me a sense of pride in the journey so far," he says.

Tahir also reveals who his biggest inspira-

tions are. "People who I count as mentors in cinema aren't always the ones with me on a day to day but are magnetic people who I've briefly



me to never underestimate the power of the

# **A DANGEROUS** MASTER

Partially automated driving systems don't always work, so the auto club recommends that car companies should limit their use

 $T^{\text{wo tests by AAA during the}}_{\text{past two years show that partially automated driving systems}}$ don't always function properly, so the auto club is recommending that car companies limit their use. Researchers with AAA recently tested systems from five manufacturers over a distance of 4,000 miles (6,400 kilometres), and said they encountered problems every eight miles (13 kilo-

Most of the issues involved systems designed to keep vehicles in their lane, but the tests discovered that many had trouble spotting simulated broken-down vehicles in their path. About two-thirds of the time the test vehicles hit the broken-down car, at an average speed of 25 mph (40 kph), according to the study.

It was AAA's second round of tests on the systems. Researchers said little had changed from a test of four other vehicles in 2018, prompting the recommendation that automakers stop including the technology on more models. "AAA has repeatedly found

that active driving assistance sys-

tems do not perform consistent-

ly, especially in real-world scenar-

ios," said Greg Brannon, AAA's

director of automotive engineer-

ing. "Automakers need to work toward more dependable technology including improving lane keeping assistance.' Also the systems, which com-

bine control of acceleration, braking and steering, often quit working with little notice to drivers, AAA found. That could cause a dangerous situation if the driver isn't fully engaged and has to make an emergency decision.

AAA tested five vehicles at

several research centres with drivers and instruments monitoring their performance. Included this year were a 2019 BMW X7 SUV. a 2019 Cadillac CT6 sedan, a 2019 Ford Edge SUV, a 2020 Kia Telluride SUV and a 2020 Subaru Outback SUV. Their systems have names like Kia's "Highway Driving Assist," Subaru's "EyeSight," Ford's "Co-Pilot 360," Cadillac's "Super Cruise," and BMW's "Active Driving Assistant Professional.



The results were similar to those found in 2018 testing by AAA of four other vehicles including a 2017 Tesla Model S with the company's "Autopilot"

BMW, General Motors and Subaru issued statements saying their systems aid drivers and are not meant to be fully autonomous. Messages were left seeking comment from Ford and

Kia. Subaru said its system "is designed to assist the driver, not replace the driver, when confronting hazards," while GM said it designed the Super Cruise system so it makes sure the driver stays engaged.
"Super Cruise undergoes rig-

orous testing and validation, and we continue to remain confident in the system," GM's statement

BMW said it appears the X7's system performed as designed in AAA's testing. "BMW requires that the driver remain fully at attention in order to intervene in the case of an emergency situation (such as a car stopped in the lane as simulated in the AAA study)," BMW said.

AAA said most owners manuals explain that the systems have trouble spotting stationary objects. The most recent tests show that the systems aren't improving much, even as

automakers move them into more mainstream models. Brannon said that can be a prob-

People who bought systems when they first came out generally were early adopters who know more about technology, Brannon said. But as the systems make their way into more mainstream models, people who are less tech-savvy will be driving them, he said.

"People are really less familiar and less likely to really engage in understanding how the systems work," he said. "That just assume they do work. That could be a really dangerous assump-

Also, research has shown that people become overly reliant on the technology, which could be dangerous when the systems don't work, he said. Also, there's no standardised way for the vehicles to notify drivers that the systems are disengaging. Some just have a green light on the dash, while the Cadillac's steering wheel vibrates and a green light goes to flashing red, he said.

In real-road tests, all of the systems had trouble keeping the vehicles in their lanes, and they came too close to other vehicles and guardrails, AAA said. Test track examinations of three vehicles, the Kia Telluride, BMW X7 and Subaru Outback, found that all had trouble spotting a simulated broken-down vehicle in their lane most of the time, Brannon said.

The Cadillac system couldn't be tested on the track because General Motors limits use to divided highways, while the Ford system also wouldn't work on the track. But both systems had problems on real roads, Brannon

He said that problems with the system could slow the adoption of fully autonomous vehicles because owners who experience the driver-assist technology may not trust it.

MERCEDES RETAIN BOTTAS FOR NEXT SEASON LONDON: Valtteri Bottas has signed a new deal with Mercedes, keeping him at the Formula One team until the end of the 2021 season. Bottas, who was runner-up to Hamilton last year, joined Mercedes in 2017 and has so far notched eight wins and 12 pole positions with the team.

TOKYO BAY TEMPORARILY REMOVE OLY RINGS **Tokyo:** The Olympic rings monument installed in Tokyo Bay for the 2020 Summer Games was temporarily removed for maintenance on Thursday and will return in December when Japan heads into the final stretch of preparations for the rescheduled event. The monument, which was installed seven months ago and stands 15.3m tall and 32.6m wide, will be cleaned and undergo a safety inspection before being re-installed.

#### MAN CITY SIGN AKE FROM BOURNEMOUTH

MANCHESTER: Manchester City have signed Dutch defender Nathan Ake from Bournemouth. Ake has put pen to paper on a five-year deal, keeping him at City until the summer of 2025. The 25-year-old said he is delighted to have joined City, a club he feels offers him everything he needs to win trophies and have a successful career.

FRIEDKIN GROUP COMPLETE ROMA TAKEOVER ROME: US-based Friedkin group has reached an agreement with the current owners of Serie A club Roma to buy the former league champions for 591 million euros. Roma said in a statement that owner and club president James Pallotta has signed the necessary preliminary contracts to Dan Friedkin, the current chairman and CEO of The Friedkin Group, on Wednesday night.

#### GARCIA JOINS ATK MOHUN BAGAN FC

KOLKATA: Spanish mid-fielder Edu Garcia has signed a two-year deal with newly merged ATK Mohun Bagan FC, the franchise of the ISL announced on Thursday. Having represented Bengaluru FC in 2017-18, Garcia returned to the ISL for the second half of the 2018-19 with ATK and scored the winning goal against Chennaiyin FC to guide them to a record third title last season.

#### MCA WRITES TO CM SEEKING NOD FOR PRACTICE MUMBAI: The Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) has

written to Maharashtra CM Uddhay Thackeray, seeking his approval for its players' practice at the indoor facility of the Bandra Kurla Complex. The Maharashtra Government has so far not allowed any team sport to resume in the state and they have also not given a go-ahead for the resumption of training of individual cricketers.

#### LEDLEY KING HIRED AS MOURINHO'S ASSISTANT

LONDON: Tottenham has appointed former captain Ledlev King to become an assistant manager under Jose Mourinho. The 39-year-old King spent his entire 13-year playing career at Tottenham and has been a club ambassador since retiring in 2012. The former center back made 323 appearances and lifted the League Cup as captain in 2008 which is the club's last major trophy. King has joined Mourinho's backroom team in place of tactical analyst Ricardo Formosinho, who has left the club

#### KYRGIOS LIKELY TO PULL OUT OF FRENCH OPEN

Melbourne: Nick Kyrgios dropped a huge hint on Thursday that he will skip the French Open, saying the chances of him travelling to Europe this year were "slim to none". "It's a very slim chance I'll play in Europe. Almost slim to none to be honest," he said. The Australian last week pulled out of the upcoming US Open in New York due to the coronavirus pandemic.

## 'Babar belongs in league of Kohli, Smith, and Williamson

MANCHESTER: Former England captain Nasser Hussain feels it's time the cricket world changes the moniker 'Fab Four' to 'Fab Five' by including Pakistan's Babar Azam in the same league as Virat Kohli and Kane Williamson.

England captain Joe Root complete the quartet of

"They keep going on about the 'Fab Four' (Kohli, Steve Smith, Kane Williamson and Joe Root) — it's the 'Fab Five' and Babar Azam is in that," Hussain said on Sky Sports.

Babar, who has been Pakistan's best batsman in the past few years, started the first Test against England at Old Trafford on a bright note, scoring an unbeaten 69 off 100 balls by the time bad weather stopped play on Wednesday.

"I think it is a real shame and it is in part a consequence of Pakistan playing away from home, playing in the UAE all the time in front of no one, Pakistan hiding in the shadow of

Indian cricket, not going over and playing IPL cricket, not playing India."

Babar's cover drives have some similarities with Kohli's

and some consider him even better in his execution.

"If this lad was Virat Kohli, everyone would be talking about it but because it is Babar Azam, no one is talking about it," Hussain said during commentary. "He is young and he is elegant. He has got all the swagger," he added. PTI



# BCCI breaks up with Chinese partner Vivo

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

¬he BCCI on Thursday suspended the IPL title sponsorship deal with Chinese mobile phone company Vivo for the event's upcoming edition amid the Sino-India border face-

The BCCI sent out a one-line statement, without giving any details, to say that Vivo will not be associated with the IPL this year. "The Board of Control for

Mobile India Pvt Ltd have decided to suspend their partnership for Indian Premier League in 2020," the press release stated.

The company, on its part, stated that the association is being paused.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and vivo Mobile India Pvt Ltd have mutually decided to pause their part-nership for the 2020 season of Indian Premier League," it stated.

Vivo won the IPL title spon-

Cricket in India (BCCI) and vivo sorship rights for five years from expect that after November, when 2018 to 2022 for a reported sum of ₹2190 crore, approximately ₹440 crore per annum.

It is learnt that the two parties are now working out a plan in which Vivo might come back for a fresh three-year period starting 2021 on revised terms. However, a top BCCI official offered a divergent

"Here we are talking about diplomatic tensions and you

IPL ends and before the next IPL starts in April 2021, there would be no anti-China sentiment? Are

we serious?" the veteran official said. The anti-China sen-

timent in the country peaked after the violent face off between the Indian and Chinese troops in eastern Ladakh. India

lost 20 soldiers in the clash, while China also acknowledged unspecified casualties

Actual Control (LAC) caused outrage across India with several calls for boycott of Chinese companies and products.

The BCCI is now likely to float a tender for new IPL title sponsors as mandated by its con-

However, the end of this (sponsorship) deal could spell losses for the franchises as they get a substantial share from the sponsorship pool.

Half of the annual Vivo spon-

sorship money is distributed equally among eight franchises which comes to ₹27.5 crore.

"As of now, it will be very difficult for the BCCI to match the sponsorship amount at such short notice. Therefore both BCCI and the franchises should be prepared to lose out on some money

- BCCI more but each franchise from Vivo's exit will potentially lose 15 crore," the official said. "This year will be difficult for everyone but the show must go

on," the official said.

Manchester: The Champions League is the

Manchester City's growing silverware collection,

defender Aymeric Laporte said ahead of his side's

last-16 second leg against Real Madrid on Friday.

ecent years under Pep Guardiola, although they

City have dominated English football in

# Inter, Man Utd reach Europa quarters | Man City has unfinished business in CL: Laporte

Manchester United edged LASK 2-1 and Inter Milan beat Getafe 2-0 on Wednesday in rescheduled ties due to the coronavirus pandemic to clinch places in the quarter-finals of the Europa League.

United had a 5-0 lead from their first leg played in March and will face Copenhagen who enjoyed a 3-0 victory on the night over Istanbul Basaksehir.

Antonio Conte's Inter Milan will face either Steven Gerrard's Rangers or Bayer Leverkusen with the Germans holding a 3-1 lead going into Thursday's match.

Despite United's comfortable lead from March 12's first leg, the visitors caused problems early on.

Andres Andrade hit the crossbar with a powerful header after 10 minutes at an almost empty Old Trafford before Peter Michorl fired wide just after the quarter of an hour

The Linz-based outfit had to wait until the second half to break the deadlock as defender Philipp Wiesinger rifled into the top corner from outside the box after 55 minutes.



Man Utd's Jesse Lingard reacts during Europa League match against LASK

Their celebrations were shortlived as Jesse Lingard equalised on the counter-attack for United three minutes later.

Anthony Martial claimed the match-winner with two minutes to go despite LASK goalkeeper Alexander Schlager getting a foot to the France striker's shot.

Inter's meeting with the La Liga side was played over just one leg in Gelsenkirchen to save time ahead of next week's last eight to be held in

They advanced to the next round as Romelu Lukaku became the club's first player to score in five straight European appearances since Brazilian striker Adriano in 2004.

Lukaku slotted home after Alessandro Bastoni's long ball

#### Sanchez joins Nerazzurri for free week at Manchester United.

Manchester United's Chilean forward Alexis Sanchez has signed a three-year contract with Inter Milan, the Italian club announced on

No transfer fee was involved in the deal as United seemed to be in a hurry to offload the forward who couldn't reach the heights of his previous years at Old Trafford. He was also reportedly earning in excess of 500,000 pounds per

after 33 minutes.

The Spaniards were given a chance to take the game to penalties with 25 minutes remaining as VAR said Diego Godin had handballed in his own box but veteran cente-forward Jorge Molina missed the resulting penalty.

Christian Ériksen made sure of Inter's spot after 84 minutes with his first touch after Dakonam Djene made a mess

"Alexis Sanchez has joined the Nerazzurri on a free transfer," the Serie A side said in a The 31-year-old, who had

been on loan at Inter this season, signed a contract until June 30, 2023, the club added. Sanchez scored four goals

for Antonio Conte's Serie A runners-up behind Juventus. "Everyone

Manchester United wishes Alexis Sanchez all the best in his future career as he joins Inter Milan on a permanent transfer," the Premier League club

of a clearance inside his own

Elsewhere, 2009 champions Shakhtar Donetsk booked a last-eight spot against Basel or Eintracht Frankfurt after three goals within the closing four minutes clinched a 3-0 win over Wolfsburg.

In other remaining games Rangers head to Leverkusen, Wolves host Olympiakos, and Sevilla face Roma in Duisburg.

finished second to Liverpool in the Premier League this season, but have yet to add Europe's most coveted prize to their trophy cabinet.

missing piece in

"City have unfinished business in the Champions League, we have been talking about it for a long time, it's the thing we are missing," Laporte told Spanish newspaper AS on Thursday.

"Last year we won four trophies in the same season but couldn't win the Champions League, so if it's our turn this year, perfect."

City were knocked out in the quarter-finals last year on away goals by Tottenham after having a last-gasp effort ruled out by a VAR review. They were beaten on away goals by AS Monaco in the last 16 in 2017. "I don't know what we've been doing

wrong as the team has been the same in the last few years. Away goals have been key. Last year Tottenham scored the same number of goals as us but eliminated us," added Laporte.

"We have all the ingredients to do great things. The team is really up for it, we don't have to change much, we just need a little more luck. We have lacked that final spark which I'm sure we'll find soon."

City hold a 2-1 lead over Real going into Friday's second leg at an empty Etihad Stadium and will be without all-time top scor-

er Sergio Aguero through injury. Real will be missing captain Sergio Ramos, who was sent off in the first leg.

"Everyone knows impor-

Aguero, he's an important player to be missing just like theirs. All the goals that he has scored and the career he's had since he was young speak for themselves," added Laporte. "He's one of the best strikers I've ever seen but we believe in our other

team mates. Sergio Ramos is also a very important player but we want to show that we can play better than Agencies

# Pacers boost Pak after Shan's 156 PL revert to 3 substitutions

**AGENCIES** MANCHESTER

England's top order was put to the sword as Pakistan's vibrant attack followed up Shan Masood's 156 with a stirring display on day two of the first

Masood spent almost eight hours at the crease as his careerbest knock lifted the tourists to 326 and the bowlers made good use of the platform to leave England 92 for four at Emirates Old Trafford. Openers Rory Burns and

care of inside four overs as Shaheen Afridi Mohammad Abbas dovetailed perfectly with the new ball. The latter struck a killer blow when he cleaned up Ben Stokes for a duck and by the time Joe Root was undone by Yasir Shah's legspin, his side were staring down

But Ollie Pope performed with skill and heart to make a punchy 46 not out before the close and will continue his fightback on the third morning.

The thrilling late action and that is the only way to describe the boisterous. buzzing brilliance that Pakistan brought in the field — owed much to Masood's hard work in the first innings.

The opener battled with England for more than 107 overs, facing 319 deliveries as he made his third Test hundred in a row, a streak dating

December and



Pakistan's Shan Masood raises his bat to celebrate scoring a century during the second day of first Test

including tons in Karachi and Rawalpindi. Jos Buttler, who missed a catch and a stumping when he had just 45 to his name on day one, will need no reminder of the debt he now owes when he resumes on 15 not out alongside Pope

Play started with Pakistan 139 for two, built in large part around Babar Azam's fluent 69. He was unable to add to that here, flashing at James Anderson in the first over of the

1st Test, Day 3 **SONY SIX NETWORK** 

That was the first blow in a meticulous, methodical morning session that saw England pick off three wickets for the addition of just 48 runs. Anderson and Stuart Broad's initial 11-over spell cost just 11 runs and brought a second breakthrough when Asad Shafiq pushed the latter to second slip.

Mohammad Rizwan with a neat away-swinger to make it 187 for five at lunch but the continued presence of Masood, who had moved from 55 to 77, was a crucial factor. He flourished in the afternoon, upgrading a hard-working innings into something of a class above.

Shadab Khan contributed a busy 45, but England made themselves a soft target by serving up five overs of soft spin at a cost of 27 risk-free

The return of Anderson and Broad barely improved matters, with the pair milked for 42 in eight overs with the new ball. Masood brought up his hundred from 251 balls. leaping with joy as his team-mates packed the players' bal-

A wild hack from Shadab against Dom Bess ended a 105run stand, opening the door for Broad and Archer to take two apiece as Pakistan's last four fell for 35. Masood clubbed a pair of sixes before he was ninth man down, lbw to Broad.

#### LONDON: The Premier Football Association Board

League will revert to a maximum of three substitutions in matches next season with England's top division clubs deciding to no longer allow two additional changes. Clubs previously

backed the use of five substitutions to deal with the congested schedule after the league's pandemicenforced 100-day shutdown ended in June. Despite the International allowing the temporary use of five substitutions next season, the league won't be adopting it. The rule had been seen to favor bigger clubs with more depth in their

squads. A maximum seven substitutes will be allowed on the bench but only three can be brought on when the

new season begins around

Sept 12.

# them."

# Mithali defends BCCI's stand, says foreign stars misjudged situation

NEW DELHI: India ODI captain Mithali Raj totally understands the frustration of foreign internationals on overlapping of T20 Challenge and WBBL dates but firmly believes that BCCI "did its best" to fit in the four-match tournament in these unusual COVID-19 times.

While the foreign players, led by Australian star player Alyssa Healy, questioned the timing of the exhibition games as it is clashing with the WBBL, the BCCI was also criticised for not going ahead with the women's tour of England in September. Åsked about her

thoughts on the two subjects, Mithali spoke her mind. "People tend

to judge quickly. The BCCI presGanguly), secretary (Jay Shah) and IPL GC chief (Brijesh Patel) have been very encouraging towards

women's cricket.

"I personally thought we may not even get to play the Challenger trophy (domestic event) because even the men's IPL was in doubt but these games are most welcome," Mithali said. On comments of top interna-

tionals like Healy, Suzie Bates, Rachel Haynes expressing their displeasure, the Indian legend tried putting things into perspective.
"I know a lot of people

(foreign players) have questioned the timing of it but these are not normal circumstances. Normally,

pens in April-May and doesn't collide with WBBL (in Australia).

"But these are unusual circumstances, the window (tentatively November 1-10) was a short one and the BCCI did the best it could."

The WBBL is scheduled from October 17 to November 29.

"It (their frustration) is understandable. They (foreign players) also want to be part of the event. I too want the best players in the league. "But the situation is not normal. Right now, there is hardly any sporting activity in India and to have the matches before the men's IPL, it would require players to be in match mode. We are yet to start

"My own state has just allowed the opening of gyms. So for me to get match ready will take time. The BCCI has given us that window and we will have to work around it this year," she said.

# Tai has no problem with Oly postponement



KUALA LUMPUR: World No 2 shuttler Tai Tzu-ying has said she didn't have any problems with Tokyo Olympics getting postponed as according to her, she now has more time to prepare and end her drought at the showpiece event.

Tokyo 2020 was initially set to be hosted in July this year but due to coro-

navirus pandemic, it will now take place

from July 23 till August 8 in 2021.

Despite her constant successes on the BWF circuit, Tai Tzu is yet to win a medal at senior international level which includes Olympics and World C'ships. At London 2012 and Rio 2016, she crashed out in the last-16 round itself.

"I didn't have a problem with (postponement). I can use this time as a period of rest because it's been a long and tight schedule of high-level competition," Tai Tzu said on the BWF's Badminton Ultimate Feature. "It's a good time to rest and have even more time to prepare (for the Olympics). Tai Tzu had earlier hinted that she

of 2020 season. But with the badminton calendar destroyed due to coronavirus pandemic, all such retirement talks have een put to rest for the time being. 'I will play until the end of next seada of the meeting is

might call time on her career after the end

son before I revisit the decision. As of now I want to finish next season's schedule," the former World No 1 said.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The heads of BCCI and Cricket Australia will be connecting virtually to discuss the hosting of two T20 World Cups in the next two years when the ICC's all-powerful board meets on Friday.

The decision will also be impacted by the stand of the two boards on the next ICC chairman, the nomination process of which is yet to be announced formally. It is expected that BCCI presi-

dent Sourav Ganguly and secretary Jay Shah along with CA's Earl Eddings and Nick Hockley will reach a consensus on the hosting of 2021 and 2022 editions. 'The the main agen-

scheduling of ICC tour-

naments including the

women's ODI World Cup in New Zealand early next year. It is expected that some decisions will be taken," an ICC Board member said. The ICC World T20

**BCCI, CA** to discuss on swapping of T20 WC

which was scheduled to be held in Australia from October 18 this year was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, making way for the cash rich Indian Premier League, to be held from September 19 in the United

However for Cricket Australia. Arab Emirates. It is expected Cricket Australia will like should wait till further announceto host the T20 ment. The reason being CA wants World Cup in

October 2021 as it

nad already started

preparations and

wouldn't like to

wait for two years

forego its right to host the tournament in 2021. "The BCCI was originally

but BCCI also doesn't want to

scheduled to host the T20 World Cup in 2021 and they would like to go ahead. Another reason being, hosting a T20 World Cup in 2022 and then a 50 over global event within a gap of just one year. It would be an overkill," another ICC board member said.

it also has a few points in its favour. "The ICC website states that those who have booked match tickets for Australia World T20 event

will go ahead as per schedule.

to host the event next year," he said. It is also learnt that there is a good chance that the eight-team Women's ODI World Cup in New Zealand in February-March 2021

#### CA mull moving Boxing Day Test from MCG **PTI** ■ MELBOURNE not good and a senior cricket

ricket Australia is contem-Uplating moving the traditional Boxing Day Test against India from Melbourne to Adelaide due to rising COVID-19 cases in the state of Victoria.

According to a report in the Sydney Morning Herald, Adelaide has emerged as a frontrunner to host the December 26-30 marquee fixture.

In this regard, CA chairman Earl Eddings has called for an urgent convening of the national cricket cabinet next week to discuss ways for smooth conduct of the series and avoid losing a staggering 300 Australian dollars.

The situation in Victoria is

official told the country's leading daily that there is no way the current schedule can go ahead as planned with the state border restrictions in place amid the Covid-19 pandemic. Victoria has so far reported over 13000 positive cases for the

coronavirus besides 170 deaths. As far as the other Australian states are concerned

New South Wales comes a distant second with close to 4000 positive cases. South Australia. whose capital is Adelaide, has so far reported 457 confirmed cases with 445 of them recov-

CA had earlier said that the existing schedule is subject to



# CHINA: YUNNAN.

downturn.

swagger with government

measures to continuously

prevent and control the epidemic," Chen said in

an article posted on the

WeChat account of his

management school."The

epidemic has not affected

the pace of China's structural adjustment.

Instead, China is moving

forward in terms of

upgrading its economic

structure and renewing

economic driving forces,

with booming new

business in fields like

online education, cloud

computing and smart

Chen forecast that China's GDP growth could rebound to 5 to 6 percent

in the third and fourth

quarters, with full-year

growth of 2 to 3 percent.

More efforts are needed

to spur consumption,

boost domestic demand,

create more jobs and

introduce policies to spark

innovation in technologies

To hedge against the impact of COVID-19, the

government has introduced

a series of policies to

and business models."

manufacturing,

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**FOCUS** 

# China's economy bouncing back to growth

The 3.2 percent year-on-year growth in the second quarter of the year, versus a 6.8 percent contraction in the first quarter, demonstrated that China's economy has a solid base for further expansion.

China's economy is bouncing back to growth after a steep slump from the COVID-19 pandemic with better-thanexpected indicators in the second quarter, said Yan Pengcheng, director of the Department of National Economy at the National Development and Reform Commission(NDRC), during news conference in Beijing on July 17.

"Steady economic recovery in the second quarter proves that China's economy has great resilience to offset external headwinds such as the coronavirus outbreak. The country is able to make structural adjustments. shift the growth model and foster new growth drivers,' he said.

Ever since the outbreak of COVID-19, China adopted comprehensive, strict and precise measures for prevention and control despite misunderstanding and smearing from some Western countries. The government has rolled out a raft of measures. including more fiscal spending, tax relief and supportive employment policies, to revive the economy.

Chinese economy has shifted from slowing down to rising, strong evidence that the adverse impact of the epidemic can be overcome with resolve,

VOICE



China's foreign trade has gradually recovered from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. According to data released by the General Administration of Customs, the country's foreign trade rose 5.1 percent on a yearly basis in June, with exports up 4.3 percent and imports growing 6.2 percent. Here in Qingzhou Port, Fuzhou, capital of east China's Fujian Province, a freighter loaded with containers sets on sail on July 21 Photo by Xinhua

courage and correct

The recovery will continue in the second half of the year, powered by the rapidly growing new industries and business models, as well as the strong support from macro policies.

China, now in a better position to handle contingencies in the future, remains an important engine for global growth. Its market is still huge, inclusive and open where wise foreign enterprises have every reason to stay rooted and seek further development.

The country still faces a number of major economic challenges that could dampen its future growth, such as the continued global

spread of the coronavirus and an unfavorable international economic and trade environment, Yan

Pengcheng said. Despite headwinds, China's GDP grew by 3.2 percent year-on-year in the second quarter, rebounding from the first quarter's contraction, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said.

Chen Yuyu, an

economics professor maintain economic and at Peking University's social stability, such as Guanghua School of increasing support for Management, said the hard-hit enterprises. The second quarter's improved country has cut taxes and indicators signal that China fees by more than 1 trillion yuan (\$142.9 billion), the NDRC said. is bouncing back from the "The economy will gradually regain its

The NDRC said it approved 54 fixed-asset investment projects in the first half of this year, mainly in transportation. high-tech, energy, agriculture, forestry and water conservancy. The overall investment hit 494,4 billion yuan. "In the next phase, the NDRC will continue

to work with relevant parties to expand effective investment and focus on new infrastructure, newtype urbanization and key projects for national development," Yan Pengcheng said.

In the first half of 2020, China's fixed-asset investment declined 3.1 percent year-on-year, narrowing from a 6.3 percent decline in the first five months. In the second quarter, fixed-asset investment jumped 4.8 percent, the NBS said.

Investment from foreign enterprises increased by 3.9 percent in the first half of this year, proving China's increasing openness and attractiveness to foreign investment, Chen added.

(Edited from Xinhua and China Daily)

MARCH TOWARD "XIAOKANG"

# **Bee-keeping enriches** Yao village in S Yunnan

Editor's note: A xiaokang society, or a moderately prosperous society, has been the dream of Chinese people for thousands of years. At the end of this year, China plans to secure the building of a moderately properous society in all aspects. Recently, our reporters travel around Yunnan province to cover the arduous efforts being made in order to realize this dream.

Na'metian is a Yao village in south Yunnan's Xishuangbanna Prefecture. To help the poor villagers, the provincial taxation officers have joined hands with the Dianyunmiyu biocompany in reccent years. offering them beehives and technical training in apiculture.

"Thanks to beekeeping, the villagers have been lifted out of poverty and they're now willing to let their children go to school," said Yan Wen, secretary of the villagers' Party committee.

The Yao village used to be a shabby place, without the basic means for beekeeping. Under local poverty-relief projects. the village has been turned into a clean Yao ethnic settlement, with sound facilities for living, working and animal breeding. Diversified vegetations in the village are resources for bees

to produce quality honey. Most villagers would sell their honey to the Dianyunmiyu company for it offer them good prices. So far, beekeeping has brought an income of 26,000 yuan to 13 poor families in the Na'metian and Manzhuang villages. The two villages have each gained 129,000 yuan out of (Yunnan Daily) beekeeping.

#### CULTURE

# Heritage plus souvenirs: "bring" the Yunnan culture back home



Tourists DIY purple pottery in Jianshui (Online photo)

As a culturally-diversified province lying in southwest China, Yunnan has long been famous for the arts and says proudly. In Jianshui city, southern handicrafts created by local ethnic groups. Black and purple potteries, paper cuttings as well as wooden objects are among

leaving and bring them back "Souvenirs developed from intangible cultural heritages are obviously the best sellers," says Wang Ziqiang, who currently runs a studio to specifically popularize tile cats, Yunnan's traditional clay roof ridge beasts originated from

the most popular souvenirs for

people who come to visit Yunnan.

Almost every tourist would

purchase a few handicrafts before

the Dali area. Recently, the creative cultural products made by Wang's studio have become increasingly popular among visitors and tourists. By cooperating with the Yunnan Provincial Museum, Yunnan Art Museum and a number of other institutes and companies, his products have been sold to Kunming, Dali, Hunan and even Beijing, "My products are primarily designed for young

people, and I'm happy to see that they have already become my main customers," Wang Ziqiang

Yunnan's Honghe prefecture, there remains a fairly long history of purple pottery making. According to local history records, the earliest pottery manufacturing in Jianshui can be dated back to over 3,500 years ago. The modern history of Jianshui purple pottery, on the other hand, began in the year of 1953, when it was named one of China's four most distinguished pottery wares by the then

Ministry of Culture. Along with the development of tourism, purple pottery wares of Jianshui have now been considered decent souvenirs for any travelers who visit Yunnan, rather than just a local intangible cultural heritage. Today, many tourists to Jianshui would choose to visit the Purple Pottery Park, Purple Pottery Street as well as Pottery Village, having a glimpse of the city's thousand-year history of pottery making while bringing some exquisite pottery wares back home. (Wang Jingzhong)

#### FOREIGNERS IN CHINA

Asif Alex, a student from Afghanistan has been studying at the School of International Education of Kunming University, Kunming, capital of

He has been to the Chinese localities of Hong Kong, Shanghai, Yiwu and Zhuhai, as well as the cities and prefectures in Yunnan during the past two years. Skyscrapers, bustling markets and vibrant business impressed him a lot. Alex thinks patriotism among the Chinese people

drives progress in the country "While we were staying safe at home, medical workers were risking their lives on the frontline in the battle against coronavirus. Alex cited China's battle against the COVID-19 as

an example, adding the

singer, movie star or ball player as their idols, now they respect medics more than before.

don't always make a country great. Instead, the strength comes from people's resolve to serve their country. Alex also attributed China's

economy which grows most rapidly in the world. We should learn the development experience from China. 'Alex hoped that he could learn as much knowledge in China as he can, and build his

IN-PICS

# Hong Kong's residents hold the key to their future

the West have been tirelessly repeating for weeks that the passing of the National Security Law means the "death" of Hong Kong, in the same way that the handover was peddled in 1997 as "a death sentence for Hong Kong". And yet here we are, with Hong Kong as prosperous and vibrant as

Part of this problem stems from the misconception that Hong Kong is some sort of foreign concession. To those who hold this view, Hong Kong does not belong to China, even though China has undisputed sovereignty over

It should not be forgotten that Hong Kong, as well as other foreign concessions and colonies in China, was acquired through a series of unequal treaties that would be completely unacceptable under current international laws and modern democratic

Why does the West forget now that Hong Kong Island was ceded to Britain in 1842 under the Treaty of Nanking to put an end to the First Opium War?

Isn't this the same kind of hypocrisy that we are seeing now, when we see Britain offering millions of Hong Kong people residency rights and a path to citizenship, despite Britain not doing any democratic reform in almost 156 years of its colonial rule over Hong Kong?

In 2017, to mark the 20th anniversary of the handover, I conducted some research comparing the Hong Kong of 1997 with Hong Kong in 2017. Hong Kong was in better shape, from a socioeconomic perspective, in 2017 than in 1997.

Not knowing what the new national security law will mean in practice may worry some people, but the fact remains that 99.9 percent of Hong Kong people will not be affected by this new law, since it targets only separatist

Many media throughout activities, subversion of State external interference.

Given the fact that an immense part of Hong Kong's society is pacific and reasonable, this law should not worry Hong Kong residents. What should worry them right now is how to make Hong Kong flourish again after a year of protests and riots, and after the COVID-19 pandemic's devastation.

Despite Hong Kong being part of China (and therefore neither an independent territory nor a foreign concession), Hong Kong's future depends entirely on the residents of Hong Kong. The city's residents can show Beijing that Hong Kong can be part of China while maintaining its special characteristics.

The Macao Special Administrative Region has chosen this path. For example, Macao will try to diversify its economy by creating a stock exchange and embracing both the Belt and Road Initiative and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area project.

Hong Kong residents must grasp the city's future now by embracing the many opportunities that will further integrate its economy with that of the mainland. (By Oriol Caudevilla who has a doctorate in real estate law and economics, has worked as a business analyst for a Hong Kong publicly listed



99.9 percent of Hong Kong people will not be affected by the National Security Law, since it targets only separatist activities, subversion of State power, terrorism and foreign/external interference.



A growing number of young people in Macao have set up their businesses in parallel with the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. Riding the wave of innovation and entrepreneurship across China, they are seizing opportunities in the Greater Bay Area to achieve their dreams. The photo shows that students were given Photo by Xinhua training courses at the Macao Young Entrepreneur Incubation Center on July 14

#### **NEW INDUSTRIES**

# Yunnan issues guidelines to boost "night economy"



A snack stand at Nanqiang steet, Kunming Photo by Li Wenjun

Recently, the People's Government of Yunnan Province issues guidelines to promote the "night economy" in the province amid the "new normal" brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the guidelines, a series of "night economy areas" are designed to be built not only in Kunming, the province's capital city, but in Dali, Lijiang, Jinghong, Qujing and many more

"Night economy" is Chinese way to make the night lively and dynamic. Since its birth, the new economic pattern, which aims to increase domestic demand and spur consumption in China, has gained popularity nationwide amid the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. Take Kunming for

instance, 15 existing shopping complexes and markets will be named "key night economy areas". The guidelines stress the importance of combining night economy with local and ethnic elements of each place. Therefore, while a total of 20 to 30 night economy areas are planned to be created in Kunming, every other major city across Yunnan will also see 2 to

3 such areas, with an aim lockdown of COVID-19 By reorganizing tourist

optimize every customer's

to not merely boost local economy and bring new dynamics to urban life, but meet the increasing shopping and leisure demands of citizens in Yunnan province as the

resources and upgrading urban facilities and services, the Yunnan government expects to create a better environment that tourists and consumers from Yunnan and even the entire nation can enjoy, especially at night. Furthermore, an "online+offline" shopping model will be guaranteed to substantially

(Wang Jingzhong)

# Asif Alex: China's achievements made by hard-working people

folks who used to take a He added the economy, Yunnan province since 2018. weapons and infrastructure

> growth to its hard-working people. My Chinese teachers and friends spare no effort in chasing their dreams. "China is the second largest

own country when he returns.

(Li Hengqiang)