

OPINION 6
BEING
HUMANE**WORLD 8**
NEGLECTANCE OR MISSILE MAY HAVE
CAUSED BLAST: LEBANON PRESIDENT**SPORT 12**
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2020 A
WAKE-UP
CALL: BHUMI
10 VIVACITY

17 die as AI plane breaks into 2

Plane overshoots Kozhikode runway, plunges into valley, both pilots killed

PNS/PTI ■ KOCHI

Seventeen people — pilot, co-pilot and 15 passengers — were killed and several others injured when a Dubai-Calicut Air India Express flight with 191 passengers and crew on board overshoot the runway at Kozhikode airport and fell into a valley, breaking into two portions, on Friday around 7.41pm, police sources said. There were 184 passengers, including 10 Infants, and five-member cabin crew when the flight approached the airport.

The Civil Aviation Ministry said the flight IX 1344 operated by B737 aircraft from Dubai overshoot runway at Kozhikode at 7.41 PM on Friday. "No fire reported at the time of landing," it noted.

"As per the initial reports rescue operations are on and passengers are being taken to hospital for medical care. We will soon share the update in this regard," the it stated.

While the aircraft broke into two, nearly 50 ambulances were seen coming out of the airport with the injured persons. Kozhikode airport is designated as a table top aircraft (airport atop a hill). Capt Deepak Sathe, the pilot of the ill-fated plane, was a wing commander in the Indian Air Force before he switched over to Air India.

"AI Exp flight overshoot Kozhikode runway in rainy conditions, went down 35 ft into slope, split into 2... Formal



Rescue work in progress as an Air India Express flight with passengers on board en route from Dubai skidded off the runway while landing in Kozhikode on Friday PTI

enquiry will be conducted by Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau," said Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri.

The injured include one of the cabin crew members. Sources in Kozhikode airport said at least 40 passengers have

been admitted to various hospitals in and around Kozhikode. The front portion of the aircraft had to be cut open to take the body of the pilot from the cockpit.

According to information coming out of the airport,

the aircraft crash landed on the runway from where it skidded off. The first visuals shown by local TV channels were that of a totally damaged aircraft, the front side of which has been damaged totally. It was raining

heavily when the aircraft touched the ground. Most of the passengers were heard crying in pain.

The flight was part of the Vande Bharat Repatriation Mission operated by the Government of India.

ED grills Rhea for 8 hrs for money laundering

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Bollywood actor Rhea Chakraborty was on Friday questioned by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in Mumbai in connection with a money laundering case relating to film star Sushant Singh Rajput's alleged suicide. Her request to put it off the interrogation was rejected by the agency.

Chakraborty arrived at the agency's office minutes after the 11.30 am deadline. Rhea Chakraborty left the ED office after 8 hours of interrogation.

Her father Indrajit Chakraborty and brother Showik, both accused in the abatement to suicide case lodged by Patna Police, were also seen with her.

Chakraborty's statement was recorded under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

Rajput's father Krishna Kumar Singh had in his complaint before Patna Police alleged financial irregularities in the late actor's bank accounts.

In the complaint, Singh alleged ₹15 crore was siphoned off from Rajput's bank account in one year to accounts of persons not known or connected to the late film star.

Two companies linked to Rajput and some financial deals involving Chakraborty, her father and Showik who are stated to be directors in these companies, are under the scanner of the ED, officials said.

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Bollywood actress Rhea Chakraborty arrives at Enforcement Directorate office for questioning in connection with a money laundering case in Mumbai on Friday PTI

Bihar seeks in SC dismissal of plea to transfer case

Rhea's call details spark up debate

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

New Delhi: The Bihar Government on Friday sought in the Supreme Court dismissal of Bollywood actress Rhea Chakraborty's plea for transfer of the Patna FIR against her to Mumbai in actor Sushant Singh Rajput death case, terming it "premature, misconceived and non-maintainable". The 28-page affidavit of Patna SSP Upendra Sharma, filed through Bihar's advocate Keshav Mohan, said the state police has the jurisdiction in the case as the consequences of the offence are in Patna as well where the old father of the deceased actor resides. PTI

Coming ahead of and during her questioning by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) team in the Sushant Singh Rajput suicide case in Mumbai, Rhea Chakraborty's call record details — with the late actor, Bollywood personalities, a senior Mumbai police official and her own family members — on Friday sparked a new debate in the media in connection with the probe into Rajput's death.

She spoke 287 times with the late actor's domestic help Samuel Miranda during a year time.

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SC: Full damages for victims before Italian marines' case closure

'Won't pass order without hearing victim families'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court made clear to the Centre on Friday that it would not pass any order on the plea seeking closure of cases against two Italian marines, accused of killing two Indian fishermen, without hearing the victims' families who should be given adequate compensation.

A bench headed by Chief Justice SA Bobde allowed the Centre to file within a week an application making the victims' family members as parties to its plea seeking closure of Italian Marines case. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta informed the bench, also comprising Justices AS Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian, that Italy has assured the Indian Government that it would prosecute the Marines there as per law.

When the bench insisted that adequate compensation

should be paid to the kin of victims, Mehta said Centre will ensure that maximum compensation is given to them.

The bench said it appreciates the steps taken by Italy to prosecute these marines but the court is on the issue of adequate compensation. "We want that adequate compensation be paid to the victims' family".

The SC referred to the case against the marines pending before the special court and said that without applying for withdrawal of prosecution of case how the Centre can come and seek its closure.

Mehta replied that the top court had earlier said that proceedings on the special court be kept in abeyance.

The bench said, "You can apply for withdrawal of prosecution. The victims' families will have the right to oppose it. The victims' families are not even a party here. We will not pass any order without the victims' family being heard", and allowed the Solicitor General to implead family members of the victims as party in its closure application.

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16 die in Idukki landslide as heavy rain batters Kerala

PNS ■ KOCHI

Torrential downpour and landslides across the hilly regions of Kerala early Friday claimed 16 lives while 52 persons were washed away by the fury of the nature. The mishap occurred at Munnar in Idukki district on the slopes of the Kerala side of the Western Ghats.

All 16 who died in the landslide were workers of tea plantation in Munnar of Idukki district and were sleeping in their company quarters (known in local parlance as laayam) when the mishap happened. Though the landslide and the disaster occurred early morning, the outside world came to know about the mishap after five hours. The NDRF from Tamil Nadu reached the site by 4.30 pm and was engaged in rescue operations when reports last came.

Cooking utensils buried in mud, asbestos and tin sheets strewn around were all there to be seen at the area, which was the habitation of around 80 odd workers near a tea plantation, about 30 km from the tourist town of Munnar.

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Rescuers work at the site of a mudslide triggered by heavy monsoon rain in Idukki, Kerala on Friday AP

Priest among 5 missing in Karnataka landslide

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Five people, including a priest at Talacauvery, the origin of river Cauvery, have gone missing due to massive landslide at Bramhagiri hills triggered by heavy rain in Kodagu district.

According to Kodagu district administration officials, heavy rain at Talacauvery in Bhagamandala late Thursday night led to landslips at Bramhagiri hills, in which two houses of the temple priests were buried.

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Delhi unveils EV policy to boost economy, fight vehicular pollution

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government on Friday launched its Electric Vehicle Policy aiming to boost economy and help fight vehicular pollution in the Capital.

Claiming the policy is for pollution-free and sustainable development, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said it will also generate job opportunities in transportation sector mainly.

Kejriwal said electric vehicles to contribute 25 per cent of all new vehicle registrations by 2024. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) supreme said the EV Policy will make Delhi a world leader in the field of electric vehicles in the next five years and this is one of the most progressive EV policies in the world.

In winter, the Capital faces tough time due to high concentration of noxious particles in air while with the induction of e-vehicles will lead to less emission.

Under the EV Policy, the Delhi Government is providing a subsidy of up to ₹30,000 on the purchase of two-wheelers,



auto-rickshaws, e-rickshaws, freight vehicles each, and ₹1.5 lakh incentives on cars.

To encourage masses to buy e-vehicle, the Government is also providing scrapping incentives. "Many people have polluting vehicles at their homes, which are petrol and diesel vehicles. In this case, the old vehicle can be exchanged while purchasing the new vehicle so that it reduces the cost of the new vehicle further. This scrapping incentive is being given for the first time in the entire country," Kejriwal said.

"After working hard in the last 2-3 years and holding discussions with consumers and experts, we have prepared the Electric Vehicle policy in Delhi. The policy has been notified today in the morning," said the CM.

Poster drive in Capital as job offers exceed job demands

CHANDAN PRAKASH ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government will launch a poster drive from next week to apprise people about job portal as the number of job seekers is lesser than the number of jobs available on the portal.

Employment Minister Gopal Rai said more than nine lakh jobs are available at the job portal and the number of applicants is just 8.64 lakh. "More than nine lakh jobs are available at the job portal and the number of applicants is 8.64 lakh. Till date, 22 lakh job posts were made by different employers at the job portal," he said.

Rai said 3.5 lakh such job posts were cancelled due to duplication and some posts were fake. He also said till Friday, 10 lakh vacancies were closed by the employers as they have received the required number of people and till date, there are 8.64 lakh job applicants who are still looking for jobs. "Delhi is going through the Covid-19 pandemic and this has hit the employment sector and this is opportunity for job seekers," he said.

Trump cites India's action, bans TikTok

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump, citing India's recent ban on Chinese social media apps, has signed executive orders that would prevent TikTok and WeChat from operating in the US as they threatened America's national security and economy.

The ban comes into effect in 45 days, Trump said in two separate executive orders signed on Thursday.

India was the first country to ban TikTok and WeChat, citing national security concerns. India has banned 106 Chinese apps, a move welcomed by both the Trump administration and US lawmakers.

Continued on Page 2

ASHA workers on strike over paltry payment

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government's Covid-19 fight has hit a major hurdle with around six lakh ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activists) workers going on a two-day strike from Friday, protesting late and paltry payment besides lack of protection equipment from infection.

There are around ten lakh ASHA workers across the country who have been playing a key role in contact-tracing, conducting surveys, and organising of awareness schemes for the pandemic. They have also been involved in screening interstate passengers, migrant workers, and others in the community for symptoms of the virus in their respective States.

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SII plans ₹225/dose Covid-19 vaccine

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a major development, Pune-based Serum Institute of India (SII), the world's largest vaccine manufacturer by volume, has entered into a partnership with Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, to accelerate the manufacture and delivery of up to 100 million doses of Covid-19 vaccine for India and low-and middle-income countries (LMICs) by as early as 2021.

Created in 2000, Gavi is an international organisation, a global Vaccine Alliance, bringing together public and private sectors with the shared goal to improve access to new and underused vaccines for chil-

dren living in the world's poorest countries.

As per pact, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will provide \$150 million in at-risk funds towards helping the Serum Institute to develop the candidate vaccines, including those from AstraZeneca and Novavax, to be priced at USD 3 per dose (around ₹225). It will be made available in 92 countries in GAVI's COVAX Advance Market Commitment (AMC), the company said in a statement.

The collaboration, which involves GAVI, The Vaccine Alliance, will provide SII with "upfront capital" through the Foundation's Strategic Investment Funds.

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Govt OK's OCIs from Germany, US, UK, France to visit India

New Delhi: Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card holders from the US, UK, German and France, with whom India has signed "air bubble" arrangements, will be allowed to visit the country, the Home Ministry announced on Friday.

Other foreigners from these countries have also been allowed to avail Indian visa facility for business, medical and employment purposes.

"Ministry of Home Affairs has permitted to enter India OCI card holders who belong to countries with which 'air bubble' arrangements have been finalised by Ministry of Civil Aviation," a Home ministry spokesperson said.

Whopping over 61K cases in a day

Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL

CASES: 20,86,864

DEATHS: 42,578

RECOVERED:

14,27,669

ACTIVE: 6,16,159

STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	4,90,262	17,092	3,27,281
Tamil Nadu	2,85,024	4,690	2,27,575
Andhra Pradesh	2,06,960	1,842	1,20,464
Karnataka	1,64,924	2,998	84,232
Delhi	1,42,723	4,082	1,28,232
Uttar Pradesh	1,13,378	1,981	66,834
West Bengal	89,666	1,954	63,060
Telangana	75,257	601	53,239
Bihar	71,794	400	46,265
Gujarat	68,885	2,604	51,792
Assam	55,497	132	37,225
Rajasthan	50,157	767	36,195
Odisha	42,550	292	28,698
Haryana	40,054	467	33,444
Madhya Pradesh	37,298	962	27,621
Kerala	31,700	103	19,147

resumption in Bengaluru, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) said on Friday.

Besides Manpreet, defend-

er Surender Kumar, Jaskaran Singh and drag-flicker Varun Kumar have also tested positive for the deadly virus. PTI

GALWAN VALLEY CLASH

China arrests netizen for spreading ‘rumours’ of death of Chinese troops

Beijing: Chinese police have arrested a man for posting “rumours” on social media alleging that poor-quality military vehicles have caused the “death” of PLA soldiers during the India-China border clash, the official media here reported.

Recently, a netizen surnamed Zhou was arrested by police for “spreading rumours online stating

that the poor quality of military vehicles supplied by the Dongfeng Off-road Vehicle Co., Ltd. Has caused the death of Chinese soldiers during the China-India border clash,” a report in Chinamil.Com, which is attached to the Chinese Ministry of Defence, said.

On August 3, Dongfeng Company complained to police

about the online post by Zhou after learning that he had posted “rumours” on his WeChat Moments by claiming that internal corruption in the company led to the poor quality of its military vehicles resulted in the casualties of Chinese soldiers on the China-India border, the report said on Thursday.

Zhou was arrested on August 4

by police. "He confessed to his crime of rumour-mongering, showed remorse, and wrote a sincere apology letter," the report said.

"I fabricated rumours about corruption of individual personnel of the Dongfeng off-road vehicle company, resulting in poor quality of military vehicles provided, and finally causing soldiers to die in the

frontline at the China-India border and return of 5,000 military vehicles.

"These rumours were published on the family WeChat group," Zhou said in his letter of apology published by the official media. The Dongfeng company has been engaged in the research and development and manufacturing of high-mobility off-road vehicles for mili-

tary operations for a long time, being considered as China's top military vehicles manufacturer, the report said.

Online posts about the secretive People's Liberation Army's (PLA) activities are usually immediately spotted and blocked by China's internet firewalls. The rare report was published by the official media

to serve as a warning to others like Zhou, observers said.

Twenty Indian Army personnel were killed in the Galwan Valley clashes on June 15. China has not released information on the casualties on its side but according to an American intelligence report it was 35.

PTT

Delhi rolls out EV policy to boost economy

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Government on Friday launched its Electric Vehicle Policy aiming to boost economy and helping in fight against vehicular pollution in the Capital.

Claiming the policy for pollution-free and sustainable development, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said the policy will also generate job opportunities in transportation sector mainly.

Unravelling the plan, Kejriwal said electric vehicles to contribute to 25 percent of all new vehicle registrations by 2024 which is barely 0.2 percent presently.

Touting the policy, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) supremo said the EV Policy will make Delhi a world leader in the field of electric vehicles in the next five years,"this is one of the most progressive EV policies in the world."

In winters, the Capital faces tough time due to high concentration of noxious particles in air while with the induction

of e-vehicles, one factor - the less emission may bring a sigh of relief for city.

Under the EV Policy, the Delhi government is providing a subsidy up to Rs 30,000 on the purchase of two-wheelers, auto-rickshaws, e-rickshaws, freight vehicles each, and Rs 1.5 lakh incentives on cars.

Interestingly, there is a scheme named as FAME India Phase 2 scheme of the Central government, where major incentives and subsidies are available.

The incentives announced by the Delhi government are in addition to the incentives by the central government.

To encourage masses to buy e- vehicle, government is also providing scrapping incentives. "Many people have polluting vehicles at their homes, which are petrol and diesel vehicles. In this case, the old vehicle can be exchanged while purchasing the new vehicle so that it reduces the cost of the new vehicle further. This scrapping incentive is being given for the first time in the entire

country," Kejriwal said, "After working hard in the last 2-3 years and holding discussions with consumers and experts, we have prepared the electric vehicle policy in Delhi. The policy has been notified today in the morning. China is being considered in the first position when discussions on electric vehicles are held across the world. It is believed that China has a really good system in place when it comes to electric vehicles. I am sure that when discussions on electric vehicles will be held across the world after five years, Delhi will be leading the way in this field. I am happy to say that this policy is not only the most progressive of its kind in the country but, it is also considered as one of the most progressive policies of all the electric policies across the world."

Kejriwal said that there are two objectives behind launching the EV Policy. The Coronavirus pandemic has wreaked havoc in the economic systems of all nations across the world.

Delhi Police analyses need for riot control equipment in all dists

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

To avoid any untoward incident and to face any challenging situation on law and order across the National Capital, the Delhi Police on Thursday conducted a detailed analysis of the requirements for various Riot Control Equipment in all the districts and Delhi Armed Police battalions.

"In order to control any law and order situation with mini-

mum use of force, authorization for each district and police units were worked out. In addition, stock taking of the available resources such as Tear Gas Gun, Tear Smoke Shell, Tear Smoke Grenade, Polycarbonate Shield, Polycarbonate Lathi, Helmet and Body Protector (Full) was done," said Anil Mittal, Additional Public Relation Officer (APRO), Delhi Police.

"Tear Smoke Shells which had neared its expiry dates can-

be utilized for imparting live demonstrations and training to newly recruited police personnel. To augment the resources available with different Districts and Battalions further procurement of Riot Control Equipment is in process," said Mittal.

"Emphasis is given on proper training and conducting riot control drills so that any law and order situation can be dealt with minimum use of force while creating maximum

impact. The lessons learnt in various law & order situations are also being re-visited and training is being imparted by officers well versed with the riot control operations," said Mittal.

"Apart from equipping the force with necessary equipment and drills, emphasis is also laid on prevention of law and order situations. This involves closer ties with the local population, gearing up of the intelligence

collection mechanism, quick redressal of grievances of the victims, regular interaction with Peace Committees and different communities to address their issues," said the APRO.

"It is a constant endeavour of Delhi Police to provide a safe and secure environment in the city while also preparing itself to quell any threat to peace and harmony in the various sensitive localities.

Rhea’s call...

From Page 1

On a day when she, her brother Showik Chakraborty and ex-manager Shruti Modi were questioned by the ED officials in Mumbai, her call records apparently leaked to the media by the investigating agencies sparked all kinds of speculation in the electronic media. Among other things, she had made 25 calls to Sushant between January 20 and January 24, 2020 when the actor was with his sister Rani in Chandigarh.

Rhea spoke to her mentor and filmmaker Mahesh Bhatt 16 times in a year over the phone, while she conversed with Uday Singh Gauri for 22 times and Bollywood actor Aditya Roy Kapur 23 times.

Over a period of one year, Rhea had spoken to her father Indrajit Chakraborty at least 1,192 times, her brother 1,069 times but only 145 times with late Sushant and 4 times with his sister Rani. However, she spoke to 287 times with the late actor’s domestic help Samuel Miranda.

She spoke to several others, including Modi, 791 times, with Sushant’s friends like Siddharth Pithani 100 times and Deepesh Sawant 41 times.

She also talked on the phone with Dream Home Real Estate firm 23 times in the past year. She made four calls and sent a message in June-July to Mumbai Deputy Commissioner of Police Abhishek Trimukhe, who is investigating the case.

While it is too early to contextualise Rhea call data

records and their importance in the ongoing investigations into the Rajput suicide case, the electronic media had a field day dissecting the call data records to add sensation to the ongoing media blitzkrieg over the investigations into the actor’s death.

Trump cites...

From Page 1

“The United States must take aggressive action against the owners of TikTok to protect our national security,” Trump said in his executive order. In his next executive order he said the country must take “aggressive action” against WeChat to protect America’s national security.

In a communique to the Congress, Trump said the spread in the United States of mobile applications developed and owned by companies in China continues to threaten the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the country. Trump noted that these risks have led other countries, including Australia and India, to begin restricting or banning the use of TikTok and WeChat.

TikTok which has up to 80 million active monthly users in America - has exploded in popularity in recent years, mostly with people under 20. TikTok owned by the ByteDance Ltd, automatically captures vast swaths of information from its users, Trump said. This data collection threatens to allow the ruling Chinese Communist Party access to Americans’ personal and proprietary information - potentially allowing China to track the locations of federal employees and contractors, build dossiers of personal information for blackmail, and conduct corporate espionage, he alleged.

SII plans...

From Page 1

This is expected to help the vaccine maker increase its manufacturing capacity to produce either or both vaccines “at scale” for distribution.

“Once they receive regulatory approvals and WHO pre-qualification, the doses are expected to be produced “as early as the first half of 2021”, according to the SII.

The distribution will be done through the COVAX mechanism. COVAX, co-led by GAVI, as well as the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), and WHO, aims to discourage bilateral agreements for Covid-19 vaccines and instead aims to improve equitable access. This is done by pooling funds from donor countries to purchase vaccines mainly for lower- and middle-income countries, including GAVI nations like

SC: Full...

From Page 1

At the outset, Mehta referred to the “unfortunate incident” of killing of two Indian fishermen and said earlier there were two issues – one was whether Indian Government have the right to prosecute these marines and the other regarding compensation to kin of victims.

He referred to the recent ruling of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) at the Hague which held that India is entitled to get compensation in the case but can’t prosecute the marines due to official immunity enjoyed by them. “You are here after the tribunal’s award. You have accepted it and you are not questioning it anywhere,” the bench observed.

It said there is “legal difficulty” as this does not take care of the adequate compensation which is required to be paid to the family members of victims. “I can bring the family members here,” Mehta told the bench, adding that the government will ensure that maximum compensation is paid to them. “That (payment of adequate compensation) must happen before we pass order,” the bench said, adding, “You will have to bring the cheque here in this court and close the matter”.

The top court has listed the matter for hearing after four weeks. On July 3, the Centre moved the top court seeking closure of judicial proceedings here against the two Italian marines accused of killing Indian fishermen, off the Kerala coast.

In Feb 2012, India had accused two Italian marines, Salvatore Gironi and Massimiliano Latorre, on board the MV Enrica Lexie — an Italian flagged oil tanker — of killing two Indian fishermen in India’s Exclusive Economic Zone.

India.

Under the COVAX umbrella, Gavi is leading a COVAX Facility, which is expected to provide Governments with the opportunity to benefit from a “large” portfolio of Covid-19 candidate vaccines developed using a range of technology platforms.

Under the new collaboration, AstraZeneca’s candidate vaccine, if successful, will be available to 57 Gavi-eligible countries. Novavax’s candidate, if successful, will be available to all 92 countries supported by the AMC, according to SII. Novavax late on Wednesday announced an agreement with SII. The tie-up allows the Indian firm exclusive rights to supply the vaccine in India and non-exclusive rights “during the pandemic period” to supply to countries that are not designated “upper-middle or high-income” by the World Bank.

Priest among 5 missing...

From Page 1

Rescue teams have reached the spot to carry out search and rescue operations, but heavy rains and local conditions are hampering it.

As per the information provided by the rescue teams, one priest had vacated the house and shifted to Bhagamandala, while another was residing near the hills with his family, a release from the Kodagu Deputy Commissioner said. “The information received is that five people residing in one house are missing, they are priest Narayana Achar (about 80), his wife Shanta (about 70), his elder brother Anandateertha Swami (about 86 years) and two assistant priests Pavan and Ravi Kiran,” it said.

ED grills Rhea for 8 hrs...

From Page 1

The ED has also summoned Chakraborty’s CA Ritesh Shah for questioning.

The ED has also summoned Shruti Modi, another accused in the case and Chakraborty’s business manager besides Rajput’s friend and roommate Siddharth Pithani for questioning in connection with the money laundering probe, officials said.

The duo’s statement will also be recorded under PMLA once they appear on their scheduled dates for Friday and Saturday respectively.

Pithani is said to be out of Mumbai at present and he has claimed in television news channel interviews that he was present in the Bandra flat on June 14 when Rajput (34) was found hanging from the ceiling.

Pithani, an IT professional, was reportedly living with Rajput for about a year. His statement was also recorded by the Mumbai Police as part of their accidental death probe in the case.

The agency has already questioned Rajput’s Chartered Accountant (CA) Sandeep Shridhar and his business manager and staffer Samuel Miranda twice in the case.

The ED questioning revolved around Chakraborty’s investments, business and professional deals and links. A property located in the Khar

area of Mumbai, linked to Chakraborty, is also being probed by the ED for the source of its purchase and ownership, sources said.

Sources said Rhea submitted her income tax return and related papers to show that she acquired the properties from her own money.

Meanwhile, the CBI that has taken over the Patna police FIR in Rajput’s death case has begun analysing the documents in the case and is awaiting the case diary from the Bihar police. The agency is also taking legal opinions on various issues before a team will be sent to Mumbai for investigation. The CBI has also sought details of the case being probed by the Mumbai police under CrPC section relating to accidental death.

Interestingly, the CBI has entrusted the case to the Anti-Corruption Unit instead of the Special Crimes Unit that usually probes such sensational death cases. The CBI team comprises two IPS officers from Gujarat cadre Joint Director Manoj Sasidhar and DIG Gagandeep Gambhir and the Investigating Officer Additional Superintendent of Police Anil Kumar Yadav has in the past probed the Haren Pandya murder case. Another team member SS Rathi was an IO in the Israt Jahan encounter case probe.

ASHA workers on strike...

From Page 1

While the Central Government has been hailing ASHAs as a crucial pillar in the State Governments’ success in combating the virus, these workers claim they have remained a neglected lot both during pre-Covid era as well in the current scenario.

Since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, there have been sporadic protests and strikes by ASHA workers. For instance, in July, around 40,000 ASHA workers went on strike in Karnataka to demand better safety equipment and a hike in fixed salary to Rs 12,000.

However, this is for the first time that the ASHA workers have gone on strike in such a large number and stopped work citing negligence on the part of the Government to their demand.

The workers under the banner of ten trade unions including INTUC, AITUC, HMS, CITU, AIUTUC, TUCC, SEWA, AICTTU, LPE, UTUC, are protesting inadequate assistance from the government in the fight against Covid-19, including lack of safety equipment, payment of salary and even risk allowance. The workers are also opposing moves to privatise basic services at government hospitals and in nutrition schemes.

DIRECTORATE OF FISHERIES, ODISHA, CUTTACK-753001
EoI No. 83 /Marine-XIII, APRIL-02/2020, Date: 6/8/2020
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST(EOI) FOR EMPANELLEMENT OF AGENCIES TO SUPPLY "FISHERY MACHINERY/EQUIPMENTS/IMPLEMENTS
M-15
The expression of interest is hereby invited from the registered Manufacturers/ Dealers having valid GST, PAN etc for supply of "Fishery machinery/equipment/implements" such as Aerator- 1HP & 2 HP and Air blower-SHP & 10 HP to the eligible fishermen, fish farmers, registered PFCS, WSHGs involved in fish/shrimp production in the state through the District Fisheries Officers. The purpose of the EoI is to empanel the genuine firms and to derive an uniform price for a particular brand & specification of fishery machineries/equipments. The interested firms having proven records of manufacturing or dealing with such type of "Fishery machinery/equipment/ implements" with valid GST, PAN are eligible to apply. Interested firms should submit their interest containing the Technical and Financial Bid along with documents supporting their eligibility. Two separate sealed envelope superscribing "Technical Bid" and "Financial Bid" kept inside a cover superscribing "EOI for supply of Fishery Machinery/Equipment/Implements" by Regd. Post/ Speed Post/ by hand to the Director of Fisheries, Odisha, Cuttack on or before 2nd September, 2020 at 3.00 PM. The EOI shall be opened by the committee on dated 02.09.2020 at 4.00 PM in presence of participating firms or their authorized representatives. The participating firms must bring their original documents for verification by the Committee. The bid documents are available in the Directorate website www.odishafisheries.nic.in & Department website www.fardsec.od.nic.in which may be downloaded for reference. The undersigned reserves the right to cancel the EoI without assigning any reason thereof.
OIPR-06015/11/0008/2021
Director of Fisheries, Odisha

DIESEL LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI-221004
Bid No.:E-3222020-21 E-Tender Notice Date:05.08.2020
E-tenders are invited for & on behalf of the President of India for the supply of following items. Only E-offer will be accepted for which vendors must have Class III Digital Signature and registration on IREPS. The details of tenders are in the following sequence:-S.No.- Tender No. (Due Date), Description and Quantity. S.N. 1, 05205213, (24.08.2020), Standard hand set Tool, 20 Nos., S.N. 2, 05191031C, (24.08.2020), C.C. Insert SMMG Part No. 72030446, 300 Nos., S.N. 3, 05191099C, (24.08.2020), Leak test Gauge Attachment, Part No. 15610410, 33 Nos., S.N. 4, 05201711, (25.08.2020), Gas Cutting torch, Part No. 76901968, 52 Nos., S.N. 5, 05201714, (25.08.2020), (i) Flame Cutting Nozzle, Part No. 76905305, 38 Nos., (ii) Flame Cutting Nozzle, Part No. 76218004, 21 Nos., S.N. 6, 05201715, (25.08.2020), Double stage Argon, Part No. 76218790, 139 Nos., S.N. 7, 05201676, (01.09.2020), Rubber hand gloves, Part No. 75321543, 276 Pairs, S.N. 8, 05201680, (01.09.2020), Safety Face shield, Part No. 76905275, 3000 Nos., S.N. 9, 05201688, (01.09.2020), P240 grit PSA gold sanding disc, Part No. 70109886, 176 Nos., S.N. 10, 05201689, (01.09.2020), Tack Cloth, Part No. 70109904, 2480 Nos., S.N. 11, 05201690, (01.09.2020), P80 Grit PSA gold sanding Disc, Part No. 70109916, 171 Nos., S.N. 12, 05201697, (01.09.2020), Apron PVC acid proof, Part No. 75320095, 111 Nos., S.N. 13, 05201705, (01.09.2020), Compression Tester, Part No. 15610986, 2 Set, S.N. 14, 05201706, (01.09.2020), Has T/S extra long Drill, Part No. 72219002, 6 Nos., S.N. 15, 05201707, (01.09.2020), CC Insert, Part No. 72211179, 208 Nos., S.N. 16, 05205214, (01.09.2020), 3/4" Sq. drive micrometer torque wrench, 2 Nos., S.N. 17, 05205115, (01.09.2020), 1/2" Sq. drive micrometer torque wrench, 5 Nos., S.N. 18, 05205219, (01.09.2020), Four leg wire rope sling, 11 Nos., S.N. 19, 05205229, (01.09.2020), Heavy duty impact wrench size 3/4" Sq. drive, 02 Nos. Note: Details terms and conditions can be seen and Hindi version also on website www.dlw.indianrailways.gov.in & <http://www.iresps.gov.in> and tender can fill up on the same website.
PRO/DLWS-37 PCMM
f /diesellocomoworks "Website: www.dlw.indianrailways.gov.in"

DELHI JOB PORTAL

9L jobs offered, but only 8.64 L job seekers: Min

CHANDAN PRAKASH ■
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government will launch a poster campaign from next week to apprise people about the job portal as the number of job seekers is lesser than the number of jobs available on the portal.

Employment Minister Gopal Rai said that more than nine lakh jobs are available at the job portal and the number of applicants is just 8.64 lakhs. "More than nine lakh jobs are available at the job portal and the number of applicants

is 8.64 lakhs. Till date, 22 lakh job posts were made by different employers at the job portal," he said.

Elaborating it further, Rai said that 3.5 lakh such job posts were cancelled due to duplication and some posts were fake. He also said that till today 10 lakh vacancies were closed by the employers as they have received the required number of people and till date, there are 8.64 lakh job applicants who are still looking for jobs.

"Delhi is going through the COVID-19 pandemic and this has hit the employment

sector. Many workers left the city due to lack of work and various industries are now facing the crunch of workers," he said.

To synchronize and match these two sides, the Delhi government has launched a job portal - 'jobs.delhi.gov.in', where employers can post jobs citing desired qualifications, designation, position, experience, he added.

The Rozgar Bazar has created a new model for the employment sector during the COVID pandemic. The Delhi government has already set up



the Delhi model of fighting against the COVID pandemic and now the Rozgar Bazar has

also become a model.

Rai said, "In the portal, nearly 22 lakh jobs were post-

ed and now we have made a task force analyse these posts. "We noticed that there is a duplication of posts and also fake job posts. After a thorough study, we have cancelled nearly 3.5 lakh such job posts. Some of these posts were duplicates and in the other cases when we reached out to the employers they could not give a proper answer about their job posts," he said.

"Till today, nearly 10 lakh vacancies were closed by the employers which means they have received the required number of people. Till today

nearly 9 lakh job vacancies are still open and the employers are looking for people," he said.

Giving details about the number of vacancies posted by various companies, he further said, "Till today 8.64 lakh job seekers have enrolled in this portal. This shows that the number of job seekers is lesser than the number of jobs available. Till today nearly 6,271 companies have posted their vacancies. Aditya Birla Group, Flipkart, HDFC bank, Kotak Mahindra, Assam tea, Sangrilla Hotel, Reliance, G4s security, Amba embroidery,

Amazon are the top companies who have posted job vacancies."

"The most demanding job categories are, back-office job, data entry, customer support, teaching, telecaller, sales, marketing, business accountant, and warehousing, lighting, admin, receptionist, HR, IT, hardware, networking and delivery," he said.

"Nearly 12.57 lakh people had their first-time interaction regarding jobs through this portal. Today I want to appeal all the youth of Delhi to register here for the jobs," he said.

BSES discoms' replacement scheme for ACs, fans

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The BSES discoms have launched a replacement scheme for its consumers in Delhi to have energy-saving air conditioners and fans for substantial discount.

A senior discom official said that the BSES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL) and the BSES Rajdhani Power Limited (BRPL) have been promoting energy conservation by promoting safer and sustainable technologies.

Consumers in south, west, east and central Delhi can exchange their old ACs with

Consumers can avail the schemes by calling on the helpline numbers or visiting websites of the discoms

the new energy-efficient five-star rated ACs at a substantial discount of up to 64 per cent under the scheme.

The BRPL has also launched a fan replacement scheme, wherein consumers can replace old fans with energy-saving ones at a discount up to 67 per cent. A similar scheme may also be launched for BYPL consumers of east and central Delhi, he said.

The official said that the consumers can avail the schemes by calling on the helpline numbers or visiting websites of the discoms. "A consumer can save up to 1,000 units annually on the running costs of an AC, depending on the model and type of the AC under the scheme," he said.

Each consumer is eligible to replace up to three ACs and fans under the limited period scheme, he said. Typically, the cooling load is around 50 per cent of a consumer's bill, he said.



CSE welcomes notification of EV Policy

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi-based think-tank, Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) welcomed the notification of Electric Vehicle Policy by the Delhi Government to achieve the target of 25 per cent electrification of new vehicle fleet by 2024 and said this notification will set the stage for greening of the economic recovery.

Within three years, 25 per cent of all new vehicle registrations will be battery-operated electric vehicles. This is expected to transform the market from the current level of electrification.

According to the VAHAN database of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, electric vehicles were only 3.2 per cent of the new vehicles registered in Delhi in 2019-20. Roychowdhury, executive

Govt sends notices to 5,584 firms for not filing GST returns

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government on Friday sent notice to 5,584 companies under GSTR act 3A for not filing the tax returns. Significantly, the Government is also making a list of tax defaulters.

While nine sectors including E-Commerce, insurance and financial services were not affected by the pandemic according to Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, around 935 companies under these sectors have paid zero tax and 2017 companies have paid 50 per cent tax.

Sisodia who also holds the portfolio of Finance Minister said that Delhi government is working round the clock to increase the revenue which will help the government to perform various development works and also COVID works. "It was found that 10800 companies registered under GST have either paid no tax or paid lesser tax to the Delhi government in the last quarter.

The Delhi Government has initiated action against these companies. VAT notices have been sent to 36 companies for not filing tax returns," said Sisodia.

The minister observed that nine sectors such as Automobile, Electronics, E-Commerce, Insurance, Financial Services, Consulting, Pharmaceuticals, Security and Healthcare sectors were not affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"In reference to the GST collection for FY 2020-21, I have analysed the data for the Quarter 1 collection. Cognizant that the COVID-19 pandemic has affected consumption, a deep dive analysis was conducted of those sectors whose consumption would likely be unaffected by the pandemic and the resultant lockdown. Some industries, like e-commerce, would have possibly grown in term of their sales. The sectors are: Automobile, Electronics, E-Commerce, Insurance, Financial Services, Consulting, Pharmaceuticals, Security and Healthcare," noted

the Deputy CM.

He also observed that the Delhi government will strictly scrutinise the reasons behind not filing tax returns by these companies from unaffected sectors.

According to finance department officials,

Delhi Government will strictly scrutinise the reasons behind not filing tax returns by these companies from unaffected sectors.

He further observed, "In view of this, enclosed is the list of 935 dealers who have paid 0 in Q1 2020-21 and 2017 dealers who have paid less than 50 per cent of what they paid in the previous corresponding quarter (Q1 2019-20). Since the dealers' sectors were probably unaffected, further scrutiny of their relatively piecemeal tax payment may be undertaken."

Earlier, Sisodia directed the Dialogue and Development Commission of Delhi (DDC) to prepare a detailed study to improve the revenue base in Delhi.

SDMC swings into action as vector-borne diseases surge

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

After sudden spurt in cases of vector-borne diseases reported in the National Capital, South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) has swung into action and asked all 'Heads of Departments' of various agencies to nominate the nodal officers to ensure preventive measures.

The various agencies such as Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, Delhi Jal Board, Delhi Development Authority, Delhi Police, Public Works Department and Central Public Works Department have been

asked to cooperate, a senior SDMC official said.

SDMC Commissioner Gyanesh Bharti on Friday issued advisory on prevention and control of vector borne diseases in Delhi. He has called for prevention of mosquito breeding at source and made it clear that the reduction in breeding is the only effective tool for prevention and control of these diseases.

Bharti said that this year, there is a need to concentrate more on educational institutions like colleges and schools as they are closed due to corona crises and have higher chances of mosquito breeding. He also requested the heads of educational institutions and offices to cooperate in controlling mosquito breeding.

The designated nodal officer of these institutes must ensure that there is no artificial water collection in open grounds, roofs of buildings and flower pots etc, he said, adding that overhead tanks should be emptied, covered and locked.

The Commissioner has requested all the heads of all agencies to ensure that overhead and other water tanks are

kept properly covered with lid and overflow air vent are covered with wire mesh.

"All coolers should be scrubbed and cleaned once a week and mopped dry before refilling. In coolers that cannot be emptied, put one tablespoon of tempos granules or petrol," he said.

Delhi Municipal Corporation by laws 1975 on Malaria and other vector borne diseases provides for an action on failure to take specified prevented measures to control breeding. "On detection of repeated breeding, besides legal notice, challan, Police complaint may be lodged under section 269 of Indian Penal Code," he said.

Bharti has called upon RWAs, market association and general public to take preventive measures failing which the outbreak of dengue and chikungunya may become uncontrollable. He has sent advisory to all offices of Central, State governments, CPWD, PWD, DDA, Delhi Police, DJB, DMRC, registrars of all universities and deemed universities in Delhi, all associations of professionals and all associations of traders.

Pay salaries of Covid warriors, Cong workers tell Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Congress on Friday held "Nyay March" at the Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal residence, demanding immediate payment of pending salaries to the Covid warriors.

The Congress president submitted a memorandum to the Chief Minister, demanding the salaries of sanitation workers, ad hoc employees, gardeners, marshalls, nurses and doctors be paid immediately.

Hundreds of party workers participated in the march that was led by Delhi Congress president Anil Kumar and vice-president Jai Kishan.

The Delhi Government should clear the pending salaries of the Corona warriors of the MCDs and Delhi Government, who have been on the forefront in fighting the pandemic and many of them became victims of the virus and their wages have been held up as the Delhi Government, Kumar said.

EWS FLAT SCAM

FIR filed against six revenue officials among 12 people

PARVESH SHARMA ■
GURUGRAM

After eight months of investigation, the CM flying squad has registered cases against 12 people including six Naib Tehsildars for fraudulently registering flats of economically weaker sections (EWS) quota at the Sector-29 police station.

The Registrations of these flats have been done in Wazirabad and Gurugram tehsils from the year 2013 to 2017.

On the basis of an inquiry conducted by the CM Flying Squad and after examining the registry of these flats, the case was filed and Investigations have revealed irregularities in hundreds of registries.

The accused have been booked under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code including the Corruption Act.

"The investigation suggests that the revenue officials fraud-



The investigation team sought information from the district town and country planning (DTCP) on behalf of the builders of the EWS flats.

The investigation found that the flats under the quota were sold to other people before the fixed five-year period.

The investigation team also found that about 75 per cent of the people got their flats registered within one to one and a half years without fulfilling the stipulated time of five years.

The officers were stunned after seeing that the flat owners started selling the flats after one month only after receiving the possession letter of EWS flats from the builder.

"The accused got the registries illegally in connivance with revenue officials and tehsil employees. Unreasonable benefits were also extended to the revenue officials concerned for this," said an official of CM flying squad.

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SHANTI SEWA NYAYA

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Congress, BJP slug it out over ‘you love China’

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress and the BJP on Friday continued to spar publicly levelling ‘you love China’ allegations against each other.

The Congress on Friday maintained its pressure on Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the “Chinese incursion” by directly attacking him besides the BJP for just crafting an image and spending millions of rupees to win elections. The party also questioned the influence China wields on Indian establishments and why the BJP took Beijing’s help in the Lok Sabha elections by sharing vital data of Indian citizens with it.

The Congress said Modi’s love for China is now visible to the world and this dates back to his tenure as the Gujarat Chief Minister in Gujarat. The party also quipped that foreign policy does not mean that the Prime Minister is constantly on aeroplane mode.

Why did you compromise the data security and privacy of crores of Indians by involving Chinese companies linked to the PLA,” Congress spokesperson Pawan Kherra said at the AICC press conference.

The party shared documents about BJP having partnered with those Chinese com-

panies who have now been banned by the Government for their links with the Chinese establishment.

“UC Web Mobile got banned in July this year. In 2019, according to the expenditure report submitted by the BJP to the Election Commission, they hired this very company to run their campaign. It is the same Alibaba-owned company – UC Web Browser – which was also red- flagged by the Modi govt in 2017 for sending crucial data of Indians to China. What was the compulsion of involving the same company for elections which you had red flagged two years ago,” Kherra questioned.

There is another company called Gamma Gaana Limited (Tencent of China). Po Shu Yueng, one of the directors of this company is also the director in 10c India pvt ltd. Gamma Gaana Ltd is funded by Tencent. Last month, the government banned it saying the company was directly connected with the PLA. This company too was used by the BJP in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the Congress alleged.

According to the Congress, the third company called ShareIT Technology has an app called ShareIT. It was banned by the Government last month

Cong had MoU with China in 2008, BJP hits back, asks Sonia to explain



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With the Congress attacking the Prime Minister, BJP president J P Nadda on Friday took to the field again to direct his volleys at his Congress counterpart Sonia Gandhi and her predecessor Rahul Gandhi. Nadda sought an explanation from them about their party’s Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with China in 2008 saying even the Supreme Court has expressed surprise on it.

The BJP’s attacks on the Congress have heightened with Rahul’s continued questioning of Chinese “incursions” on

for being a threat to the ‘sovereignty and integrity of India’ but it was also hired by the BJP in elections last year, the

the Line of Actual Control in East Ladakh.

Nadda in a tweet cited the observations of the Supreme Court on a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) and sought an explanation from Sonia and Rahul.

“Even the SC is surprised at the MoU signed by the Congress party with the Chinese Gov... Mrs Gandhi & her son, who led the signing, must explain. Does this explain donations to RGF and opening Indian market for the Chinese in return, which affected Indian businesses?” he tweeted.

Nadda’s remark came after the Supreme Court refused to entertain a PIL seeking NIA probe into the alleged 2008 agreement between the Congress and the Communist Party of China.

The apex court asked the petitioner to file his plea before

Congress charged.

“Our Prime Minister crafted an image for himself – an image of a leader who before

the High Court, but expressed surprise how a political party could enter into an agreement with China.

BJP’s national spokesman Sambit Patra who referred to his party president’s tweet also asked Congress leaders to explain the nature of the MoU and the alleged dealings with China.

He alleged that even during the Doklam border standoff with China, Congress leaders’ conduct was suspect. In line with Nadda’s assertions, Patra said Sonia and Rahul need to clarify their dealings with Beijing.

He also wondered whether a national party could sign an MoU with a political party of a foreign nation.

The BJP spokesman said according to the MoU, both the parties were to exchange information on all regional and international issues.

2014, roared on issues of border security. Several companies were roped in, spending crores of rupees to create this image

SC refuses to hear PIL for probe against Congress over China pact

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Friday refused to entertain a PIL seeking NIA probe into the alleged 2008 agreement between the Indian National Congress and the Communist Party of China.

A bench, headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde, asked senior lawyer Mahesh Jethmalani appearing for PIL petitioners Shashank Shekhar Jha and journalist Savio Rodrigues, to withdraw the plea and approach the high court.

“Every relief which you are seeking can be granted by the high court. Secondly, high court is a proper court. Thirdly, we will have the advantage of high court order also,” said the bench, which also comprised Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian.

The top court, in the hearing conducted through video conferencing, allowed the petitioners to “withdraw the petition with liberty to approach the high court.”



At the outset, Jethmalani alleged that it was an “agreement between a political party of this country with the only political party in that country (China)” and the issue pertained to national security.

“We find that there is something which appears to be, what might be called, unheard of and absurd in law. You are saying that China has entered into an agreement with a political party and not

the Government. How can a political party enter into an agreement with China,” the bench observed.

On being stressed by the lawyer that this was the case, the bench said, “We will allow you to withdraw this and file a fresh petition. We will examine what you say in the petition and if we find any false statement, we may prosecute you.”

PTI

Modi: NEP has potential to transform entire nation



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Outlining that there has not been any allegation of bias against the New Education Policy (NEP) unveiled by his Government, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that it has the potential to not only change the education system but to also transform the entire nation. He said the NEP will be the foundation of the ‘New India, one that focuses on “how to think” rather than “what to think” that was being stressed upon till now.

Addressing a conclave on ‘Transformational Reforms in Higher Education under National Education Policy’, Modi also spoke on the contentious issue of mother tongue as the mode of teaching in the initial years. Justifying it, the PM said, “We need to make our students global citizens and yet be rooted in their culture. The learning power of students will

improve if the language they speak in and the language in which lessons are taught in school is the same. That is why we have recommended teaching in the mother tongue as far as possible - at least class 5. This will strengthen their foundation.”

Lauding the NEP, he said the fact that there was no allegation from any region or segment that it had any kind of bias or inclination is an indicator that the “changes people wanted to see for years in the education system, they have got to see”.

Asking all stakeholders to discuss the ways to implement the new policy, the PM said: “In recent years, there have not been major changes in education and thus the values of curiosity and imagination were not given the thrust. Instead, we moved towards a herd community. The mapping of interest, ability, and demand was needed. We need to develop critical thinking and innovative thinking abilities in our youths. It will be possible if we have purpose, philosophy, and passion of education.”

The PM said students should get a chance to follow their passion. “We are also try-

ing to ensure that the talent of India stays in India and works for the development of generations to come, said PM.

“With changing time, a new global system has risen. Thus, it was essential for India to change its education system accordingly. Creating a 5+3+3+4 curriculum, and replacing the 10+2 structure was a step in this direction.

“Often students find that what they have learned is not in line with their job. Thus, to give flexibility to students we have given multiple entries and exit points.

We have also freed education from the stream system. Students will have the flexibility to change their course if they do not think it is right for them. We are moving from thinking when a person is not glued to one profession for the entire lifetime and hence s/he needs to skill, re-skill and upskill. These issues are part of NEP” the PM said about the main features of the NEP. He added that NEP shifts focus from what to think to how to think.

“Till now, we have focussed on what to think but NEP 2020 focuses on how to think,” he pointed out.

LoR launched to benefit street vendors

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a move to give access to street vendors who do not have Identity Card (ID) and Certificate of Vending (CoV), the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on Friday launched a Letter of Recommendation (LoR) module to provide benefit to street vendors under the PM SVANidhi scheme. Those who are not included in any survey list also get benefitted from the LoR module.

The module provides for an end-to-end digitally-enabled process wherein an eligible vendor can request for a Letter of Recommendation from the Urban Local Body and on receipt of the same he/ she can apply for the loan under PM SVANidhi. Durga Shanker Mishra, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, launched the module.

According to the ministry, for applying for the LoR from ULB through the online module on PM SVANidhi portal, a vendor needs to possess any one of the documents: Proof of availing one -time assistance, provided by certain States/UTs, during the period of lockdown; or the membership details with the vendors’ asso-

ciations; and any other documents to prove that he is a vendor. Further, a vendor can also request ULB through a simple application on white paper to conduct local enquiry to ascertain the genuineness of the claim as vendor. ULBs will have to dispose of the request for issue of LoR within a period of 15 days.

The vendors possessing LoR will be issued Certificate of Vending / ID Card within a period of 30 days. This provision will help in extending reach of the Scheme to the maximum number of beneficiaries.

Since commencement of online submission of loan applications on PM SVANidhi portal, more than 4.45 lakh applications have been received and over 82,000 have been sanctioned in different States and UTs.

This scheme targets to benefit over 50 lakh Street Vendors who had been vending on or before 24 March, 2020, in urban areas including those from surrounding peri-urban/ rural areas. Under the Scheme, the vendors can avail a working capital loan of up to Rs 10,000, which is repayable in monthly instalments in the tenure of one year.

Do not let your guard down: Researchers warn Covid patients who have recovered

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Do not let your guard down,” is what researchers have warned patients who have recovered from the coronavirus infection. For, they said, the road to recovery for infection-recovered patients may take months and need vital specialist rehabilitation to ensure quality life.

The researchers found that infection-free patients faced one or many health issues like fatigue, breathlessness, psychological distress - including problems with concentration and memory - and a general decline in quality of life.

The research team - involving multidisciplinary specialists from the University of Leeds, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust and Leeds Beckett University – had followed 100 Covid-recovered patients four-to-eight weeks after being discharged from hospital.

The findings, ‘Post-discharge symptoms and rehabilitation needs in survivors of COVID-19 infection: a cross-sectional evaluation,’ have been published in the Journal of Medical Virology.

It holds importance also for India where the



Government has been maintaining that the recovery rate is on the higher side little focussing on life after Covid-19 that is not the same for infection-free patients.

The researchers identified a pattern of longer-term symptoms likely to be experienced by people who were hospitalised with the Covid-19 infection.

Some patients, particularly those who had been in intensive care, had symptoms associated with cases of PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder). PTSD symptoms are a well-recognised component of post- intensive care unit syndrome caused by a variety of factors including fear of dying, invasive treatment,

pain, delirium, inability to communicate, weakness, immobility, and sensory problems and sleep deprivation.

Dr Manoj Sivan, Associate Clinical Professor at the University of Leeds and a Consultant in Rehabilitation Medicine at Leeds General Infirmary, who supervised the research project, said: “The emerging evidence is that for some, the road to recovery may take months and it is vital that specialist rehabilitation is on hand to support them.

This research gives an important insight into patient needs, and that will help shape services in the community.” More than two-thirds (68.8 percent) of patients in the intensive care group and just under half (45.6 percent) of the other group said their overall quality of life had deteriorated.

India opens to and fro travel with 4 countries

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India on Friday opened international travel to and from the USA, the UK, Germany and France.

The Union Home Ministry said that Indians can also go to these countries and foreigners including OCIls with valid visa can now travel to these nations and come to India. India’s Civil Aviation Ministry has entered into an “air bubble agreement” with the USA, the UK, Germany and France. The Ministry said that soon more countries will be in this bilateral agreement of air travel known as ‘air bubble agreement’ in the wake of Covid-19 situation.

In the order, Union Home Ministry said that allowing travel will be subject to health checks and only applicable to those who are not having Covid-19 and other norms stipulated by the Civil Aviation Ministry. The MHA also said that the travelers must have valid visa. “Ministry of Home Affairs has permitted OCI cardholders to enter India who belong to countries with which “air bubble” arrangements have



been finalised by the Ministry of Civil Aviation. Other foreigners from these countries have also been allowed to avail Indian visa facility for business, medical & employment purposes. Indian citizens have also been allowed to travel to such countries on any type of visa,” said MHA in a statement.

The Civil Aviation Ministry, for its part, said that Delhi Airport has developed new features in their portal for international travelers for “contact-less declarations”. The Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) announced that it has developed a first-of-its-kind portal where India-bound international arriving flyers can fill the mandatory self-declaration form and also apply online for exemption from mandatory institution quarantine process.

EC settles matter over Baldev Singh appointment as SEC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Disposing of a complaint of Maharashtra Congress leader Sachin Sawant questioning procedures for appointment of State Chief Electoral Officer Baldev Singh in 2019, the Election Commission (EC) on Friday said no action is needed in the matter as the appointment was done after consultation with the State Government. “Singh had been rated outstanding in his performance appraisal records during the five years of his service prior to his appointment,” the EC said.

“The Commission having duly considered the matter, does not find any reason for taking any action in the matter. The CEO’s appointment is done in consultation with the concerned state government/union territory wherein a panel of officers is furnished to the poll body,” the EC said in a letter addressed to Sawant.

The EC further said that Baldev Singh, a 1989 batch IAS officer of Maharashtra cadre was appointed by the



Commission following due procedure wherein the State Government had clarified that he was clear from the vigilance angle and as per records, he had been rated outstanding in his performance appraisal reports during the five years of his service prior to his appointment as CEO, Maharashtra.

Sawant has alleged that Singh was facing an inquiry initiated by CVC and the ministry of industry and commerce in an alleged irregularity in SEEPZ SEZ. Sawant questioned why the credentials of the CEO were not cross-checked while appointing him to the post and whether the Election Commission of India was working under pressure of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

J&K Bank loan fraud case: ED raids 17 locations

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday conducted searches at 17 locations in Delhi, Ludhiana, Jammu and Srinagar in connection with the J&K Bank loan fraud case involving Hilal Ahmed Rather in a money laundering case worth ₹177.68 crore. Hilal is son of former Minister Abdul Rahim Rather, who served as Finance, Agriculture, Rural Development, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister under the National Conference-led government in the erstwhile State.

The investigation under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act was initiated on the basis of an FIR registered by the Anti-Corruption Bureau, Jammu.

“Investigation conducted by ED revealed that a loan of Rs 177.68 crores was sanctioned by the J&K bank, without verifying documents and in violation of guidelines of RBI, to Paradise Avenue for construction of a residential housing project in Jammu,” the agency said in a statement.

A substantial part of the loan was siphoned off by Hilal Rather by transferring the



funds from the loan account of Paradise Avenue to various entities and rerouting the funds back to the firm’s current account from where it was further withdrawn and transferred for purchase of movable/immovable assets in India, Dubai and USA, the ED said.

The funds were also spent on foreign tours and other personal activities of Rather. As many as three flats in the name of Hilal Rather and family members were acquired in Dubai and one Bungalow was acquired in the name of Hilal Rather and his wife in North Carolina, USA, the agency said.

The residences of Abdul Rahim Rather in Srinagar and Hilal Rather in Jammu were among the premises searched by the ED. Several incriminating documents and digital evidence have been seized during the search operations, the agency added.

Purchase of 75 Pilatus basic trainer aircraft for IAF: ED raids multiple locations

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday conducted searches at multiple locations in various cities in connection with a money laundering case relating to alleged corruption in the purchase of 75 Pilatus basic trainer aircraft for the Indian Air Force (IAF) in 2009.

The searches were conducted at 14 premises including a dozen in the national capital and one each in Gurgaon and Surat, officials said.

The ED had initiated a money laundering case to probe the deal and is carrying out the search operation to gather evidence under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), they said.

The case involves absconding arms deal broker and alleged middleman Sanjay Bhandari, who is already facing separate ED and CBI probes for corruption and alleged possession of undeclared assets in the country and abroad.

Bhandari is suspected to be staying in the UK at present and the ED is in the process of initiating extradition proceedings against him.

The CBI had filed a criminal case in the Rs 2,895 crore

Pilatus deal in June last year.

The PMLA case was lodged by the ED after taking cognisance of the CBI FIR to probe the money laundering angle in the case and alleged creation and generation of illegal assets by the accused.

The CBI had named Bhandari as an accused in the case along with unidentified officials of the Indian Air Force, the Defence Ministry and Switzerland-based Pilatus Aircraft Limited in the case. The Swiss company was one of the bidders for the contract floated in 2009.

The CBI has alleged that Pilatus had entered into a criminal conspiracy with Bhandari and Bimal Sareen, both directors of Offset India Solutions Pvt Ltd, and dishonestly and fraudulently signed a Service Provider Agreement with Bhandari in June 2010 in violation of the Defence Procurement Procedure, 2008.

The deal was allegedly done to get the contract for supply of 75 basic Trainer Aircraft to the IAF.

The agency had alleged that the company made a payment of CHF 1,000,000 in the account of Offset India Solution Private Limited with the Standard Chartered Bank, New Delhi in two tranches in August and October, 2010.

AHEAD OF WB ASSEMBLY POLLS

Join BJP parivar: Nadda to people

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

With the Assembly elections less than a year away the BJP on Friday mounted fresh attacks on the Mamata Banerjee Government holding it responsible for all round deterioration of socio-political and economic situation in Bengal and asked the people to join the saffron outfit in hordes to effect a second Parivartan (change) in the State.

Firing salvos at the ruling Trinamool Congress party BJP president JP Nadda said “Bengal has gone into an

eclipse ... today there is an all round deterioration in law and order situation, the students do not get jobs, the farmers do not get right prices for their produce.”

Calling the people to “join the BJP parivar” he said “today cut money and corruptions reigns supreme in Bengal and whoever wants to protest is either silenced by the goons or the police. This situation cannot run for long and the people of the State have to come forward to change the situation by allowing the BJP to take the lead in doing so.”

Nadda was speaking ahead of the beginning of a membership drive by the saffron outfit. The party on Friday launched a massive membership drive keeling in view the next year’s Assembly elections.

Speaking on the occasion Bengal BJP president MP Dilip Ghosh said, “we (BJP are referred to as a non-Bengali party ... but they forget that our main ideologue Shyama Prasad Mukherjee was from Bengal ... As the Vice Chancellor of the Calcutta University he requested

Rabindranath Tagore to give a lecture in Bengali ... and today they say we are a party of non-Bengalis.”

Saying how “thousands of people are joining the BJP not just in Bengal but across the country” he accused the TMC of running a goonda raj saying how the TMC government was indulging in vendetta politics. Ghosh said, “Our supporters are not safe. Either BJP workers are homeless or in jails in false cases. They are ruining Bengali traditions, culture and education system.”

Appealing to the TMC

supporters to join the BJP in hordes he said “you had once dreamt of bringing a change in Bengal not only by removing the Marxist Government but also by doing social work but your dreams were shattered by the present Government. But we want to assure you that your dreams will come alive once again when you join the BJP ... because after coming to power we will unleash a massive development drive in the State.”

The BJP has plans to recruit more than 3 crore members in the State in the coming one year or so.

TMC rejects Modi’s claims on NEP debate

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Tinamool Congress on Friday rejected claims made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi that the State or its Government was consulted before bringing about the new education policy (NEP).

Speaking about the issue, Bengal Education Minister Partha Chatterjee said that “no one from Bengal was consulted on the New Educational Policy” and added whether anyone was privately consulted was beyond his knowledge.

“Insofar as the new education policy is concerned ... to

my knowledge, nothing has happened no one was consulted ... not even a single time ... with respect to our honourable Prime Minister (Narendra Modi) I can say with my full voice that none from Bengal was included.”

Regarding the draft resolution of the NEP he said it is being said that “discussions were held with states for 3 to 4 years but no such discussion took place” and added “may be discussion was held with someone but not with us.” The Minister also said that the State had formed a 6-member expert committee which will give their views by 15th August.

Kerala likely to see hike in cases: CM

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Kerala is in for tough times as the number of Covid-19 cases in the State are likely to see a hike, according to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. Briefing the media on Friday, Vijayan disclosed that Kerala would see a hike in the number of Covid-19 cases in days to come. “It is the considered opinion of medical experts that situation in Kerala would worsen in days to come,” said Vijayan.

The Chief Minister had on Monday lambasted the State authorities and frontline health workers charging that the Covid-19 preventive measures had gone out of control because of the indifferent and irresponsible attitude of the Government staff deputed to tame the pandemic.

On Friday, the State saw 1,251 new persons testing positive for Covid-19, said the Chief Minister. “Out of this 1,251 new patients, 1061 contracted the pandemic through local transmission. There were 73 persons who could not tell the source from where they contracted the pandemic,” said the Chief Minister. Five persons succumbed to the pandemic on Friday and this took the fatalities to more than 100.

The 1,251 included 77 expatriates and 94 persons who returned to Kerala from other parts of India. “There were five deaths on account of Covid-219 during the last 24 hours and this took the total fatalities in the State to more than 100,” said Vijayan. On Friday, there were five districts in the State each testing more than 100 cases. The last 24 hours ending Friday evening saw the testing of 27, 608 persons in the State.

119 succumbs to virus in TN

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu on Friday saw 119 persons succumbing to Covid-19 and 5,880 new persons joining the list of coronavirus patients, according to a press release by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

The casualties registered on Friday make it the highest number of deaths on a single day in the State. 115 patients who breathed their last on Friday had comorbidities (pre-existing chronic diseases). Till date Tamil Nadu has lost 4,690 lives to covid-19.

The number of new patients diagnosed with covid-19 on Friday is on the higher side, when compared to that of Thursday (5,684).

But the total number of active cases on Friday, (52,759) is less than that of Thursday (53,486) which is encouraging to the authorities.

As 6,488 patients were cured and returned home from hospitals, the number of patients recovered from the pandemic rose to 2.27 lakh.

A single day saw Tamil Nadu health authorities testing 65,189 persons and the number of testing centres functioning in the State rose to 126. While the number of new persons diagnosed with Covid-19 came down to 984 in Chennai (which was testing 1,000+ every day till yesterday, the same cannot be said about the constituents which make the large cluster of four districts.

While Chengalpatt tested 319 positive cases, Kancheepuram saw 166 new patients and Thiruvallur (388).

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, hereby inform to the Public at large that my Client(s) (1) SHRI Sanjeev Sharma S/o Late Ved Prakash Sharma & (2) Mrs. Rita Sharma W/o Shri Sanjeev Sharma both R/o G&JU - 70 - D, Pitampura, Delhi, have severed off / disconnected all their relations / connections with their son Shri Victor Sharma and his wife Mrs. Rupali Kataria alias Rupali Sharma and their children and have debarred / disowned them from their all moveable & immovable Properties. If anybody deals with them, he / she shall be fully responsible for all future consequences.

Niranjan Singh Tomar (Advocate)
En. No. D-1543/2008

WESTERN RAILWAY

E-PROCUREMENT – TRACK MACHINES DATED 04.08.2020

Chief Engineer, Western Railway, Churchgate invites the following E-Procurement tenders: **Tender No. : W641222006. Description of stores tender:** Procurement of M24 grade Conveyor Belts for track machines. **MAKE:-** Plasser/Dunlop/Nirlon/MRF/(MRF/Vrushabh/Biswas/Jagru). **Total Quantity in Nos (no of items):** 110 (17 Items). **Estimated Tender Value in Rs :** 32.38,240.46. **EMD Rs :** 64,770/- **Date of Closing of e-Tender Box at 11:00 Hrs:08.09.2020. Date of Opening of e-Tender Box at 11:15 Hrs :** 08.09.2020. **Note:** The complete information along with tender document of above e-Procurement Tender is available in website on www.ireps.gov.in. upto the due date of tender opening. 07

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WESTERN RAILWAY

PROCUREMENT OF HYDRAULIC AND PNEUMATIC HOSES

Chief Engineer (TMC), Western Railway, HQ Office, Churchgate Mumbai - 400 020. Invites e-Tender as per the details given below: **e-Tender No. : W641222/02/02. Name of the Work :** Procurement of Hydraulic and Pneumatic Hoses and hose assemblies. **MAKE:-** Parker / Superseal / Aeroquip/ Soni. **Approximate Cost :** Rs 29,26,867.28. **EMD :** Rs 58,540/- **Tender Closing Date :** 08.09.2020 at 11.00 Hrs. **Tender Opening Date :** 08.09.2020 at 11.15 Hrs. Regarding detailed notice containing cost of tender document (non refundable), EMD, eligibility criteria, similar nature of work, detailed tender conditions. Please visit www.ireps.gov.in Manual offers will not be considered. **Note :** The complete information along with tender document of above e-Procurement Tender is available in website on www.ireps.gov.in. upto 11:00 hrs. on the due date of tender opening. 10

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My mission to end militancy: J&K L-G

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Reaching out to the common people of Jammu & Kashmir the newly appointed Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Manoj Sinha on Friday clearly spelt out his mission in the UT will be to bring peace, end militancy and to ensure development by all means.

Sinha also emphasised his priority would be zero tolerance for corruption besides establishing dialogue with the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Interacting with the media persons soon after he was administered the oath of office by the Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir High Court Gita Mittal, Sinha said. “J&K is India’s heaven and crown. I have been given a chance to play a role here. August 5 is a historic day and will be remembered in history”.

Referring to his brief interaction with the section of senior officers, Sinha said, “I met some officers and they told me that in the past one year, there has been a lot of development in all sectors. I will take forward the same



process of development with a speed and vigor”.

Interestingly, the oath ceremony was attended by only BJP and Jammu and Kashmir Apni party leaders. None of the representatives of the National Conference, Peoples Democratic Party and Congress attended the oath ceremony.

Listing out his priority areas, Sinha said, “I have no specific agenda and there will be no disparity. There will be equal treatment to all. And we will work for the welfare of people of J&K. I will try

on that front and I have spoken to some officers in that regard already”. “I will be in touch with the media too besides common people of J&K,” he added.

The Lt Governor further said that he would like to see Jammu & Kashmir free from militancy and isolation. “We will work within the framework of the Constitution of India to take J&K towards inclusive development and peace. We will also initiate dialogue with the masses to have

a better understanding of their problems and issues, and will try to address the same”, he said in a reply to one of the questions.

“I assure the people of J&K that I will try to come up to their expectations and take J&K forward on the vision and mission of making this UT a model to emulate”, he added. Later, Lt Gov Manoj Sinha visited the civil secretariat complex where he was presented a formal guard of honor. He also attended a meeting with the administrative secretaries of all the departments.

Paswan accuses 11 States of passing on Central PDS subsidies as their own

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan on Friday accused several States of taking subsidised PDS foodgrains and passing them on to end users as their own without giving any credit to the Centre.

He said this trend is apparent in 11 states, mostly non-BJP-ruled, that are trying to undermine the efforts of the Central Government in ensuring that no poor goes hungry.

According to Paswan, there are 11 States which take subsidised foodgrains from the central government but are passing on to ration card holders free of cost or at further subsidised rates.

“These states spend about ₹10,000 crore from their pocket and pass it to end users as their own. This is wrong on their part. They should give due credit to the

central government.

“Out of 11 States, four States (West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka) are distributing grains at free of cost, while six states (Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha) are distributing rice at a further subsidised rate of ₹1/kg and Tripura at ₹2/kg rice via PDS, he said.

Under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), the central government is providing foodgrains to States for distribution through Public Distribution System (PDS), also known as ration shops, at a subsidised rate of ₹2/kg rice and ₹3/kg wheat, costing over ₹1 lakh crore annually to the exchequer. “We are spending over ₹1 lakh crore annually on subsidised PDS foodgrains distribution, but in several states there is no mention or credit given to the Union government,”

Paswan said at a virtual press conference.

“Since 01 July 2020, the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana 2 has been started, which will continue till November 2020. During this period, a total of 201 LMT food grains will be distributed among 81 crore beneficiaries, as well as a total of 12 LMT whole chana will be distributed among 19.4 crore families,” he said.

“We bear over 90 per cent procurement cost of the foodgrains, but the Government of India name is not given even in advertisements. They claim as if they are bearing the entire cost. The state governments should take note of this,” he said. The beneficiaries should be told that the subsidised grain is coming from the central government not only under the NFSA but also through newly launched Pradhan Mantri Garib Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), he added.

1 civilian killed, 5 hurt in Pak LoC shelling

Jammu: A civilian was killed and 5 others received injuries during ‘unprovoked’ ceasefire violation by the Pakistan Army along the line of control in Tangdhar sector of North Kashmir’s Kupwara district on Friday. Pakistan army also resorted to ceasefire violations in the Balakote and Krishna Ghati sectors of Poonch at different intervals during the day.

According to ground reports, Pakistan Army targeted several civilian pockets and hit residential structures using long range mortars and other weapons. Hitting back, the Indian army gave them a befitting reply.

Srinagar based Defence PRO, Col Rajesh Kalia said, “Pakistan initiated an Unprovoked Ceasefire Violation (CFV) Friday morning along the LoC in Tangdhar Sector of Kupwara by firing mortars & other weapons”.

He said the Pakistan Army targeted civilian areas. A total number of six civilians were injured in the CFV, Col Kalia said, adding a befitting response being given.

In the evening, another incident of ceasefire violation by the Pakistan army was reported along the LoC in Machhal Sector of Kupwara.

Till the time of filing the report, the Indian army was giving a befitting response, said Col Kalia. According to Jammu based Defence PRO, Lt-Col Devender Anand, “in the morning Pakistan army resorted to ceasefire violation in the Balakote sector and later in the evening they trained their guns towards the forward Indian posts in the Krishna Ghati sector. The Indian Army gave them a befitting reply, he added.

PNS

Action sought against mental therapist for disclosing Rajput's health details

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Charging that Sushant Singh Rajput’s mental health therapist Susan Walker Moffat had violated professional ethics and patient confidentiality by disclosing details of the actor’s mental health, senior Mumbai BJP leader Ashish Shelar on Friday demanded that action be initiated against Susan for trying to prejudice the investigations and violating the Mental Health Act.

In a joint letter addressed to the Mumbai Police commissioner, Joint Director of CBI, Mumbai, Manoj Shashidhar, the officials of ED and other agencies, Shelar

alluded to a media interview, in which she “has revealed confidential aspects of Sushant Singh Rajput’s mental health state”.

“Her actions seem prima facie in violation of the Mental Health Act 2017 and her India residency visa conditions. Medical and mental health professionals hold the highest level of standards and ethics when it comes to confidentiality and reveal details only after following due process of law, as they are liable to face strict legal action for violating Indian Mental Health Act, 2017,” Shelar wrote.

“Two main questions which are in public interest

need immediate answers A.) What motivation or who made Susan Walker violate professional ethics, patient confidentiality, violate Mental Health Act and Indian law by disclosing details of Sushant’s health to influence the course of police investigations. B.) What or who made Susan Walker breach confidentiality, knowing full well that her mental health practise, which is rumored to earn her upto crores rupees per year, will be badly affected by her disclosure?,” Shelar stated.

Shelar urged the Mumbai to take steps to cover following angles in this matter act against Susan Among other

things, the BJP leader said: “As Susan Walker is foreign citizen, steps be taken to ensure Susan remains available for investigation in Mumbai.

Susan Walker should be summoned for further detailed questioning.

Mumbai Police must initiate action against Susan Walker as her unethical actions of disclosing Sushant Singh’s mental health details is a direct violation of Mental Health Act , 2017 Section 23(2) and her actions attract punishment including criminal prosecution, fines and jail sentence on conviction and seeks to prejudice the investigation angle of the Police. 4. How is Susan Walker practising in

Mumbai”.

“Is she authorised to practise in India. Is she or her clinic registered with authorities and BMC? Has Susan Walker registered with the Rehabilitation Council of India and is she accredited to any registered and recognised body of mental health professionals in India, which allows her to practise?

The counselling, medicines, treatment methods suggested to Sushant Singh by Susan Walker, without any license or permission to practise in India is illegal. This must be probed for its effect on Sushant’s actions leading up to his death,” Shelar wrote in his letter.

deaths.

The state saw 89 fresh coronavirus deaths, the highest number in a day so far, while 7,594 patients had recovered from the pandemic in the last 24 hours, a government bulletin said.

After 23,62,270 sample tests, the infection positivity rate climbed further to 8. 76 per cent, inching closer to the national average of 8. 90 per cent.

The recovery rate too improved to 58.21 per cent, but was way below the national average of 67.98 per cent. The Covid-19 mortality rate in the state stood at 0.89 per cent against the national average of 2. 05 per cent, it said.

In 12 days from July 27, the number of cases doubled from 1.02 lakh to 2.06 lakh.

From March 12 when it reported the first coronavirus case, AP took a long time till June 24 to go past the 10,000 mark and July 20 to cross 50,000 total cases

Mizoram bans entry of vehicles carrying non-essential goods

PTI ■ AIZAWL

The Mizoram Government on Friday Decided to ban entry of trucks and other vehicles carrying goods into the State after 18 truck drivers and handymen from outside tested positive for novel coronavirus, officials said.

However, vehicles carrying essential commodities will be exempted from the ban, they said.

A decision to this effect was taken at a meeting of the Mizoram cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Zoramthanga.

The meeting decided to temporarily ban entry of vehicles carrying commodities barring those carrying essential commodities at the existing two entry points in Vairengte on the Mizoram-Assam border and Kanhmun on the state border with Tripura until further order to prevent further spread of virus in the state, an official said.

The cabinet expressed concern about 18 truck drivers and helpers stranded along the National Highway-306 (formerly NH- 54) between Hmangkhawthlir and Sethawn in Kolabis district, who tested positive for Covid-19, she said.

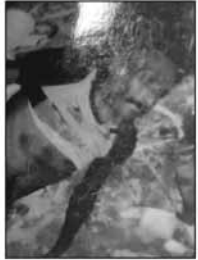
APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male **Namely:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** approx. 50-55 years, **Height:** 5' 7", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Thin, **Hair:** Black, **Wearing:** Black & White colour T-Shirt and lower body nude, who was found dead at side of Ganda Nala Hakikat Nagar, Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi. In this regard a case **DD No. 47A Dated 03.08.2020 U/S 174 Cr. PC has been registered at P.S. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi.**

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

DP/292/NW/2020

**Sd/- SHO
P.S. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi
Tel.: 011-27654675**



Big win for Mahinda

With the pro-China Rajapaksa clan in full control, India has to work on strategic engagement and economic alliances



The Sri Lankans have chosen stability over liberalism, performance over democracy in returning the Rajapaksa clan to power with a massive mandate in the nation's parliamentary elections. President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's ruling party, the Sri Lanka People's Party (SLPP), won 145 of the 150 seats, that would now allow him to amend the Constitution, expand his executive powers and ensure that his elder brother, Mahinda, continues as Prime Minister. In short, the dynastic hold on Sri Lanka's politics is now absolute. And the brothers could overturn any reformatory attempts that have been made by previous Governments to consolidate their

position. Sri Lankans, much like other nations around the world, including India, have voted for nationalist pride and muscular leadership in tough times. The Government's smart COVID-19 management has scored big with the voter, the island nation reporting just 11 deaths and managing the elections without any cluster outbreaks during the polling process. The Rajapaksa brothers are seen as strongmen and deliverers and seem to have consolidated their hold among the Sinhalese Buddhist majority in the aftermath of the Easter bombings, which showed how scattered IS modules were choosing virgin targets. And no matter how militarist Gotabaya may seem, the Sinhalese trust him to tackle terrorism as he cleaned up the Tamil movement ruthlessly, an operation that had earned him the moniker of the "terminator." For India, though, the return of Mahinda Rajapaksa is worrying as he has a hardliner approach to Tamils and has welcomed Chinese strategic interests and investment at our expense. In the past, he accused New Delhi of intervening in the internal affairs of Sri Lanka, propping up his own protege Maithripala Sirisena against him and ensuring he lost the elections. Sirisena's SLFP and ally UNP, whose leader Ranil Wickremesinghe became Prime Minister, formed a coalition Government which was pro-India. The Indian establishment was also too overt rather than being covert about its interventions. So a hurt Mahinda never settled down, his party scoring on local elections till he forced a coup, subduing Sirisena, getting him to sack Wickremesinghe and becoming Prime Minister for 51 days. Gotabaya took charge of Defence and Security, kept the Tamil-majority areas under strict military vigil and put Indian diplomats under surveillance. It is this distrust that needs to be healed now for geo-strategic reasons if we don't want China to run ahead.

Little wonder then that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was one of the first dignitaries to wish Mahinda, with whom he has been in touch over regional COVID-19 management. India's diplomacy in the neighbourhood has to factor in the pragmatism by lesser neighbours, who have successfully played on its anxieties with China and are negotiating the best of both worlds given the competitive muscle-flexing by two Asian majors. Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka are all happily walking the trajectory of "trade ties" with China and "historical linkage" with India to buttonhole both nations into giving concessions. Mahinda, too, seized the moment by calling India a "friend" with whom he had a "long-standing cooperation." The Modi Government is pushing proactive participation over historical assumptions in its Lanka policy. Yet, the Chinese are way ahead in Lanka. They have a 99-year lease on the Hambantota port after Sri Lanka's failure to repay loans and are using it to enhance their military arc in the Indian Ocean region all the way to east Africa. The Chinese have even created an island off Colombo, a new financial hotspot and a key conduit to East Africa, besides controlling the island nation's infrastructure sector, hospitality and supply chains. And while we may have halted Huawei's 5G technology, Sri Lanka has no security fears about the new-generation mobile telephony technology. India has, therefore, to do a very tightrope act with Sri Lanka if it wants to protect its strategic interests amid a Chinese swamp. That, too, without compromising too much on Tamil interests. We need to work on investment and project partnerships, encourage soft diplomacy via people-to-people contacts and strengthen an institution like BIMSTEC to ensure continuous communication. And we must take care to not appear exploitative or patronising.

COVID spiral

As the virus spreads, India must ramp up its testing capacity, focus on the hinterland and come up with a standard protocol



The dreaded community spread has India well and truly in its grip because, from the time the pandemic began in the country, we had recorded 1.5 million cases till July 28 but have added a whopping 5,00,000 infections in just nine days. This is an average of 50,000 fresh cases recorded each day. India has breached the 20-lakh barrier and fatalities have touched the 41,000 mark. The country that has been fighting to rapidly ramp up its poor healthcare infrastructure is now snapping at the heels of Brazil, which has more than 2.8 million cases, and the US, which is leading the list of worst-hit countries with five million cases. And if the

experts are to be believed, the community spread has only just begun and the next million cases may take just a little over two weeks if infections continue to spread at the same rate at which they are now. Expert opinion has it that the country needs to shift its focus on the war against the pandemic to rural India, which has multiple challenges of a high population density, patchy administration and a tottering healthcare infrastructure.

Another area where the country needs to improve its performance is testing that has been dismally slow. Till August 5, the country had just tested 16,617 people per million, which is a paltry 1.66 per cent of the population. Compare this to other nations like the US, which has tested 18.8 per cent of its population, Russia 20 per cent, South Africa five per cent and the UK 25 per cent. The Government's excuses of overpopulation and being a poor country hold no water as even a country like Brazil, which has a much lesser GDP than ours, has tested 6.3 per cent of its population. Moreover, a small country like Iran has tested three per cent. If we are to beat the pandemic, we have to ramp up our testing and take it up to five per cent at least, which is around 32 million more people. Testing also helps us map the trajectory of the disease and prepare containment strategies or it would look like we are just flying blind as some Western experts are suggesting. Right now, while the urban centres are bending the curve, unexpected hotspots are emerging, which need to be contained lest they set off a ripple effect that can lead to a "viral" blast. Also, what is needed is a national protocol for a standardised response, better guidance and a balanced allocation of resources. The silver lining in the dark cloud is that the recovery rate in the country is continuously rising and the fatality rate has remained much below the global average. If the figures being bandied about by the Health Ministry are anything to go by, the recovery rate has risen from 51.08 per cent on June 15 to a record high of 67.98 per cent on August 7, while the fatality rate has gone down to 2.05 per cent. These two in tandem have enabled a higher and rising difference of more than 7.7 lakh between the number of recovered patients and active cases in the country, claims the Ministry. Of course, there is still a problem of unaccounted deaths and cases that may completely change the picture. Plus, we have come a long way from the time we faced a shortage of simple things like hand sanitisers to the more complex PPEs and ventilators. Now, after four months, we are actually exporting these to other nations. The two indigenous vaccines are showing promise and developers are preparing to begin simultaneous phase 2 trials that study immune response and additional safety in a large population. In some more good news, pharma major Lupin has launched its Favipiravir drug at a very reasonable price. So, while we may not yet be winning the COVID war, all is still not lost. India can live to fight another day. But we must stick to a mapping and tracking plan and not get complacent. More importantly, not let up. Given our population, we will have recurring waves.

Being humane

Following the pandemic, there has been a resurgence of hatred against stray dogs who are left to fend for themselves. Not many understand how their lives have turned upside down



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected human behaviour throughout the world, causing new focal points of irritation to emerge and the old ones to intensify, sometimes to levels where violence follows inevitably. This, in turn, is the result of the fear of catching the disease and boredom caused by prolonged confinement at home, either by choice or compulsion created by lockdowns. Moods marked by irritation and anger intensify old animosities and create new ones. An example is the resurgence of hatred towards stray dogs, who have been an integral part of India's urban and rural population centres since the time of the *Ramayana* and the *Mahabharata*, if not earlier.

Directly or indirectly, animals and creatures that live in water or the sky feature prominently in the philosophy of the *Upanishads* and the narratives of the *Vedas*, *Brahma Sutra*, the *Puranas* and the epics, *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata*. Examples are many, but two well-known ones merit a mention. In *Mahabharata's Mahaprasthanika Parva* (The Chapter of the Great Departure), a small brown dog began to follow the five Pandavas and Draupadi as they began their final journey out of this world. One by one, Draupadi and four Pandavas fell dead as they climbed Mount Meru. Yudhishthir, the eldest Pandava, and the dog marched on. Suddenly Indra, the king of gods, appeared in his flying chariot and said that he had come to take Yudhishthir to heaven in his mortal body. Assured that Draupadi and his four brothers were already there and well, he asked whether the dog could come with him. On being told that heaven had no place for a dog, he refused to go without the latter. It was then that the dog appeared in his true self as Dharma, the God of Virtue, and said this was Yudhishthir's final test. He would not have been able to enter heaven alive if he had agreed to abandon the dog.

This account is widely known and cited. Another incident is found in the Bengali translation of the *Saptakanda Ramayana* (The *Ramayana* in Seven Parts) by Krittibas Ojha. It happened when Ram, after defeating Ravan and sending Sita to sage Valmiki's hermitage, was holding court in Ayodhya with Lakshman guarding the entrance. A white dog with red eyes, lame in one leg and limping, with thick patches of congealed



blood on his head, indicating that it has hit with a stick, came and touched Lakshman's feet. Asked why he had come, he said he would relate the cause of his sorrow to Ram if the latter granted him an audience.

Told of the dog's request by Lakshman, Ram asked for the dog to be brought before him forthwith. Arriving in Ram's presence, he began to sing the former's praise with folded hands and head bowed. Asked about the reason for his coming, he said, "A *sanyasi* (a mendicant ascetic who has renounced the world) has hit me for no fault of mine. Distressed and hurt after being hit, I have come to your court after starving for three days. The court should please ask the *sanyasi* what was my fault that he should have hit me with a stick?" Ram said that the *sanyasi* should be brought immediately before him so that the court could judge. How could a *sanyasi* be cruel to an animal? (All quotations are from *Saptakanda Ramayana* translated from Bengali to English by this author).

The dog, who accompanied Ram's messenger, identified the *sanyasi* as he was brought before Ram, who asked, "Why have you abandoned your *dharma* and are cruel to animals? One who perpetrates *adharma* has to live in hell. What kind of renunciation is yours when your body is so full of anger? Castigation of others and malevolence towards others are grave sins. A terrible hell is the punishment for a cruel and malevolent *sanyasi*. A sage who has

given up greed, illusion and desire, is respected in this world. And, though a *sanyasi*, you suddenly burst into anger! What was the fault of the dog that you hit him with a stick?"

The ascetic replied, "I went to the town for alms after reciting prayers on the banks of the Ganga during the whole day. Begging for alms, the whole body burning with hunger, I found the dog lying in front occupying the whole road. I loudly asked him to give me but he pretended not to hear. He was asleep with one eye closed and looked at me with the other. I became angry and hit him on the head with a stick. Now that I have said this before the court, you decide what punishment to give me."

On being asked by Ram about the punishment, the courtiers said that the *sanyasi* should be barred from bathing in the Ganges. At this, the dog said that he should not be punished but made the ruler of the kingdom of Kalinjar. The courtiers laughed as Ram made the *sanyasi* the king of Kalinjar. Climbing onto the back of an elephant, his splendour enhanced by the royal sceptre, the *sanyasi* began travelling happily towards Kalinjar as people laughed at his attire — a loin-cloth — with the royal umbrella over his head.

Asked by the courtiers as to why was the kingdom given to the *sanyasi* when the idea was to punish him, Ram directed them to the dog, who said, "Under a curse by Lord Shiva, death does not alter the king's destiny to be

reborn as a dog... I was the king in the previous birth and now I have been reborn as a dog and suffered much. But having seen you, I will now escape from my torment." While everybody said that the *sanyasi's* worldly possessions have now increased, the dog said, "Have no doubt, whoever becomes the king of Kalinjar becomes a dog in his next birth." He then did *namaskar* to Ram and walked slowly to Varanasi where he fasted to death and attained heaven because he had seen Ram.

Ram's statement that a "terrible hell is the punishment for a cruel and malevolent *sanyasi*" has an echo in a passage in Skanda V, chapter 26 of *Srimad Bhagavata: The Holy Book of God*. It reads, "God has given different forms of livelihood to creatures. Some of these may go against the interests of man. But man should not retaliate against these creatures for two reasons. They are not endowed with the capacity to know that they are doing injury to man; and next, man knows that they will be injured if he retaliates. A person who injures lower creations for selfish purposes goes to a purgatory called Andhakupa and there he will have to live in a low type of body, attacked by the creatures he had injured. In darkness, without sleep, and restless, he will have to drag on a wretched existence." (Translated by Swami Tapasyananda).

The passage quoted from *The Srimad Bhagavata: The Holy Book of God* applies especially to those who inveigh ceaselessly

about the "menace" posed by stray dogs. They can neither see the role the latter play as sentinels, whose barking alerts people against the arrival of thieves, robbers and terrorists/insurgents. Precisely for this reason, terrorists in some areas of Jammu & Kashmir and Maoists in parts of central India have asked villagers to kill all dogs in their areas.

In the present situation, how many of India's stray dog haters have tried to understand how the COVID-19 pandemic has turned the lives of these canines completely upside down? It has been said often enough to become commonplace knowledge that the closure of hotels, *dhabas* and restaurants have deprived vast numbers of them of their food. It is not just the left-overs thrown into garbage bins that they miss. Many of them, who had been fed regularly by the staff and owners of these eating places, have now to fend for themselves — something to which they have grown unused.

Finally, how many haters of stray dogs have any idea of the love and loyalty that most dogs unconditionally lavish on people? Not surprisingly, Konrad Lorenz writes in *Man Meets Dog*, "The whole charm of the dog lies in the depth of friendship and the strength of spiritual ties with which he has tied himself to man." Author of the landmark book *On Aggression* and perhaps the best-known authority on animal behaviour, he should know.

(The writer is Consultant Editor, The Pioneer, and author)

SOUNDBITE

I would have wanted more opportunities to play Test cricket. In those days, it was difficult to get a spot amid star players like Sachin and Rahul who started opening.

Former cricketer
—Yuvraj Singh



From what I can tell you is that the equation of the industry has not changed. It's an equal playing field. You've to have a huge amount of luck and then things will fall in place.

Actor
—Chunky Panday



What China did is a terrible thing. Whether it was incompetence or on purpose, it was a terrible thing that they did ... not only to the US, but to the world.

US President
—Donald Trump



PM Modi congratulated 130 crore Indians during the *bhoomi puja* but India's population is over 138 crore. The omission of 8 crore people is worrying after CAA/NRC.

Congress leader
—Shashi Tharoor



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Stand firm

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Now Pak in map war" (August 6). Close on the heels of Nepal's issuance of a map showing Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura under its territory, Pakistan has released a territorially misleading map that includes the former princely State of Junagadh (Gujarat) and Kashmir. This prompted a quick response from India's Ministry of External Affairs, which termed it "an exercise in political absurdity."

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan claimed that the map represented the aspirations of the whole nation and all its political parties. It is likely that Pakistan has China's blessings in producing the map given similar border claims by Nepal recently. Pakistan has expressed its frustration through a series of steps that coincided with the first anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370. It had announced that August 5 would be observed as "day of exploitation" even as the Khan Government again failed to persuade the UN Security Council to come up

Gold smuggling gets murkier

It is common knowledge that gold is smuggled into the country by land, sea and air. The Department of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) seized 4,000 kilograms of gold worth ₹1,300 crore that was illegally brought into Gujarat. In February, DRI officials found about 15 kg of gold valued at over ₹6 crore on the sea bed at Mandapam off the Tamil Nadu coast. There are umpteen such instances. More recently, an influential gang smuggled nearly 230 kg of gold into Kerala, tucked stealthily in the diplomatic parcel bags couriered from Dubai to the Consulate General of the UAE in Thiruvananthapuram. On July 5, Customs officials intercepted the passage of a diplomatic bag, stated to be the 21st in line, which led to the seizure of 30 kg gold. The probe was assigned to the NIA as suspicion of illegal money being used for nefarious activities gained strength. However, the Opposition chose to focus on the association of M Sivasankar (IAS), the Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister of Kerala, with the accused, Swapna Suresh, and underplayed the issue through the diplomatic channel. In fact, it chose to hammer the Chief Minister. Even after days of interrogation by both the Customs officials and the NIA, it remains unclear if the officer was a victim of misjudg-



ment or had even the remotest role in the murky affair.

And the role of the consulate in the gold smuggling, particularly the attaché, is still shrouded in mystery. An argument doing the rounds is that the attaché is not bound to reveal his travel itinerary to the Government, he being a diplomat. The question here is: Can a diplomat aid terrorism and still leave the country quietly under the cover of diplomatic immunity from prosecution? Politically, the Opposition efforts to besmirch Vijayan's reputation have not registered much success. Meanwhile, the sleuths are preparing to travel abroad for investigations.

Haridasan Rajan
Kozhikode

with a resolution on Kashmir despite having China on its side. The FATF has decided to keep Pakistan on the "grey" list as it failed to check the flow of money to terrorist groups. If it fails to fulfil the FATF's requirements, it

could be downgraded to the blacklist. India must firmly disprove the ridiculous claims made by its neighbours and reassert its territorial sovereignty.

Venu GS
Kollam

Tough questions

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "After Ayodhya" (August 6). The pomp and show displayed at a simple event such as the *bhoo-*

mi puja at Ayodhya was avoidable. The event has raised several questions. Was it correct for the PM to lay the foundation of the temple, one which remained embroiled in a long history of disputes? In a secular democracy, the PM is not expected to represent any particular religion or organisation. For a head of the state, religious affiliations should remain confined within the four walls of his home.

Sritama
Via email

Crisis within crisis

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Monumental apathy" (August 7). The massive explosion in Beirut, Lebanon couldn't have come at a worse time for Lebanon when the country has been battling one crisis after another. Nations across the world as well as international institutions must offer help to Lebanon so that it can overcome the catastrophe.

Prathna
Via email

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Transparency is long overdue

The Centre has rolled out a robust and much-desired architecture for the online audit of Panchayati Raj Institutions



DEVENDER SINGH **ASWAL**

Transparency and accountability in the functioning of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) have been hanging fire for long. After much reflection, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) has launched an AuditOnline application for scrutinising the accounts of over 2.50 lakh gram panchayats (GPs). To begin with, the accounts of at least 20 per cent or 50,000 GPs would be audited online for 2019-20. This was long overdue as the GPs have been endowed with substantial powers, authority and responsibilities with the enactment of the 73rd Constitution Amendment Act. Following the recommendation of the 14th Finance Commission (FC), ₹2,00,292 crore was transferred to the PRIs during 2015-16 to 2019-20. The 14th FC, and many others before it, had underlined the need for auditing panchayat accounts as the wisdom, faithfulness and propriety of expenditure were a matter of nagging concern. Guidelines were issued by the Finance Ministry in 2015 to the effect that the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) would examine the release and transfer of the grants-in-aid and expenditure in Panchayats and municipalities.

The 15th FC, while recommending allocation of ₹60,750 crore for 2020-21 to the three tiers of the PRIs, comprising the district panchayats, block panchayats and GPs, laid emphasis on ensuring timely availability of audited accounts online so as to strengthen their financial management. Hence, AuditOnline facilitates online and offline checking of accounts of the PRIs with a view to improving transparency and accountability in the utilisation of public money. The accounts of 20 per cent GPs would be audited on a pilot basis and scaled up to 100 per cent in the financial year 2021-22. Owing to the online digital payment mechanism, now integrated with eGramSwaraj, the GPs were able to make online payments out of the 14th FC grants. In fact, 1.52 lakh GPs were on the platform and 1.04 lakh GPs made online payments during 2019-20.

Notably, AuditOnline will ease up access to records which can be monitored at the district, State and Union level. It can enable uploading of photos of the work done and geo-tagging of projects to facilitate physical inspection and remote verification of the assets. This will help reduce costs, ensure quicker reviews and sound documentation and enhance environmental sustainability. The timely availability of records was a major issue in the offline system but in the online audit system, the auditors will be able to see all documents related to work approval and payments.


AuditOnline also facilitates online and offline scrutiny of accounts and maintains the past records of the auditee. Plus, the information would be available in public domain. Fully configurable, it is capable of depicting any type of workflow and mapping seamlessly the auditor/auditee engagement and interaction and audit observation tags. Further, its Dynamic Form Designer allows drawing of the forms for case record and fact sheet easily and generation and download of various graphical reports for analysis and monitoring, based on customisable report templates. Another and yet more significant advantage is the fact that the monitoring authorities would get notified instantaneously via e-mail/SMS/System-based alerts at various trigger points, enabling concurrent analysis, mid-course correction and better monitoring. A greater responsibility has been given to the State Accountant General (AG) under AuditOnline rules. The AG, representative of the CAG, shall identify the District Local Fund Auditor (DLFO) for each area. The entire audit process — starting with the identification of the DLFO, audit planning, recording of entry and exit meetings by the auditor, concurrence and approval of the meetings, communication of the draft audit to the auditee, generation of audit report, review of the response and action taken there on, by the auditee with clear timelines — are all unambiguously outlined. The audit report shall be provided to the GP by December 31 every year for consideration and corrective action.

Despite numerous accruable benefits, there are apparent hurdles and technical glitches. How will the online audit take off if the books of accounts are not complete, leaving aside the issue of high-speed internet and uninterrupted connectivity? It's only when the money is spent, brought on account and the accounts closed, a prerequisite for any audit, that the online audit can be undertaken.


However, the Union Government has rolled out a robust and much-desired architecture for the audit of PRIs. In fact, 11 States (Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Telangana, Tripura, and Uttarakhand) have already provided their configuration details and others will follow suit. Extensive online training and hands-on sessions are being carried out with the States. With the successful operation of AuditOnline, hopefully, the image of PRIs will improve with the expanded arch of accountability, encompassing all the three tiers of India's multi-layered and now expanding digital democracy.

(The writer is former Additional Secretary Lok Sabha and an author)

POINT COUNTERPOINT



MOBILE APPLICATIONS DEVELOPED AND OWNED BY COMPANIES IN CHINA CONTINUE TO THREATEN OUR NATIONAL SECURITY, FOREIGN POLICY AND ECONOMY.
—US PRESIDENT
DONALD TRUMP



CHINA URGES THE US TO CORRECT ITS WRONGDOINGS, STOP POLITICISING ECONOMIC ISSUES AND CRACKING DOWN ON RELATED FIRMS.
—CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON
WANG WENBIN

Embrace the circular economy

As nations move towards a post-pandemic fiscal recovery, they must adopt strategies for long-term sustainable development and create resilient economies



SHILPI KAPUR BAKSHI **PRAHLAD TEWARI**

The pandemic and the response to it by various governments around the world have posed unprecedented challenges, the effect of which would be felt for decades to come. People and economies are suffering not only due to the huge loss of lives but also from the slowdown of economic activities during the lockdown. According to the Union Minister of Road Transport Nitin Gadkari, the contagion is expected to cause a loss of over ₹10 lakh crore to India's economy. The World Bank, too, estimates that 12 million people in India could be pushed into poverty. While initially, the most visible impact of the crisis was on the healthcare sector due to shortages of personal protective equipment (PPE), ventilators, critical medical supplies and healthcare professionals trained in the handling of a contagion, its impact is now being felt on the free movement of people, goods and services, too.

A circular economy is based on the principles of reducing our waste and pollution throughout the lifecycle stages, keeping products and materials in use for long and regenerating natural systems. Circular economy-based concepts, such as cascaded reuse of resources to design reusable masks to substitute single-use masks, supported by Government-formulated guidelines and awareness about the same, are steps in the right direction.

The global market for refurbished medical devices is also predicted to witness significant growth. Recently, fuel cell manufacturer Bloom Energy started to refurbish ventilators to meet the supply gap in hospitals in the US. Due to COVID-19, organisations preferred work from home (WFH) and educational institutes preferred to learn from home using virtual platforms for meetings and online classes, which led to an unprecedented surge in demand for refurbished laptops. This cascaded use of refurbished laptops would also be critical in filling the void that has emerged in supporting online education to rural and urban poor students. Measures like these will create new market opportunities, increase the use of existing assets and reduce the pressure on the environment created by the demand for virgin raw materials.

Integrating circularity in various governments' recovery agenda and strategies thus assumes importance. In April, the City of Amsterdam launched its Circular 2020-2025 strategy, which outlines the actions it would take to cut down the use of new raw materials to half by 2030. The local government also considers this strategy to be the basis for economic recovery from the effects of COVID-19. Similarly, the European Union (EU) and South Korea have both adopted "Green Deals" as central pillars to their economic recoveries, both leveraging regenerative models and circular economy principles. The deployment of idle railway coaches by Indian Railways as isolation wards during the surge of Coronavirus infections is adapting the approach to use existing infrastructure to an extent possible. This provides an opportunity for other governments to integrate resilience, low carbon and sustainable growth thinking into their recoveries by avoiding short-term emission-intensive projects.

Rethinking the mostly linear global supply chain systems by adopting a circular economy as a mode of production can help economies withstand supply disruptions like those experienced in the current pandemic. This was particularly visible in the case of stressed food production and distribution, which was experienced during the hastily-implemented lockdowns. By creating new and shorter supply chain connections between producers and con-

sumers, we can ensure a continuous supply of essential goods in vital sectors and help improve resilience through stock availability and competitiveness while not giving up the commitment to achieving the UN-set Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In order to support the *Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan*, newer ecosystems need to be envisaged that are based on local, shorter and more distributed supply chains via localised material sourcing. At the start of the pandemic in India, the availability of PPEs was critically low, owing to non-availability of local manufacturers, long gestation period to import their machines and the high cost. In line with the spirit of 'Vocal for Local' and with various Government initiatives, India is today the second-largest manufacturer of PPE body overalls within a short span of four months. There is also a need to engage in collaborative consumption to share resources by replacing traditional ownership of products with lending, borrowing and the availability of repair services to facilitate reuse. This would help reduce panic buying. For instance, the assurance of the Delhi Government to provide "Pulse Oximeters" for monitoring oxygen levels of patients undergoing home isolation is a positive step in this direction. Acceptance of such "pay for services" rather than "owning facility options" would gain momentum if hygiene is ensured. Local waste sites can be turned into resource centres that undertake recovery and recycling of plastics.

Circular innovations can address manufacturing and supply chain shortages within the healthcare sector, too, where circular knitted fabric (washable and reusable) can be used to produce non-medical protective face masks. The need for investment in technology for designing responsible packaging solutions that maintain food safety and quality standards and prevent contamination can enhance the sustainability of the home delivery ser-

VICES that people are increasingly relying upon. Such solutions could also help continue efforts to reduce the usage of plastics and styrofoam. Several initiatives by various Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) companies and collaborations involving various stakeholders have been done across the globe to minimise single-use plastics.

In addition, enhancing material productivity also plays a significant role in addressing the diminishing cost competitiveness of industries (such as the Indian automobile sector in comparison to China, Singapore, Indonesia, and Bangladesh) due to high material cost. The circular economy emphasises reuse, and through this has the potential to generate not only environmental benefits but cost benefits, too, and create new revenue opportunities. For example, the focus on manufacturing durable goods would help them to generate income from rentals, repairs and refurbishment while reducing the environmental footprint.

In the COVID-19 crisis, digital solutions have promoted virtual workspaces, a mobile Government and a multitude of platforms to monitor and trace infections. Digitalisation has not only been limited to medical solutions or WFH set-ups but has been an instrument in supporting online education modes, too.

Digital technology can play a role in creating city and village systems that are regenerative and restorative by offering dematerialisation opportunities, increasing our knowledge and understanding of data on the lifecycle of materials, people and external conditions, allowing for more informed decisions based on accurate data. This would help close the loop of material cycles and contribute to keeping products/materials in use for a longer period of time.

For example, digital technology can help aggregate local marketplaces dealing in secondary and alternative materials and formalise the informal sector waste-pick-

ers. Real-time tracking technologies provide information on where a product ends up and how it will be reused or recycled.

However, despite the many opportunities that circular thinking presents, ongoing efforts in this direction have been hit due to the pandemic. For example, in the waste management sector where significant work was done to manage plastic waste, many efforts have been halted during the lockdown, particularly in the private recycling space.

Recycling plants are mostly shut or are operating at limited capacity with a lot of the informal sector workers, who played the role of aggregators (such as the junk collectors) leaving urban centres for their native places. Procurement of recyclable waste has also become a challenge. Among plastics, virgin plastic may become even cheaper than secondary raw material plastic due to falling prices of hydrocarbon fuels resulting from the current low demand. This will also affect the economic viability of many plastic recyclers. Efforts would be required to stimulate the demand for recycled materials and close the price gap between virgin and recycled plastics.

As countries step towards economic recovery after COVID-19, they should undertake circular economy strategies for long-term sustainable development and for creating resilient economies. The BRICS nations recently acknowledged the heightening of social vulnerabilities and job losses due to the pandemic and have emphasised on the need for improving the environment and promoting the circular economy in national plans as steps towards recovery. The time is ripe for us to rethink our consumption patterns, to build in resilience, circularity and an efficient rural-urban connection to reduce the vulnerability of our economic and social systems and move towards an *Atmanirbhar Bharat*.

(Bakshi is Senior Fellow and Tewari is Fellow and Area Convenor, TERI)

Maintain a healthy digital diet

During this period of social distancing, we should use technology to increase our independence and harness our inner potential



PRAKRITI **PODDAR**

The Coronavirus pandemic has made social distancing the new normal and the majority of us are becoming increasingly dependent on digital technology. Pushed into an uncertain future, we are spending more time to digitally connect with people, work, shop, keep ourselves informed and even entertained.

While a digitally-mediated daily life can keep us safe from the risk of infection, too much exposure to it can harm our mental health. There has been a lot of awareness raised about the impact of exposing oneself to negative influences on social media and the news. The more information we receive

the more insufferable the pandemic becomes. We have seen people feel hopeless and helpless as a result of all the information they absorb and unfortunately, sink into deeper mental health issues.

Fake news and conspiracy theories can induce fear and lead us to either fight, freeze or fold up. If you are one of the fighters, the information on digital feeds will help you take action in serving others, hence, limiting your online time.

You may also minimise the understanding of the situation and label all those people, who err at the side of precaution, as hysterical and not abide by the safety rules. Thus, putting yourself and others in danger. If you freeze, then you will lock yourself down and if you fold, you will need support to uplift your mental health.

At all costs, people must keep their digital activity healthy during the outbreak. Let us take a look at three evidence-based tips for a healthy digital diet during the outbreak.

Take control: It is natural to feel

powerless and scared in the face of a pandemic but people can use digital technology to regain control and give themselves a degree of autonomy over their life.

This is critical as having control promotes emotional well-being. So, people must think about ways in which they can use digital technology to help them do it. It can be something as simple as using the technology at their disposal to make plans, manage their schedule, organise activities with others and even do online shopping at websites where they get to exert greater choice.

The key is to use digital technology actively instead of letting themselves get passively guided by algorithms. People must think of digital technology as a tool that allows them to extend their autonomy and makes it possible for them to develop strategies to cope better. For instance, people can consider limiting passive screen time and balance passive viewing with more interactive screen time — playing educational games, making

YouTube videos, coding a website — where they are in control.

Nurture relationships: While social distancing is good for our physical health, isolation is not good for our mental health. So, we must use this opportunity to digitally connect with old friends, family members or acquaintances that we somehow lost touch with. We must also nurture our existing relationships by scheduling regular chats online and using digital devices to spread positive news, express gratitude to the people serving us and helping others.

For instance, people can order food and groceries online for friends, family members and neighbours who are not digitally-enabled. Helping others can give life more purpose and allay anxieties. Organise group chats and regular virtual meet-ups — seeing a familiar face, even on a phone screen, can be reassuring. People must use this time as an opportunity to rebuild affiliations with those who matter.

Be smarter: Our well-being is also influenced by our competence, ability

to rise above challenges, take smart decisions and experience a sense of achievement and degree of success. Hence, people must use this opportunity to take online courses, learn new skills and do things that engage them.

People must consider using digital technology to look after their body and mind during this period of confinement. They may not be able to hit the gym but they can use digital reminders and prompts to move and exercise more — even if they are confined inside a restricted environment. People can consider downloading a nutrition app, exercise, mindfulness or relaxation app. They must think about how they can use digital technology to improve exercise, sleep and diet regimes.

People can use digital technology to be smarter about their information diet, too. Use fact-checking services to counter conspiracy theories, unfounded rumours, urban legends and misinformation. Reduce information intake to one or two trustworthy sources. Most importantly, get infor-

mation from reputable sources instead of regurgitating what they read on social media.

The way towards digital well-being: Our increased digital dependency can be of benefit to our well-being instead of a hazard. We need to use our screens positively and promote greater autonomy, relatedness and competence. To be balanced, people must schedule their downtime, off-screen time, exercise time and fun time. This will form the core of their emotional well-being and hold them in good stead.

People must remember not to reach for their phone as soon as they wake up. They must give themselves the time to get ready, eat and then get to their device. We should use technology to increase our independence, further our well-being and harness our inner potential. Doing so will not only help us get through the pandemic but will also ensure that we emerge stronger from it.

(The writer is Director of a Wellness company and heads a foundation)



FOREIGN EYE



YETI A BOON TO TOURISM

Taunting anthropologists and researchers, the elusive Yeti continues to confound science. Ecologist Daniel Taylor found a trail of footprints during a 1983 search of the Barun but eventually concluded that it is more likely to be a bear. Yetis still court controversy as we saw recently with the aborted Visit Nepal Year 2020 sculptures, but they also boost tourism. *(Nepali Times editorial)*

LANKA PARLIAMENTARY POLLS

Rajapaksa registers landslide victory

Gets two-thirds majority

Colombo: Mahinda Rajapaksa will be sworn in as Sri Lanka's Prime Minister for the fourth time on Sunday after his party registered a landslide victory in the general election, securing two-thirds majority in Parliament needed to amend the Constitution to further consolidate the powerful Rajapaksa family's grip on power.

The Sri Lanka People's Party (SLPP), led by prime minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, won in 145 constituencies, bagging a total of 150 seats with its allies, a two-thirds majority in the 225-member Parliament, according to the results announced by the election commission on Friday.

It won all but four of the 22 electoral districts on offer, polling 6.8 million votes (59.9 per cent).

The 74-year-old Prime Minister Mahinda thanked the Sri Lankan people for putting their faith in the SLPP and said that the country will not stand disappointed during its tenure. "Heartfelt gratitude to all



Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa greets Buddhist monks following his election victory in the general election at his residence in Tangalle Sri Lanka on Friday

Sri Lankans for placing their trust in President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, myself and the PodujanaParty and voting for the 'Saubhagye Dakkama' election manifesto in overwhelming numbers. We will ensure Sri Lanka will not stand disappointed during our tenure," he said.

Mahinda will be sworn in as the new prime minister for the fourth time on Sunday at a ceremony at the historic Buddhist temple of Kelaniya, a north Colombo suburb, according to an official statement.

He created a record in polling over 500,000 individual

preference votes, the highest ever recorded by a candidate in the history of elections.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was among the first world leaders to congratulate Mahinda on the outcome of the elections and said the two sides will work together to further advance all areas of bilateral

cooperation and to take their special ties to ever newer heights.

"Thank you PM @narendramodi for your congratulatory phone call. With the strong support of the people of #SriLanka, I look forward to working with you closely to further enhance the long-standing cooperation between our two countries. Sri Lanka & India are friends & relations," Mahinda tweeted.

The Rajapaksa family has dominated Sri Lankan politics for two decades. Mahinda was previously president, from 2005 to 2015. President Gotabaya Rajapaksa had won the November presidential election on the SLPP ticket.

In the parliamentary election, he was seeking 150 seats mandatory to execute constitutional changes, including to repeal the 19th Amendment to the Constitution which had curbed the presidential powers while strengthening the role of Parliament.

Activists, already alarmed by the diminishing space for dissent and criticism in the island nation, fear such a move could lead to authoritarianism. PTI

POWER TUSSLE WITH OLI INTENSIFIES

Nepal: Prachanda tells party workers to prepare for worst

Kathmandu: Nepal Communist Party's executive chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' has asked the party workers to prepare for the "worst" as the ongoing power tussle between him and Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli has intensified with no solution in sight.

Oli and Prachanda have held at least ten meetings in recent weeks to sort out the differences between them. But, as the Prime Minister did not accept the condition of a one-man-one-post, the talks failed. Oli has refused to give up his post as prime minister as well as a co-chairman of the Nepal Communist Party (NCP).

A bitter internal feud has been brewing in the ruling NCP since the last few weeks after top party leaders, including Prachanda, demanded Oli's resignation, saying his recent anti-India remarks were "neither politically correct nor diplomatically appropriate." The opponents of Oli are also against his autocratic style of functioning.

"Our main concern is not about gaining power, what we want is to follow the proper procedure while running the NCP. We are not focusing on gaining any position, but our fight is against the wrong trend developing in the party," Prachanda told a select group of journalists during a special briefing on Wednesday.

He held the press conference along with three senior party leaders Madhav Nepal, Jhalanath Khanal and party spokesperson Narayan Kaji Shrestha, according to Nagarik daily.

The dissident group accused Oli of trying to damage the image of other senior leaders of the party, the daily reported.

Prachanda and Nepal have claimed that the majority of the powerful Central Working Committee members have supported them while raising voice against Oli.

Prachanda also alleged that while the Standing Committee meeting was in progress, at the initiative of Prime Minister

Oli a new party was registered under the name of a lesser-known person at the Election Commission with the intention to split the ruling party.

"If one chairman (PM Oli) does not follow the proper procedure of the party then how can the unity of the party remain intact," he wondered.

Prachanda claimed that he and other senior leaders of the party were trying to save the party by creating a favourable situation.

"We are trying for the best outcome but the communists of this country should also be prepared for the worst thing to happen," Prachanda told media persons, indicating a possible split in the ruling party.

"I had agreed to make Oli Prime Minister for a full 5 years term and enjoy the executive chairman's position in the party for creating a better environment within the party," said Prachanda.

"Oli has dragged the party towards anarchism by calling separate gatherings," Prachanda said. PTI

TikTok threatens legal action in US over Trump order



Washington: Video-sharing app TikTok on Friday threatened to take legal action in US courts against Donald Trump's executive order banning anyone under US jurisdiction from doing business with the company's owner ByteDance.

"We will pursue all remedies available to us in order to ensure that the rule of law is not discarded and that our company and our users are treated fairly — if not by the Administration, then by the US courts," TikTok said in a statement. AFP

Negligence or missile may have caused blast: Lebanon President

Beirut: Lebanese President Michel Aoun says there are two possibilities behind Tuesday's blast — either negligence or "external intervention" by a missile or a bomb.

Aoun said on Friday that he asked France for satellite images to see if there were warplanes or missiles in the air at the time of the blast.

The blast is believed to have been caused when a fire touched off 2,750 tons of ammonium nitrate that had been stored at the port since it was taken from an impounded ship in 2013. The cause of the initial fire is not known.

Aoun told journalists that he received information on July 20 about the stored material and "immediately ordered"

military and security officials to do what was necessary. He did not elaborate. He said several governments in charge since 2013 received warnings about the material.

He said the investigation is concentrating on 20 persons. He rejected an international investigation into the blast, saying that it will make us "lose the truth." AP

Leader denies Hezbollah role in Beirut blast

Beirut: Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah says the explosion at the Beirut port reveals nepotism and corruption that can't be ignored in Lebanon and that those responsible should be brought to justice.

Nasrallah denied in a speech on Friday that his group was responsible for Tuesday's blast or exercised any power at the port.

He was responding to claims that his group may have stored explosives at the port. Still, Nasrallah didn't rule out a missile attack or an act of sabotage. He said that storing explosive materials like ammonium nitrate at the port for so long means "it is partially an issue of negligence, corruption, nepotism" that should not be ignored. AP

Belgian court rejects move to extradite ex-Catalan Minister

AP ■ BRUSSELS

A Belgian court on Friday rejected Spain's demand to have a former high-ranking politician from the region of Catalonia extradited, in yet another set back for the country's efforts to try several officials in exile over their alleged roles in an independence referendum that Madrid branded as illegal.

The Brussels prosecutor's office said the court had decided not to enforce the European arrest warrant for former Catalan culture minister Lluís Puig on the grounds that "the Spanish authorities who issued the warrant are not competent to do so."

Puig has been living in exile in Belgium since he, former Catalan President Carles Puigdemont and a number of their associates fled to Belgium in October 2017, fearing arrest over their alleged roles in the secessionist push and the holding of an independence referendum that the Spanish government had banned.

The vote sparked a police crackdown and led to one of Spain's biggest political crises in decades as mass protests roiled the relatively wealthy northeast region of 7.5 million people.

Polls and recent elections show that Catalans are roughly equally split by the secession question. Spaniards as a whole are strongly against it.

Kabul opens traditional council on release of 400 Taliban

Kabul: A traditional council met on Friday in Afghanistan's capital to decide whether to release a final 400 Taliban prisoners, the last hurdle to starting negotiations between Kabul's political leadership and the Taliban under a peace deal with the US.

The negotiations are a critical step toward lasting peace in Afghanistan.

The talks will decide what a peaceful Afghanistan might look like, what constitutional changes will be made, how the rights of women and minorities will be protected and the fate of the tens of thousands of heavily armed men on both sides of the conflict. Besides Taliban fighters, warlords in Kabul

maintain thousands of armed militias loyal to them.

The Taliban in a statement on Friday rejected the Kabul gathering, saying it had no legal status. A statement by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo issued late Thursday made it clear that the 400 prisoners had to be released if peace talks with the Taliban were to move forward.

"We acknowledge that the release of these prisoners is unpopular," Pompeo said. "But this difficult action will lead to an important result long sought by Afghans and Afghanistan's friends: reduction of violence and direct talks resulting in a peace agreement and an end to the war." AP

China sentences 4th Canadian to death on drug charges

Beijing: China has sentenced a fourth Canadian citizen to death on drug charges in less than two years following a sharp downturn in ties over the arrest of an executive of Chinese tech giant Huawei.

Ye Jianhui was sentenced on Friday by the Foshan Municipal Intermediate Court in the southern province of Guangdong.

Ye had been found guilty of

manufacturing and transporting drugs, the court said in a brief statement. Another suspect in the case was also given the death penalty and four others sentenced to between seven years and life in prison. Death sentences are automatically referred to China's highest court for review. Ties between Canada and China have nosedived over Canada's

late 2018 arrest of Meng Wanzhou, a company executive and the daughter of Huawei's founder, at Vancouver's airport in at the request of the US, which wants her extradited to face fraud charges over the company's dealings with Iran. Her arrest enraged Beijing, which calls it a political move aimed at constraining China's rise as a global technology power. AP

Malaysia's Mahathir forms new party in fightback attempt

Putrajaya (Malaysia): Two-time former Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad announced on Friday that he is forming a new ethnic Malay party more than two months after he was sacked from his previous party during a political struggle with his successor.

Mahathir, 95, quit as prime minister in protest in late February after fellow party member Muhyiddin Yassin withdrew their Bersatu party from the ruling coalition, triggering its collapse less than two years after a historic victory in 2018 national polls.

Muhyiddin was sworn in as

new prime minister in March with a new government supported by ex-Prime Minister Najib Razak's corruption-tainted party that was ousted in 2018.

Mahathir, who was sacked from Bersatu along with his son and three other senior members, said Muhyiddin had hijacked the party and helped revive what he called a kleptocratic government.

He accused Muhyiddin of using money to buy support in Bersatu, causing it to stray from its goal of fighting graft. Mahathir said he believes many grassroots members are unhappy and still support him. AP

'Malaysia wants to send Zakir Naik to other place, but not many countries willing to accept him'

Kuala Lumpur: Malaysia was looking for a country except India to send Zakir Naik, but not many countries are willing to accept the controversial preacher, former prime minister Mahathir Mohamad has said.

Naik, a 54-year-old radical Islamic preacher wanted by the Indian authorities for alleged money laundering and inciting extremism through hate speeches, left India in 2016 and subsequently moved to the largely Muslim Malaysia, where he was granted permanent residency when Mahathir

was the prime minister.

Claiming that the fugitive Islamic preacher "would not be safe from the Indian public", the 95-year-old politician, who is eyeing a comeback, said he would like to send Naik to some country "where we feel he will be safe."

"For the time being he (Naik) can stay here but we would like to send him to some other country where he would be safe. Unfortunately, not many countries are willing to accept him," Mahathir was quoted as saying by the WION news channel.

When asked whether he would extradite Naik if he becomes the Prime Minister of Malaysia again, Mahathir said, "Well, we would like to send him to some country where we feel he will be safe."

He once again refused to send Naik to India, saying "at this moment we feel that he would not be safe from the Indian public."

Naik has been banned from any public activities in the multi-ethnic country after his controversial remarks against Malaysian Hindus and Chinese last year. PTI

Portland protesters cause mayhem again, cop hurt

Portland: Portland's nightly protests turned violent again even after the city's mayor pleaded for demonstrators to stay off the streets and a police officer hit by a rock early Friday suffered what was described as a serious injury. The protesters who came out Thursday night clashed with officers near a police precinct station and also used metal bars to disable police vehicles, police said in a statement. The nightly clashes this week have ratcheted up tensions in the city after an agreement was reached last week between state and federal officials for federal agents to pull back from their defence. AP

US RECORDS OVER 2,000 VIRUS DEATHS IN A DAY AFTER THREE MONTHS

Washington: The United States has recorded more than 2,000 coronavirus deaths in 24 hours, the highest number of daily fatalities in three months, Johns Hopkins University's real-time tally showed on Thursday.

The country, which has seen a major resurgence in coronavirus since the end of June, added 2,060 deaths in one day as well as more than 58,000 new cases, the Baltimore-based university showed at 8:30 pm (0030 GMT Friday). AFP

anagraté KAVYAM AFFORDABLE GROUP HOUSING Being Developed by Agrante Realty Ltd, having License No. 101 of 2017 dated 30.11.2017 HARERA No. RC/REP/HARERA/GGM/2018/23 dated 22.11.2018 Hotel "Crown Plaza Today Gurugram" Site No. 02 Sector-29, National Highway-8, Gurugram-122001 Haryana 01 अगस्त 2020 शनिवार को आयोजित काव्यम अफोर्डेबल ग्रुप हाउसिंग प्रोजेक्ट सेक्टर-29-108, गुरुग्राम स्थित प्लेट्स का झा के सफल आवेदकों की सूची है-

TYPE-1 2BHK 512.50 Sq.ft											
9428	10347	9889	10430	9014	10373	9994	9991	9342	10302	9120	10425
10215	9264	10428	10427	4356	9987	9934	10402	9758	10223	9976	10422
9577	9905	9307	10095	9431	9021	9288	9887	9850	9539	9925	9430
10348	10421	10094	9249	10420	10391	9726	10394	9996	10386	10429	10310
9507	11000	9229	9643	9019	9651	9568	9747	9261	10000	10052	9788
TYPE-3 2BHK 488.30 Sq.ft											
9039	9845	9600	4921	9955	10080	9833	9537	9147	10212	10125	9757
9341	10194	10074	9631	9824	9725	9995	3592	9834	10309	10426	9900
9870	9839	10168	9310	10167	10077	9960	9665	10311	10403	10308	9838
10342	10083	9871	9682	9986	10351	9997	10145	4219	10164	9321	9350
9594	9860	10330	9835	9028	9806	3077	10328	10286	10289	10149	10419
10053	9011	4355	10389	9683	3585	9408	9005	9728	9442	9856	4439
9444	10237	10005	9841	9043	9484	9263	9849	9494	4250	10331	9632
10174	9804	4925	9595	10173	9489	10072	10366	3963	9732	10400	4607
10436	2438	9859	10340	9684	9567	9731	10192	10051	9803	9209	10073
9579	4924	4684	9842	4682	9589	10205	3076	10417	9088	9036	9357
9564	10327	9550	9086	9813	9301	9571	10216	9861	9490	10160	9789
9978	10181	9105	9756	4116	9584	10124	9441	9616	10370	9676	9214
10079	9471	9447	9736	9213	9455	9596	11001	10138	9886	10203	9332
2017	10082	9483	9423	10304	10211	10236	10172	9781	9990	9569	9089
10317	9802	9800	10219	10122	9197	2552	10396	9397	10202	9491	10115
10334	4115	9440	10071	9133	10275	10199	9100	9959	9487	10176	9345
9582	10117	10229	9316	9320	10185	10078	9465	9586	9211	10375	10228
10382	10116	10193	9072	9482	9780	10096	10091	9390	9799	9030	9891
10423	10390	9637	10361	9787	10132	10189	4282	9892	10121	10050	10054
10055	10333	10131	10158	10263	9339	9798	9134	9042	9082	9585	9622
10301	10068	9958	10179	9829	9380	10344	10315	10084			
प्रतिष्ठा सूची TYPE-3 2BHK 488.30 Sq.ft											
9498	9973		10182	4683	9919	3470	9435	3547		10320	9660

डिक्लेयर: काव्यम के प्लेट्स का झा हरियाणा अफोर्डेबल हाउसिंग मॉडेली गृहमंजलय/डी.सी. सी.पी. हरियाणा/डी.सी. मुरुग्राम द्वारा जारी दिशा निर्देशों के तहत रखे गये मापदंडों के आधार पर तथा संबंध पदाधिकारी की निगरानी में किया गया है। सुनिश्चित आवेदन सूची आवेदन पत्र संख्या व झा के क्रमांक के अनुसार है। अधिक जानकारी के लिये www.kavyamhomes.com पर लॉगऑन करें जहाँ सफल आवेदकों की सूची, नाम व प्लेट नंबर सहित उपलब्ध है।

राजस्थान सरकार कृषि आयुक्तालय, राजस्थान, जयपुर 15th ANNIVERSARY क्रमांक एफ 8(1)/आक/जयप/सिवाई पाईप पंजी 20-21/3587 दिनांक: 06.08.2020 पाईप लाईन निर्माताओं के पंजीकरण हेतु विज्ञप्ति पूर्व की विज्ञप्ति क्रमांक एफ8(1)/आक/जयप/सिवाई पाईप पंजी/2020-21/2160 दिनांक 04.06.2020 की निरस्तता में सिवाईएस मार्क सिवाई पाईप साईन निर्माताओं के पंजीकरण के लिये आवेदन पात्र करने की दिनांक 04.08.2020 को 20.08.2020 तक बढ़ाया जाता है। विस्तृत नियम एवं शर्तें विभागीय वेबसाईट www.agriculture.rajasthan.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है। हस्ता/— आयुक्त कृषि राजो सरकार, जयपुर DIPR/C/6216/2020

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED General Public is hereby informed that one person **Namely: Hemchand, S/o: Sh. Lal Chand, R/o: H.No. T-452A, Street NO. 21, Baljeet Nagar, Delhi** has been missing /kidnapped since **08.11.2019** at 11:00 am. from the area of P. S. Patel Nagar, Delhi. In this regard a case vide **DD No. 50A dated 29.07.2020** has been registered at P.S. Patel Nagar, Delhi. The description of the missing person are as under: **Age: 37 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Shallow Face: Round, Built: Strong, Wearing: Blue colour shirt and black colour pant.** Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this person kindly inform to the following. **Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> E-mail Id - cic@cbi.gov.in Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 Fax No. 011-24368639 P.S. Patel Nagar, Delhi DP/251/CD/2020 SHO Tel.No. 011-25872637, 8750870434**

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED General public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Suneha D/o Late Nandu R/o Jhuggi No. 320, J.J. Camp, Ayurvedic Hospital, Haiderpur, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped from the area of P.S: Shalimar Bagh, Delhi since 20.07.2020. In this regard, a case vide **FIR No. 0478/2020 U/s 363 IPC Dated 28.07.2020 has been registered at P.S. Shalimar Bagh, Delhi.** The description of the missing/kidnapped girl is as under. **Age: 14 Years, Complexion: Wheatish, Height: 5', Face: Round, Built: Normal, Wearing: Pink colour suit & salwar and black colour chappal in feet.** Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out her but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing girl then please inform P.S. Shalimar Bagh, Delhi at following Tel No. / e-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in and Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> **Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 Fax No. 011-24368639 Sd/- S.H.O. P.S. Shalimar Bagh, Delhi Ph: 011-27495198** DP/284/NW/2020

SUPERIOR FINLEASE LIMITED CIN: L74890DL19AP01061985 Regd. Off: NS-92, Kharsa No-33/21, Ranaji Enclave, Najafgarh, Near Arjun Park Bus Stand New Delhi -110043; Email id: superiorfinlease@gmail.com Website: www.superiorfinlease.com Phone No.: +91-9953798335 NOTICE Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 47 read with Regulation 29 & Regulation 33 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations & Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, that a Meeting of the Board of Directors of Superior Finlease Limited ("the Company") will be held on Thursday, August 13, 2020 at the Registered Office of the Company at 1:00 P.M. inter-alia, to consider and approve Un-audited Financial Results (Standalone & Consolidated) of the Company for the First Quarter ended June 30, 2020. Further details are also available on the website of the Company i.e. at www.superiorfinlease.com and also on the website of BSE Limited at <http://www.bseindia.com> and Metropolitan Stock Exchange of India Limited at <http://www.mseil.in/> where the shares of the company are listed. For Superior Finlease Limited Sd/- Disha Rani (Company Secretary) Date: August 06, 2020 Place: New Delhi

Sensex, Nifty end flat on negative global cues

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Domestic equity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty ended flat on Friday as negative cues from global markets and spiking COVID-19 cases in the country kept investors on the edge.

After touching a low of 37,787.38 during the day, the 30-share BSE Sensex clawed back lost ground to end 15.12 points or 0.04 per cent higher at 38,040.57.

Similarly, the NSE Nifty rose 13.90 points or 0.12 per cent to finish at 11,214.05.

During the week, the Sensex advanced 433.68 points or 1.15 per cent, while the Nifty rose 140.60 points or 1.26 per cent.

Asian Paints was the top gainer in the Sensex pack on Friday, spurting 4.44 per cent, followed by Bajaj Finance, IndusInd Bank, Bajaj Finserv and Maruti.

On the other hand, Titan, HCL Tech, Infosys, M&M and Sun Pharma were among the laggards, skidding up to 2.65 per cent.

Mahindra & Mahindra on Friday reported a 94 per cent decline in consolidated profit at Rs 54.64 crore for the June quarter, adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Global markets tumbled

after US President Donald Trump signed an order prohibiting American residents from transacting with Chinese apps WeChat and TikTok, ratcheting up US-China tensions.

China has vowed to retaliate against the executive order, which comes into force in 45 days.

According to traders, negative overseas cues and mounting COVID-19 cases in the country kept investors jittery.

Registering over 60,000 cases in 24 hours for the first time, India's COVID-19 tally galloped past 20 lakh on Friday, while the number of recoveries surged to 13.78 lakh, according to Union Health Ministry data.

The number of cases around the world linked to the disease has crossed 1.9 crore.

"The unrelenting pace of virus infections and other uncertainties led to the benchmark indices ending flat today with volatile trades. Global cues were also mostly negative, after Asian markets ended in losses following US actions on popular Chinese apps, and anticipating retaliatory action from China.

"However on a weekly basis, Indian benchmark indices ended up by around 1 per cent, following gains in the

Wall Street stalls; S&P 500 dips after 5-day winning streak

AP ■ NEW YORK

Wall Street is stalling on Friday, as a whirlwind of worries about rising U.S.-China tensions and whether Congress can deliver more aid for the economy threaten to halt its big run.

The S&P 500 was edging 0.1% lower in early trading, after a five-day winning streak had brought it back within 1.1% of its record for the first time since February. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 73 points, or 0.3%, at 27,317, as of 9:40 a.m. Eastern time, and the Nasdaq composite pulled 0.1% back from its record.

Markets around the world

got a small boost before trading began on U.S. Stock markets when a report showed that the U.S. Job market strengthened more last month than economists expected. But the bump for U.S. Treasury yields and European stocks proved short-lived.

It's a busy day for markets, with investors also focused on Capitol Hill, where Congress and White House officials have been negotiating on a hoped-for deal on more aid for the economy. A marathon meeting Thursday left both sides still far apart on key issues, and they both said the future of talks is uncertain.

Investors say it's crucial that Washington pump more

money into the economy, which has shown signs of improvements since the spring but is still hobbling amid worries about a resurgence in coronavirus counts.

Even though Friday's jobs report was healthier than the market expected, it also showed that hiring is already slowing following two months of acceleration and remains far below where it was before the pandemic.

Trump is considering executive orders to address some of the issues if Congress doesn't reach a deal, such as evictions and unemployment insurance, but they appear unlikely to have much impact.

Stock exchanges in Europe were trading on a negative note in early deals.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 0.86 per cent lower at USD 44.70 per barrel. On the currency front, the rupee ended almost flat at 74.93 against the US dollar.

Increase in gold loan LTV will heighten credit risks for banks: Report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The increase in loan-to-value (LTV) ratio for gold loans, or the quantum of borrowing against a given quantity of the precious metal, will heighten credit risks for banks, a ratings agency said on Friday.

The RBI had on Thursday increased the LTV ratio for gold loans by banks to 90 per cent from the earlier 75 per cent, in a bid to make money available to people affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

"...An increase in the LTV ratio to 90 per cent increases the credit risk for banks as the collateral available in the form of gold ornaments or jewellery may not be sufficient to fully cover both principal and interest components on these loans," Brickworks Ratings said.

Its Director for Ratings, Vydianathan Ramaswamy, said the increase in LTV will result in a "negative carry" for banks as the total exposure will exceed the value of the pledged gold.

"It could adversely impact the recoverability and asset quality of banks in the case of a weakening in the borrower

credit risk profile and/or sharp decline in gold prices, which have seen a strong rally over the last few months," he added.

However, given that the higher LTV is only till March 31 next year, the risk on the portfolio is for a limited period, the agency said in a note.

Also, gold loans are mostly short-tenure loans of anywhere between 3 to 24 months, it said.

The agency said given that the RBI's announcement on higher LTV gold loans is limited to the banking sector, banks are bound to garner a larger market share vis-a-vis their non-bank peers in loans against the pledge of gold in fiscal 2021.

At present, non-bank financiers and unorganised lenders like local pawn brokers with a wider network enjoy a large market share in loans against gold ornaments and jewellery.

They also charge high rates on these loans, which can range anywhere between 20 per cent to 50 per cent, whereas banks charge much lower interest rates, it said.

Gold, silver prices continue to climb; touch record levels

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold price surged for the 16th straight session on Friday and touched an all-time high of ₹57,008 per 10 grams in the national capital, according to HDFC Securities.

Silver too continued its upward movement, with the price touching a record-high of ₹77,840 per kilogram. Silver price jumped by ₹576 compared to the closing level of ₹77,264 per kg on Thursday.

In the previous trade, gold had closed at ₹57,002 per 10 grams. On Friday, the price increased by ₹6 to ₹57,008 per 10 grams. Prices of both the metals recorded all-time high prices, HDFC Securities said.

"Spot gold prices for 24 carat in Delhi continued to scale new highs by gaining ₹6. Gold prices are trading higher for the 16th consecutive day in India," HDFC Securities Senior Analyst (Commodities) Tapan Patel said. In the international market, both gold and silver were trading marginally lower at USD 2,061 per ounce and USD 28.36 per ounce, respectively.

Sebi revises eligibility, shareholding limit for clearing corp at IFSC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi on Friday amended international financial services centre (IFSC) guidelines pertaining to eligibility criteria and shareholding limit for clearing corporations that wish to operate in such centres.

The decision, aimed at streamlining the operations of IFSC, has been taken after consultation with stakeholders, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in a circular.

Under the norms, any Indian recognised stock exchange or clearing corporation, or, any recognised stock exchange or clearing corporation of a foreign jurisdiction, will form a subsidiary to pro-

vide the services of clearing corporation in IFSC wherein at least 51 per cent stake is held by such exchange or clearing corporation, Sebi said. The remaining share capital may be acquired or held by any other person, whether Indian or of foreign jurisdiction.

Besides, such person will not at any time, directly or indirectly, either individually or together with persons acting in concert, acquire or hold more than 5 per cent stake in a clearing corporation in IFSC, subject to applicable laws.

Sebi further said any other stock exchange, depository, bank, insurance company of Indian or foreign jurisdiction have been allowed to acquire 15 per cent stake in such clearing corporation operating in an IFSC.

Among others, public financial institutions of Indian jurisdiction, foreign commodity derivatives exchange and bilateral or multilateral financial institutions approved by the central government "may acquire or hold, either directly or indirectly, either individually or together with persons acting in concert, up to 15 per cent of the paid up equity share capital of a such clearing corporation with prior approval of the board."

To give effect to this, Sebi has amended IFSC guidelines. Last month, the regulator had revised eligibility criteria and shareholding limit for stock exchanges desirous of operating in IFSC. The country's only IFSC is in GIFT City near Ahmedabad in Gujarat.

India's power transmission segment may attract ₹1.8 lakh cr investment by FY25: Report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The domestic power transmission segment is expected to attract investments worth ₹1.8 lakh crore in the next five years, according to a report by rating agency ICRA.

It said evacuation infrastructure for renewable energy (RE) projects will drive investments in the power transmission segment.

"ICRA expects an investment of Rs 1.8 trillion (₹1.8 lakh crore) over the five-year period from FY21 (financial year 2020-21) to FY25 in the power transmission segment at an all-India level, driven by evacuation infrastructure for RE projects," the rating agency said on Friday in the report.

It added that in line with

a shift in policy focus from conventional sources (coal and gas) to renewable power sources (wind and solar), the focus of the transmission segment is towards augmenting infrastructure for evacuation of power generated by RE projects.

Sabyasachi Majumdar, group head and senior vice-president (corporate ratings) of ICRA, said the Centre has lined up 14 transmission projects under the tariff-based competitive bidding (RBCB) route for evacuating power from 25-gigawatt RE projects.

The Government has also lined up another six projects in the intra-state segment, providing healthy pipeline for private sector players, he added.

There is likely to be

a slowdown in electricity demand and investments in the sector in 2020-21 amid the Covid-19-induced disruption but recovery is expected from 2021-22 onwards, he said. ICRA said the private sector's share is expected to witness a healthy growth over the next four-five years, while Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (PGCIL) and other state transmission utilities are likely to remain major players in the power transmission segment.

On the issues in the segment, the agency said, "The key challenge for the winning bidders under the TBCB route has been delays in execution, mainly because of delays in securing right of way, forest clearances and re-routing requirements in some cases."

Govt aims to develop 10 Craft and Handloom Villages in India: Irani

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister Smriti Irani on Friday said the government is aiming to develop ten Craft and Handloom Villages in the country so that tourists from across the globe can visit them and learn the rich legacy of Indian weavers and lend support to the Make in India initiative.

Irani shared the Textiles Ministry's vision while addressing a function through video conferencing to mark the National Handloom Day. Almost 95 per cent of the handwoven fabrics used globally are produced in India. The Minister said the National Handloom Awards, which are presented on the occasion of the Handloom Day, are being deferred upon the request of weavers who wish to celebrate the honour instead of receiving it digitally due to the prevailing circumstances posed by COVID-19. "It is our goal to develop ten Craft and Handloom Villages across the country so that our Handloom products are not limited to clothes or home furnishing alone.

We want that tourists from India and across the world visit these special Craft and Handloom Villages to not only learn about the weavers but also contribute to our pledge of Make in India and Aatmanirbhar Bharat (Self Reliant nation)," said the minister for Textiles and Women and Child Development.

Irani shared that students from the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) are contributing to the upgradation of 9 out of 28 Weavers' Service Centres across the country in terms of design, marketing and research.

These centres are located in Delhi, Srinagar, Jaipur, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Varanasi, Guwahati, Kanchipuram and

Bhubaneswar.

She said it is the government's endeavour to ensure upgradation of all weavers' service centres through NIFT students to strengthen the rich legacy of handloom in India.

Irani said the 'My Handloom' portal launched on the occasion will help in connecting state government undertakings, agencies and cooperative societies with the Centre's schemes for weavers to know about their status and benefits.

Highlighting the importance of the country's handloom, Textiles Secretary Ravi Capoor said 95 per cent of the handwoven fabrics used globally are produced in India. Observing that weavers do not get remunerative prices for their products, he said plans are afoot to ensure they get higher returns by eliminating middlemen and linking them directly to the market.

After deducting the marketing fee from the amount received towards the sale of a product, the remaining amount can be transferred to the weaver's account through direct benefit transfer, Capoor suggested. Irani also launched a mobile app and backend website for Handloom Mark Scheme. The minister said the Handloom Mark is being promoted to provide collective identity to the authentic handloom products. Textiles Committee Mumbai has developed the mobile app with a backend web portal to completely digitise the process of registration.

The app is in English and 10 Indian languages and will enable the weavers of the country to apply for Handloom Mark registration from the comfort of their homes.

It helps ascertain the genuineness and originality of the product through unique and dynamic QR code labels affixed on each handloom product.

RAJ CM TAKES IMPORTANT DECISIONS

Tax exemption for vehicles deprived of permits during lockdown

Jaipur: The State Government has decided to exempt the motor vehicle tax (motor vehicle tax) payable for the Omni Bus category of spared transport vehicles sold during the period of nationwide lockdown in the event of Covid-19 epidemic. The CM has taken this sensitive decision after approving the proposal received from Finance Dept and Transport Dept. According to the proposal, in the motor vehicle tax payable for the period of April 1 to June 30, 2020 for Omni Bus category vehicles of 8 and above seating capacity not listed in any permit category due to non-issuance of permits during lockdown in the state. Full exemption will be given. Also, 75 percent exemption will be given to these vehicles in the tax payable for July 2020. It is known that in the context, such tax exemption was given on 24 June 2020 in the past for permit-free buses.

CM approves 400 more in new veterinary sub-centres

588 new posts will be created in subdivision offices

Jaipur: Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has approved the creation of a total of 400 new posts of 200 livestock assistants and 200 jaladhari in 200 new veterinary sub-centres to be opened in 2020-21. Each veterinary sub-center will get the post of a livestock assistant and a water holder.

Gehlot has also approved an additional budget provision of ₹20.72 crore by creating a total of 588 new posts for strengthening 294 subdivision offices in the state. Each subdivision office will get an information assistant and a junior assistant.

Approval to fill 83 vacant postsThe Chief Minister has approved to fill 83 vacant posts in Agricultural University, Jodhpur and its constituent colleges.

These include 65 academic, 15 non-academic and 3 deputation posts.

Vodafone Idea bounces back; shares close 7 pc higher after initial loss

New Delhi: Shares of Vodafone Idea bounced back from early lows to close 7 per cent higher on Friday. On the BSE, the stock had plunged 7.39 per cent to ₹7.64 in early trade. Later, it erased the losses as the trade progressed. It finally closed at ₹8.83, a gain of 7.03 per cent.

On the NSE, it settled the day 6.66 per cent higher at ₹ 8.80. During the morning trade, it had cracked 7.87 per cent to ₹7.60. Value-buying at lower levels may have led to

recovery in the stock. In terms of volume, 1,121.88 lakh shares were traded on BSE and over 68 crore on NSE.

Vodafone Idea, after market hours on Thursday, reported widening of net loss to ₹25,460 crore in the June quarter after it made additional provisioning to pay past statutory dues, and said its ability to continue as going concern hinges on the Supreme Court allowing more time to pay dues.

PTI

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee ended almost flat at 74.93 against the US dollar on Friday due to a caution prevailing in the forex market in view of mounting coronavirus cases and US-China trade tensions.

Starting off on a tepid note, the rupee fell to a low of 75.04, but recovered slightly thereafter and moved in a narrow band throughout the session.

It finally settled at 74.93, gaining 1 paise over its previous close. On Thursday too, the rupee had closed steady after the Reserve Bank maintained a status quo in its policy rates.

Meanwhile, the US dol-

lar index, which gauges the value of the greenback against a basket of key global currencies, rose 0.32 per cent to 93.08. Analysts said forex market sentiment was mainly guided by growing US-China trade tensions and mounting coronavirus cases in the country. Rahul Gupta, Head of Research- Currency, Emkay Global Financial Services: "The risk-off mood due to US-China trade war and coronavirus concerns have kept USDINR spot above the crucial support of 74.75.

Also, it is respecting the immediate resistance of 75.20, only sustained FIJ selling from equity segment will push the USDINR spot higher."



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Tender No.488
Date : 07.08.2020

TENDER NOTICE
Office of the Executive Engineer (Maint.), Chibro Power Station, Dakpathar (Dehradun), invites sealed tenders for following works
Tender No: CH(Maint.)- 11/2020-21 Cleaning of pits, clean water tank, and miscellaneous work
Tender No: CH(Maint.)- 12/2020-21 Annual up-keeping and maint. of Chibro field hostel
Estimated cost: (1) **₹ 2,43,590/-** GST extra (2) **₹ 7,98,048/-** GST extra
Date of availability of bid on website: **08.08.2020, 11:00 hrs.**
Last date for submission of tender : **31.08.2020 up to 13:00 hrs**
For further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "**www.ujvnl.com**".
(Executive Engineer, Maint., Chibro)
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified deadbody of male **Age : 40-45 years, Height : 5'2", Build : Thin, Complexion : Sallow, Face : Oval**, was found on 03.08.2020 at Ahinsha Dairy, infront of back diwar, Fatehpuri, Delhi-06. In this regard a DD No. 23-A dated 03.08.2020 u/s 174 Cr.P.C. has been lodged at P.S. Lahori Gate, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved for identification for 72 hours in the mortuary of Subzi Mandi, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this found person may kindly inform to the following:-

SHO : P.S. Lahori Gate, Delhi
Tel. No. 011-23953776

DP/433N/20

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that a lady namely **Kamlesh, W/o: Shree Chotu Ram, R/o: H. No. A-9 in front of Dispensary missing since 01.08.2020 from H. No. A-9 in front of Dispensary. In this regard DD No. 52A, dated 01.08.2020 has been registered at P.S. Mahendra Park, Delhi.** The description of missing lady is as under:

Name: Kamlesh, Age: 55 Years, Height: 5'3", Face: Round, Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Medium, Wearing: Blue suit, red salwar and slipper in feet.

If anyone have any information about this missing lady please inform P.S. Mahendra Park, Delhi.

Web: http://cbi.nic.in, Email: cbc@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639

SHO
Police Station, Mahendra Park, Delhi
Ph: 011-27632501, 27632501, 8750870227

Web: http://cbi.nic.in, Email: cbc@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639
SHO
Police Station, Mahendra Park, Delhi
Ph: 011-27632501, 27632501, 8750870227

DP/286/NW/2020



BHUMI PEDNEKAR

What Mumbai saw in the last two days was devastating amount of rain. There were some places that were badly affected. The videos and articles are so scary and heart-breaking. This year has been a wake-up call. Development is important but there has to be a balance. Small changes make a huge difference.



MAHESH BABU

A kind request to my dear fans. I feel blessed and thankful to have all of you. I truly appreciate all the good deeds you do to make my special day worth remembering. Since we are battling a global pandemic this year, safety is indispensable. I request all my fans to avoid any social gatherings on my birthday. Please stay safe.



SHALMALI KHOLGADE

I keep away from controversy because I am rather focussed on making music, writing songs, finding various avenues to channelise my creativity. What else should I do? Pointing fingers on people will not do any good to music. I am not just here for making music in Bollywood. I look beyond that.



RAJA KUMARI

We shot *Peace*'s video in the middle of quarantine. Although I'm used to having a big crew on set to handle everything from location scouting to glam and make-up, all I had in LA was me and Shawn Thomas (long-time director and collaborator) and the help of my manager and assistant. It definitely was a challenge.



VAANI KAPOOR

Ayushmann is one of the most talented actors of our generation and I am only thrilled about our first film together to be this beautiful love story. I have always wanted to work with Abhishek Kapoor, being so inspired by his films. This feels like an amazing opportunity to be part of his vision.

CONVERSATION 45 MINUTES



BEYOND THE DARK WHIMS

Pakistani filmmaker ASIM ABBASI talks to SAKSHI SHARMA about how his leading women have given a positive spin to the term ‘churail’ in his eponymous web series and the need to share stories about the under-represented

The term ‘Churail’ has been used to refer to witches or to a woman who practises dark magic. You might have heard women being called as *churail*, *dayan*, *bhootni*, spellcaster and other such names for their “wrong” actions. But how often have you heard them being used to question the patriarchal status quo and represent strong-willed women?

Pakistani filmmaker Asim Abbasi, who is now foraying into the web series space with his series, *Churails*, believes that the term rightly represents his lead protagonists as it has nothing to do with dark magic. Says he, “The term has historically been used to label women negatively for their courage, aggression, ambition — all the qualities that I associate with a strong woman, were deemed negative. She is the uncanny outsider who comes to shake up the patriarchy. And it is the fear that she elicits in the guardians of the status quo

(often men), that drives men to label them in a derogatory way. So our characters are taking this term, ripe with symbolic value, to give it a positive spin. Every woman, according to me, should aspire to be a *churail*.”

Set in Karachi, it is a story of four women from different walks of life who come together to open a covert detective agency to expose cheating husbands amongst the city’s elite. These self-proclaimed women run their operations under the guise of a fashion store named ‘Halal Designs’ that specialise in conservative women’s attire. As their operations expand, they come to be the saviours of abused, mistreated and harassed women, and their search for a missing girl brings them face to face with the exploitative world of talent agencies, escort services, and cosmetic companies. It features Pakistani actors Sarwat Gilani, Nimra



Bucha, Yasra Rizvi and Mehar Bano. Excerpts:

▫ The series stars four women reeling from personal miseries who further

open a detective agency under the pretext of a burqa shop. How did you conceptualise it?

The themes of gender politics, particularly power dynamics, between a man and



a woman, and the resultant misogyny are topics that I wanted to address in my writing for a while. But I did not want the starting point of the series to be heavy-handed. I wanted the darkness to slowly creep in. So my natural, perhaps humorous inclination, was to first make my characters colourful spies, who gradually turn vigilantes. I was interested in talking about the lack of autonomy that a woman has over her body. Often in patriarchal societies, women are dressed and undressed at the whims of the society, and are being told what is appropriate and what is not. Hence, the store specialises in modest-wear for women to showcase this irony.

▫The poster of the project has a caption: ‘Hojayein tayaar, khwateen aur hazraat. Especially hazraat. Jald arahi hain kuch rangeen churaillein, aapki deep-rooted misogyny ki band bajaanay.’ Another scene showed a sign at a store: ‘Pets and men not allowed.’ How do such strong statements establish the idea of the series?

The store titled ‘Halal Designs’ is a safe space that women have created for other women. The clients need to feel protected, hence, the idea of it not being open to men. The sign for the store is a replay of boards saying ‘women and dogs not allowed’ that actually existed in prestigious members clubs in the subcontinent before the Partition, under the British Raj.

▫Your narratives have usually centred around strong female characters. Are there any personal instances that have shaped your choices?

I have grown up in a household of a lot of women and have been surrounded by them all my life. So I tend to gravitate towards their experiences. As a filmmaker, it is my duty to tell stories about those who are under-represented or the ones I believe are not represented fairly in the mainstream media. Female-centric stories on Pakistani television usually regurgitate the same trope about a damsel in distress who needs rescuing by a prince. Those stories are not a representative of the women I know. And those are not the stories I believe our daughters should grow up with.

▫In one of your interviews you mentioned, “It’s not message per se, I prefer to raise questions.” What do you aim to achieve through your work?

Well, apart from entertaining audience by providing a thrilling, edge-of-your-seat experience, I hope that the show stays with them long after the 10 hours of viewing experience is over. They should be able to reflect on the questions the series raises. I wish them, particularly men, to become

more open to working towards a more equitable society, where women are respected and treated fairly.

▫There has been a surge of grey roles in online content now. Filmmakers and actors don’t like putting characters in a box. Do you think the same can be said about your four leads?

Absolutely. I deliberately set out to tell a tale of four very flawed individuals. They are not always going to do the right thing. They are going to make mistakes and may not even apologise for them but these traits are all very human to have. All good content, which seeks to create empathetic characters that the audience can root for, should be moving away from the binaries of black and white.

▫You had earlier said, “It’s very difficult to put *Churails* into a genre. It’s discussing serious issues, but the show itself doesn’t take itself too seriously.” What did you mean?

In terms of genres, I would say the series has elements of drama and thriller but I tend to find the whimsy in the darkest of moments, and I feel my work reflects that. The themes that the series addresses are posed as questions rather than preachy messages. My characters find something to smile about even when everything around them is falling apart.

▫On the artistic front, are we ready to nurture cross-boundary collaborations, irrespective of the political environment?

Yes, because art has nothing to do with institutional politics. Its sole purpose is to provide a cathartic experience for the public by emphasising our shared humanity and it aims to do that by bridging the differences.

▫Do you think the audience for the series might get affected from the Pak-India rivalries?

I don’t think so. People on both sides of the border are well aware that they have similar life realities and are eager to have a dialogue and cultural exchange.

▫Can we call this an opportunity for the country to attract other global platforms and entertain the idea of producing Pakistani content?

Absolutely. We have not had web content come out of Pakistan that could compete in the global market before. This is a small but important step in getting our stories out to the world. I am hopeful that it will attract more investment into Pakistani talent and filmmakers.

(The series will stream from August 11 on Zee5.)

STUDIO CHAT 15 MINUTES

Celebs go vocal for local

On the occasion of National Handloom day, Bollywood actresses including Priyanka Chopra Jonas, Kangana Ranaut, Vidya Balan, Dia Mirza, Taapsee Pannu and Janhvi Kapoor urge people to support Indian weavers and Indian organic fabric industries. The handloom sector is one of the major symbols of the cultural heritage of India.

“Most of us have more than we can consume. Fashion industry has become one of the most damaging industries for our environment. New challenges call for new resolves. Let’s promote our own Indian organic fabric industries and preserve the planet. When we choose handloom, we choose to elevate our poor weavers out of poverty, we choose vocal for local, we choose our mother earth, we choose love for every single being on this planet,” said Kangana via a tweet.

Vidya posted a few pictures in mustard silk saree on Instagram and wrote, “Let us all resolve to support our weavers across the country in these difficult times by buying and wearing their beautiful creations in our everyday life and also help keep #India’sHandloomLegacy alive. Appreciate the labour of love.”

Priyanka posted a picture in a green saree and wrote on Instagram stories, “Indian handlooms are known to be

Open to new ideas: Anushka

Actor Anushka Sharma became the youngest female producer in Bollywood at the age of 25 with the clutter-breaking revenge thriller *NH10* and she has since then only shown her passion to tell remarkably new stories. From experimenting with genres to backing fellow outsiders to shine bright in Bollywood, Anushka, through Clean Slate Filmz, has been an entrepreneur who at her core, is a diverse storyteller.

Anushka feels her Army background has shaped her content choices majorly. “Being Army kids, we are always open to new ideas and all that travelling really helped us understand local stories. Such experiences have not only helped us in storytelling, but it also makes you look at things in different ways rather than a set societal perspective,” says Anushka, who runs the business with her brother Karnesh.

She adds, “Watching films doesn’t always help you understand movies better. Our life experiences have helped us in this business. We have approached everything with a fresh mind. If we have taken the less travelled path, it is because we have followed our instincts.”

Anushka is riding on back to back suc-



cesses as a producer with both *Paatal Lok* and *Bulbbul* doing incredibly well. She reveals that there is no formula for success when it comes to content production. “The business of production is very tricky and even the most experienced can’t say that they have figured it out. You just learn from your mistakes. Even when things don’t work the way you wanted, they give us learnings,” says she.

ARTWALK 60 MINUTES

Artist Devidas Agase has got quite a following on his Instagram account. And why not? His works seem to be extremely intriguing. They take us back to the imagery from the medieval age in India, which had an integral role in both mythical as well as cultural domain. His series of eight works, *Pawn of an Unknown World*, and a series on migrant labour, *Way To Home*, are both evocative renderings of everyday symbolism.

"I come from the Beed district situated in the Marathwada region of Maharashtra, India. Beed is a historic place of medieval origin," explains Devidas who has just received the prestigious *Khoj Grant*. "Coming from a family of sugarcane farmers and farm hands, I have been a close witness to farmers' struggles and that of the working class on the farm and off it. I have realised that the needs of food, shelter, clothes, however basic, are an uphill journey for a farmer and the working class. They play different roles by taking up menial jobs to merely survive in society," adds he.

When you look at his polymorphic beings, the imagery represents a deeper tenet of *Bhakti* — one of devotion and the other, of inspiration. Devidas is deeply influenced by mythic legends, especially the three-faced deities in stories — Trimurti, Datta Digambar, Vishnu Dashavtaras, and Krishna Vishwaroopa. He says, "My works explore these realities of the world and are strongly influenced by my own childhood memories and experiences. Coming from such a background, the significant role of history, mythology, gods and goddesses, turn up in my works."

His multi-dimensional work, *Pawn of an Unknown World*, created with dry pigments and water colour on paper, have been set on a nocturnal background to create a narrative born of surreal splendour.

He develops a style characterised by bright colours and symmetrical geometries rooted in the definitive domains of a post-Cubist aesthetic. We can glimpse his evolution in these eight small works that set out to uncover new dimensions with a larger quest to produce a radical visual language. For Devidas, anything he creates is born of his realisation of years of artistic experimentation and intuitive innovation. The polymorphic beings are a historical inheritance.

All the eight works have been brought forward in composition. They represent the decomposition of journeys and struggles into a series of chromatic narratives. Here, the being is portrayed as natural, which, how-



Lockdown realisations

Artist DEVIDAS AGASE's works showcase how the quest for basic needs is an uphill journey for a farmer and the working and the migrant classes. By UMA NAIR



ever, is far beyond like a human figure. These beings are graceful and full of an ethos of elegance and balance. The idea of creating still lives becomes a contemporary take on the character of a scion cultural fabric.

The pair of shoes in the last image has about it a hint of a memoir tumbling with nostalgia and metaphors of travel. "My childhood narratives from various sources trigger my thought processes about the multifaceted existences within the contemporary context," says Devidas. "I try to recreate this idea of polymorphic reality as is seen in mythology as a reflection in today's human being. My works borrow the concept from the scientific term, Polymorphism, meaning a person at a time can have multiple layers of characteristics invisible to the society. These layered human beings are adapting to their surroundings and situations of surviving trials and tribulations of life. I consider the essence of the experience always helps to shape the core of any artwork."

In his second work that exempli-

fies migrant labour, we see a recreation of the travel and the tribulations faced by India's migrant community during the lockdown amid COVID-19 pandemic. In this work, the act of substitution is clearly evident in his precious prudent finishes, which become a facet of many modes of transition in travel.

Devidas has explained his sensibility born of everyday idioms and struggles that he read about during the lockdown. "I have tried to explore the co-relation between society and human nature as well as the ideologies that govern the social norms like the morality, materialism and politics of the human mind. I believe that there are other silent individuals within an individual who battle for survival at a basic level, irrespective and because of, social, political, religious, and personal conditioning. As an artist, my attempt is to become a narrative voice of those who have been silenced. I believe it only enhances my work giving it a new perspective and a fresher voice."

CELEB TALK 30 MINUTES

Notes from 1930

Actor JULIA BROWN, while working on the series, *World On Fire*, could relate to the real life stories of loss and conflict from World War II, recalling her grandparents' experiences.

By TEAM VIVA

Who is Lois?

Lois, the character that I am playing, is a 21-year-old working-class girl from Manchester, who lives with her father, Douglas and her brother, Tom. She works in a factory during the day but is passionate about singing and has another night job as a singer in a band. She works in two shifts in order to keep paying bills for the family. She's an everyday working class girl who wants to pursue her passion.

What's Lois like as a performer and a singer?

Lois is a jazz singer and sings with her best friend Connie in a band called the Victory Vs. It is her one passion in life that she allows herself to indulge in because it's a form of escapism for her. She's always keen to put on her best performance. She likes connecting with people through her songs.

How would you describe Lois' relationship with her family?

Lois' relationship with Tom is quite difficult at times because they lost their mother at a young age. Lois was 14, prior to that they were best friends and inseparable but with their mother's death, Lois had to take on the role of mother in the house because of which their relationship suffered. Her dad, Douglas, suffers from PTSD and he struggles



when the war begins, coping with memories coming back to him. She is trying to keep the ship afloat for the family, but also misses that sibling relationship she used to have with her brother when they were younger.

What made you select the script?

What's so lovely about Peter's (Bowker) writing is it's not overstated. It's about the themes of family and love, and watching how peoples' lives can change so dramatically due to various circumstances. There is something so beautiful in that because his writing is through humour, which illustrates the fragility of some of the relationships. I think that's a lot more relatable for today's audience because they can just observe these characters as normal people with normal relationships.

Peter described it as honouring ordinary people who did quite remarkable things at an extraordinary time in the history. Is that something that

resonates with you?

The characters don't seem to be complicated. They don't notice their own resilience because they're in the circumstances and they have to get on with things. Individually, they all do their bit in a different way and don't consider themselves to be heroes. For people of my generation, it would be quite easy to separate ourselves from that time, however, when you watch Peter's characters come to life, you can actually recognise yourself in them because they're just everyday people living their lives. They confront adversity with grit, humour and that sense of having to work through things to get to the other side. Just like we do today.

Tell us a bit about Lois and Harry's relationship and where they are when the story begins?

When the story starts, Lois and Harry are in this fiery, passionate and innocent relationship. Peter explained to Jonah and I that the pre-context to the story is that they have maybe



met at a political rally. They come from drastically different backgrounds. However, they share this passion for politics that draws them to each other and Lois encourages his rebellious streak.

How was it working with Jonah Hauer-King?

It was such an amazing experience. He is a really warm and kind person. When we sat down for our first rehearsals together, he came to the table with so many ideas and we were able to create a backstory together. Peter (Bowker) was quite open with us and allowed us to almost create our own love story. It was so important getting that rehearsal time beforehand to build the right chemistry.

What is Lois's relationship like with Harry's mother, Robina (played by Lesley Manville)?

Lois' relationship with Robina is not an easy one because they come from such different walks of life. Robina looks down on Lois and doesn't think she is an appropriate match for her son. Whereas, Lois always sticks up for herself and doesn't really care what Robina thinks because she knows her own worth. She knows that the bond she has with Harry is a special one. So she doesn't let Robina take her down.

Harry has obviously kept his two worlds apart until Jan turns up. What happens at that point?

For Lois, the first few months of the war are obviously nerve-wracking. All of the characters are desperately trying to figure out what their life

is going to look like. Lois gets separated from Harry so she's lost. When Harry brings Jan back to Manchester, Lois starts to wonder why he has a small child in tow. There are little clues in some of the things that he's saying. She goes through all the scenarios in her head without wanting to grasp onto the worst one, which is the fact Harry might have found somebody else.

Did you have to learn many songs for filming?

I was so excited as I used to sing when I was younger. The songs are beautiful and I recognise them from my grandparents and the modern takes of them over the years. I started with a month of rehearsals working with the brilliant musical director, Matt Smith. To begin with, we spent time focussing on finding Lois' style and because I'd never sung jazz before, Matt was trying to teach me how to free up my voice and use decorations. Then we started tackling the songs and it has opened up a whole repertoire of music for me, which was really fun.

What is your favourite song?

My favourite song is *Dream A Little Dream*. The funny thing about that was when I auditioned, they asked me to sing a snippet of a song that I liked and I sang that one because my granny used to sing it to me when I was younger. She sang during the Second World War as a young girl and it was crazy and lovely that when I finally got the part and the script, in which I got to perform it.

Were any of your family a part of the Second World

War in any way?

Both set of my grandparents were present during the World War II. On my mother's side, my grandfather was in the Home Guard and he lived on a farm while my father's side, my grandfather was in Ireland. It's been incredible to get this job and have all these stories coming through from my grandparents from both sides. When I met Peter (Bowker) after I got the role, he showed me photographs of his family and the real life people that some of the characters are based on. It was such a wonderful feeling to think that some of these stories were coming to life. There will be so many people around the country who will be able to relate to the characters and remember stories from their families too.

Can you tell me a bit about Lois and Connie's friendship?

Peter told me that Lois and Connie are loosely based on his grandma and her best friend. It was really special to understand that this was a real friendship at the time, especially between a White woman and a Black woman. They're both so bubbly and a great support system to each other. Lois doesn't have many friends and Connie is the one person that can see right through her, she knows everything that's going through her head because she knows her so well. To see them working together in the factory, and then at night, transform and sing on stage, is very exciting. Yrsa Daley-Ward, who plays Connie, is just a wonderful person. I could really find a great friend in her.

What sort of conversations did you have about creating the look for Lois and what's it like wearing these beautiful costumes?

Our costume designer, Nic said all along that he wanted me to be comfortable in what I was wearing and to feel like I am the character. Adam Smith, our director, was also involved in the choices and it was so important that she had her two looks. It's simple and understated. At the time, fashion wasn't disposable and it wasn't cheap.

Women probably couldn't afford to have very many outfits. They'd maybe had three dresses and a few cardigans in their wardrobes. When she goes to see Robina and is trying to impress her, Lois wears a spotty two-piece. It's as if she's trying to fit in with Robina's surroundings and background. Her performance dress is the most beautiful emerald green tight ballgown and a chance for Lois to be sexy and embrace her elegance. She uses that as a tool on stage, especially when she's feeling more vulnerable. Nic made sure that we wore pieces from the 1930s, and they were all originals sourced from Paris. It was wonderful to wear real pieces from that time.

(The show streams on SonyLIV from August 14.)

PUBLIC NOTICE

CANCELLATION OF AGREEMENT
This Deed of cancellation of Agreement is executed at New Delhi on this 27th day of July 2020, by Mr. Govind Singh Bishr S/o Late Shri Kesar Singh R/o H.No. 1110, Sector-7, R.K. Puram, New Delhi at Present H.No. S-18/14, Shyam Vihar, Phase-II, Dindarpur, Najafgarh, New Delhi-110043 (Hereinafter called the executants/first party)
Whereas I had executed a Agreement in respect of Ground Floor of Built up Property Bearing Plot No. S-18/14 & 50% Roof Rights of Second Floor Land Measuring 84 Sq.Yds. out of Khosra No. 1042, Situated in The Revenue Estate of Village Dindarpur Delhi State Delhi Area Abadi Known As A-Block, Shyam Vihar, Phase II, Dindarpur, Najafgarh, New Delhi-110043, with free hold rights of the land under the said property and which is bounded as under:
East: Other's Plot
West: Road 18 Ft.
North: Plot No. S-18/13
South: Plot No. S-18/15
In favour of My Anita Rawat W/o Sh. Narendar Singh Rawat (D/o Sh. Govind Singh Bishr) R/o S-18/14, Shyam Vihar, Phase II, Dindarpur, Najafgarh, New Delhi-110043, duly attested by Notary Public, Delhi on 27.12.2015.
And whereas now I want to cancel and revoke the said Agreement executed by me in respect of the above said property in favour of the said beneficiary absolutely and forever.
B.P. Arya (Advocate)
Reg. No. 17652, Delhi

North Eastern Railway

Notification Notice C/434/JTBS/ PTRACHAR/IZN/2017 (This Notification is not for employment)

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, N.E. Railway Izatnagar Bareilly on behalf of President of India invites application for the selection and appointment of 1389 Nos. Jan Sadharan Ticket Booking Sevak (JTBS) location of 38 important serving stations over Izatnagar Division to issue computerized unreserved tickets only through UTS (Unreserved Ticket System).

Interested persons fulfilling the stipulated conditions may apply in the prescribed format. The Reservation criteria will be applicable as per extant rule. **Name of Work** : Allotment of JTBS at Railway stations. **Name of Stations (JTBS for which Applications are invited** :-

1. Farrukhabad 2. Kashipur 3. Pilibhit 4. Budaun 5. Kannauj 6. Kichha 7. Rudain 8. Bazzpur 9. Sikandra Rao 10. Kathgodam 11. Khatima 12. Rudrapur City 13. Fatehgarh 14. Ujhani 15. Haldwani 16. Izatnagar 17. Ramnagar 18. Baheri 19. Bhojipura 20. Soron 21. Daryaganj 22. Kalyanpur 23. Barrajpur 24. Hathras City 25. Mathura Cant. 26. Kayamganj 27. Kasganj 28. Patiyali 29. Lalkuan 30. Ganjdundwara 31. Bilhaur 32. Kamalganj 33. Bareilly City 34. Gursahaiganj 35. Roshanpur 36. Tanakpur 37. Sahawar Town 38. Rawatpur. **Period** : 3 years; **Tender Form Cost** : 500/- (Rs. Five Hundred only) for each station; **Earnest Money** : 5000/- (Rs. Five Thousand only) for each station. **1. Sale of application form** : From the office of Divisional Rail Manager (Commercial) N.E. Railway Izatnagar Bareilly in any working day between 10:00 to 16:00 pm till 28.08.2020 on payment of Application form fee which will be deposited in cash in booking office at Izatnagar station. **2. Applications submission date & time** : 25.08.2020 to 31.08.2020 up to 14.00 Hrs. **3. Applications Opening date & time** : 31.08.2020 at 15.30 Hrs. **4.** This application form & document is available on N.E. Railway & Government website www.ner.indianrailways.gov.in. The person who are interested to submit their applications from website he can download the documents and the cost of application form & Earnest money should be deposit necessarily with application form through Demand Draft issued by nationalized bank in favor of F.A. & C.A.O./N.E. Railway Izatnagar paid in Bareilly. The railway administration reserves the right to cancel the application without assigning any reason.

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager CPRO/Comm-18 N.E. Railway, Izatnagar

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PERFECTPAC LIMITED

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Phone No. 011-26441018. Website: www.perfectpac.com
Email: complianceofficer@perfectpac.com
CIN No.: L72100DL1972PLC005971

EXTRACT OF UN-AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED JUNE 30, 2020

PARTICULARS	(Rs. In lakhs) except EPS			
	Quarter Ended		Year Ended	
	30.06.2020 Unaudited	31.03.2020 Audited	30.06.2019 Unaudited	31.03.2020 Audited
Total Income from operations	620.77	1579.28	2216.08	7354.55
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax and Exceptional items)	(65.29)	4.12	143.92	361.08
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional items)	(65.29)	4.12	143.92	361.08
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional items)	(47.13)	3.26	103.63	260.86
Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(47.13)	0.89	103.63	258.49
Equity Share Capital	133.26	133.26	133.26	133.26
Earnings Per Share (Face Value of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) -				
1. Basic (Rs.)	(3.54)	0.24	7.78	19.58
2. Diluted (Rs.)	(3.54)	0.24	7.78	19.58

NOTES:

- The above unaudited financial results were, subjected to limited review by the Statutory Auditors of the Company, reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved and taken on record by the Board of Directors at its Meeting held on August 07, 2020.
- The above is an extract of the detailed format of Un-audited Financial Results for the quarter ended June 30, 2020, filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Un-audited Financial Results along with review report of the Statutory Auditors is available under the investor section of our website at www.perfectpac.com and on the website of the stock exchanges i.e. www.bseindia.com and www.cse-india.com

Place : New Delhi
Date : 07th August, 2020

For Perfectpac Limited
Sanjay Raigarh
(Managing Director)
DIN: 00154167



India to host 2021 T20 World Cup

Australia gets 2022; Women's 50-over WC now in 2022

PNS/PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India on Friday retained the right to host the 2021 T20 World Cup while Australia will conduct this year's postponed edition in 2022, the ICC announced on Friday after its board meeting, straightening out a schedule that went topsy-turvy due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

This year's edition had to be postponed because of the raging pandemic, which has severely impacted all sports calendars globally.

"The International Cricket Council (ICC) today (on Friday)

confirmed that the T20 World Cup 2020 that was postponed due to Covid-19 will be held in Australia in 2022. India will host the T20 World Cup 2021 as planned," the ICC stated in a press release.

The global body also confirmed that next year's women's ODI World Cup in New Zealand has been postponed until February-March 2022 because of the impact the pandemic has had on cricket globally.

ICC Chief Executive Manu Sawhney said: "We now have absolute clarity on the future of ICC events enabling all of our Members to focus on the resched-

uling of lost international and domestic cricket.

"We will now proceed as planned with the Men's T20 World Cup 2021 in India and host the 2022 edition in Australia."

The format of the 2021 T20 World Cup will remain as it was for 2020 and all teams that qualified for that event will now participate in India in 2021.

A new qualification process will be started for the 2022 edition in Australia.

"BCCI were never keen to host the 2022 event which would have meant that they had to host back to back ICC events including the

50-over World Cup in 2023. That wasn't a viable option," an ICC Board member told PTI.

However, it was a big setback for the women's game with the much-awaited World Cup being pushed by a year.

Sawhney said the decision would "give players from every competing nation, the best opportunity to be ready for the world's biggest stage and there is still a global qualifier to complete to decide the final three teams."

An ICC Board member said that due to various countries facing different situations with regards to the Covid case load, it would



New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and ICC Chief Executive Manu Sawhney pose with the Women's World Cup trophy. @cricketworldcup/Twitter

have been difficult to hold the qualifiers in time.

The postponement also raises doubts about the future of India legends such as Mithali Raj and Jhulan Goswami, who probably would have played their last ICC tournament in 2021.

The decisions were taken by the IBC (the commercial subsidiary of the ICC) following an extensive contingency planning exercise which took into account the health, cricket and commercial impact of Covid-19 around the world.

The format of the postponed World Cup will remain as it was for 2021. Five teams have already qualified for the event and that will stand for 2022.

The original global qualification event to determine the final three teams to contest the event was scheduled to be held in Sri Lanka in July this year, but was postponed due to Covid-19.

The qualification event will now be held in 2021.

"There has been no women's international cricket played since the conclusion of the women's T20 World Cup earlier this year and due to the varying impact of Covid-19 globally that is likely to remain the situation for a number of the teams," Sawhney spoke

Eng tour of India postponed until early 2021

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's white-ball series against England, scheduled at home in September-October, was on Friday postponed to early 2021 with both the boards citing the Covid-19 pandemic, which wrecked the international calendar and created space for the IPL during this window.

Both teams were scheduled to play three ODIs and as many T20s and the matches could now be held after the Test series between the two in India early next year.

The series was to be a preparatory one ahead of the T20 World Cup, which was originally scheduled from October 18 to November 5 in Australia, but has now been postponed.

"BCCI and ECB are in consultation with a view to confirming the 2021 schedules for an all-formats England men's tour to India to run from late January to late March and for India's Test tour to England due in the summer of 2021," the BCCI said in a statement.

BCCI secretary Jay Shah added: "The BCCI and ECB are working closely to finalise the day-wise schedule as we move towards the resumption of cricket."

The five-Test series to be hosted by India could be trimmed to four to accommodate the white-ball games next year.

about the impact of the pandemic.

"Moving the event by 12 months gives all competing teams the chance to play a sufficient level of cricket...So the integrity of the tournament is maintained."



Wolverhampton Wanderers' Conor Coady embraces Olympiakos' Omar Elabdellaoui after the Europa League match. AP

Wolves send Olympiacos packing

AFP ■ WOLVERHAMPTON

Wolves battled into the quarter-finals of the Europa League on Thursday while Sevilla, Bayer Leverkusen and Basel enjoyed far more comfortable victories in the matches that brought the Europa League round of 16 to a belated close.

Raul Jimenez scored the only goal from the penalty spot in the ninth minute and Wolves survived a series of scares to edge Olympiakos 1-0 at Molineux for a 2-1 aggregate win in a tie that began in Athens on March 13.

At Molineux, Bobby Allain, the visitors' Franco-Scottish goalkeeper, failed to control a back pass in the seventh minute.

Daniel Podence, who scored for Olympiakos at Tottenham in September but moved to Wolves in January, darted in and stole the ball.

Allain clumsily bundled his former clubmate over and Jimenez converted the penalty.

The Greek champions created a string of chances but were thwarted by good saves by Rui Patrício, a tight offside decision and their own inaccurate finishing.

Wolves, who began their Europa League campaign on July 25 last year against Crusaders in the second qualifying round, will next face Sevilla at Duisburg on August 11.

Sevilla were also in Duisburg on Thursday where they took the lead against Roma after 22 minutes. Captain and right back Jesus Navas switched play with a cross-field pass to left back Sergio Reguilón that caught Roma flat-footed.

Reguilón surged past two defenders and into the box before sliding a low shot past Spanish goalkeeper Pau Lopez's foot.

Sevilla added a second on the counter-attack in the 43rd minute.

Lucas Ocampos burst down the right and after Lopez failed to cut out the low cross, Youssef En-Nesyri finished into an empty net from close range.

Sevilla, coached by former Spain boss Julen Lopetegui, dominated as they stretched their unbeaten run to 18 games in all competitions and kept on course to add to their record five Europa League titles.

In Basel, defender Fabien Frei scored the only goal in the 88th minute as the home team won 1-0 to complete an aggregate 4-0 victory over Eintracht Frankfurt.

In Leverkusen, Moussa Diaby scored the only goal after 51 minutes to complete a comfortable victory for Bayer, who won 3-1 in Glasgow in March.

In the quarter-finals, Bayer will make the short trip to Dusseldorf to face Inter Milan on August 10, Basel will play Shakhtar Donetsk in Gelsenkirchen the next night.

Poms fightback in 1st Test

AP ■ MANCHESTER

Pakistan hold a lead of 244 with one wicket in hand at the end of what was a breathless day of Test cricket at Old Trafford on Friday.

England's bowlers managed to bring the hosts back into the game towards the end of the final session of Day 4 after their own batsmen were found wanting against a clinical performance from the Pakistani bowlers.

Pakistan's batsmen looked to keep a good flow of runs going but England kept chipping away at the visitors' batting lineup. It however looked like Pakistan could manage a lead of over 300 runs in during the fifth wicket partnership between Asad Shafiq and Mohammad Rizwan.

Shafiq was finally dismissed when Dom Sibley managed a direct hit from covers while the batsmen went for a quick single. Replays showed that Shafiq was not even in the frame when the ball hit the stumps.

The flow of runs however continued when Shadab Khan came to the crease and Root finally had to resort to calling on Ben Stokes who managed to whizz the ball past Rizwan's outside edge with the first delivery he bowled.

Stokes struck in his next over getting Rizwan out LBW with a delivery that nipped back into the right hander.

Broad then set up Shadab with consecutive short-pitched deliveries before sending in a full one that crashed into the batsman's knee roll. While the umpire did not raise his finger, England reviewed and



England batsman Chris Woakes, right, is bowled out by Pakistan's Yasir Shah during the third day of 1st Test at Old Trafford on Friday. AP

the replays showed that the ball would have taken the leg stump.

It left Yasir Shah to fetch as many runs as he could with the wobbly tail that Pakistan possess. Stokes struck again with the wicket of Shaheen Afridi and that delivery was also the last of the day.

Earlier, England was bowled out for 219, a 107-run first innings deficit, after losing six wickets to Pakistan's leg-spinners.

Ollie Pope's 62 was as good as it got for the England batsmen, with the majority of those runs scored on day two, with Yasir Shah claiming 4-66 and Shadab Khan taking the last two wickets.

England resumed the day on 92-4 with Pope and Jos Buttler hoping to continue the rescue mission they had started the previous evening.

The fifth-wicket stand crept up to 65, every run hard-earned, before Naseem produced a memorable delivery to claim his deserved reward.

Buttler had scrapped his way through to 38 but fell to his second ball after lunch, leaving a gap between bat and pad that allowed Yasir enough room to part the stumps.

The experienced spinner was buoyed by the success and made short work of Dom Bess, producing the turn and bounce that left Asad Shafiq with a diving catch at slip. He claimed his third wicket of the spell and fourth overall when Woakes lost his patience and his shape, bowled for 19 swinging hard to leg.

England were in turmoil at 170-8 but had Stuart Broad to thank for two tail-end stands that added 49 to the total.

Barca may need youth to get past Napoli

AP ■ BARCELONA

Barcelona coach Quique Setién says that he is ready to count on youngsters Ansu Fati and Riqui Puig to eliminate Napoli and advance to the Champions League final eight in Portugal.

Barcelona will be without midfielders Sergio Busquets, Arturo Vidal and Arthur for Saturday's second leg of their round-of-16 tie. The match will be played five months after the Spanish side earned a 1-1 draw at Naples.

"Both Rique and Ansu are ready to play," Setién said on Friday. "They have performed and played pretty well and could perfectly well start (against Napoli). And if they do start,

I am sure they will be guaranteed to play well."

The 20-year-old Puig has a good chance to earn his debut in Europe's top-tier club competition as Setién values Puig's passing and ball-control skills, which remind some Barca fans of Xavi Hernández and Andrés Iniesta, and rewarded him with a bigger role during the final stretch of the Spanish league.

Fati, 17, made a huge splash this season by becoming the youngest player to score in the La Liga and Champions League, among other precocious



scoring milestones.

With Lionel Messi and Luis Suárez set to start in attack, Fati could get picked over fellow forward Antoine Griezmann, who was cleared to play by team doctors on Friday after having recovered from a right thigh injury last month.

Clement Lenglet was also cleared by team doctors and will likely play with Gerard Pique in the center of the defense with Samuel Umtiti still injured.

With only 13 first-team players available, Setién has called up seven members of Barcelona's youth squad, including American Konrad de la Fuente.

Sindhu, Praneeth & Sikki resume training

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

World champion P V Sindhu, along with B Sai Praneeth and N Sikki Reddy, hit the courts for training on Friday under strict safety protocols at the SAI Pullela Gopichand Badminton Academy in Hyderabad, ending a four-month-long coronavirus-forced hiatus.

This was after the Sports Authority of India (SAI) decided to resume the national badminton camp for the eight Olympic hopefuls following Telangana Government's approval on August 1.

"I am very happy to have our elite shuttlers back for on-field training after this long break. We are fully equipped to resume training in a safe environment," Chief national coach



PV Sindhu poses for photograph after resuming practice

Pullela Gopichand said.

The eight Olympic hopefuls also include London Bronze-winner Saina Nehwal, former world No 1 Srikanth Kidambi, women's doubles player Ashwini Ponnappa and men's doubles pairing of Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj.

Saina, who is based in Hyderabad, didn't train on

Friday, while the others, who had gone to their respective homes in March, and are yet to return to the city.

On Friday, Sindhu was the first one to train with Gopi and foreign coach Park Tae-Sang separately.

"Sindhu trained today from 6:30am to 8:30am. Gopi and Park were also present. She will be training everyday at the same time this week. In the evening, she will have her fitness training at Suchitra academy for agility and endurance," the Rio Olympics Silver-medalist's father, P V Ramana told PTI.

"She has been training at home so physically she is in good shape but there are no tournaments till October, so she can afford to go easy, no point exerting too much. We have to

Chirag-Satwik to wait for 2 weeks before deciding on attending camp

NEW DELHI: Wary of the Covid-19 threat, Olympic hopefuls Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy will wait for another couple of weeks before deciding on joining the national camp, which resumed in Hyderabad on Friday.

The men's doubles pair is currently apart with Shetty at his home in Mumbai and Rankireddy lodged at his base in Amalapuram in Andhra Pradesh.

"It is great to hear that the training camp has resumed but we will have to wait for a couple of weeks before we take a

call on joining the camp," the 23-year-old Shetty told PTI.

Shetty said the coronavirus threat is real and he would not feel safe travelling at this point. Rankireddy is based closer to Hyderabad, which is just over 450km from his home town.

"Covid cases are still increasing everyday and our families are naturally a bit worried. Travelling during this time is not safe. Also I am not sure about the quarantine rules of Hyderabad, if we need to be in self-isolation for two weeks or more," Shetty said PTI

be careful." After Sindhu, Praneeth and

Sikki also trained at the academy from 8:30 to 10:30 am.

Svitolina, Bertens withdraw from US Open

AFP ■ NEW YORK

Elena Svitolina and Kiki Bertens, both ranked in the women's top 10, withdrew on Friday from the US Open, joining other senior players in pulling out because of concerns about coronavirus.

"Considering all aspects, I have decided not to play the US Open," Svitolina, a Ukrainian ranked number five, wrote on social media.

Bertens, a Dutchwoman ranked seventh, said on Instagram that she made her decision after a "long consideration." "The situation around Covid-19 is still so worrying that the health of everyone comes first and control of this virus is obviously a priority," Kiki said.

Svitolina said she did not want to risk travelling.



"I understand and respect all the efforts they are putting to make it happen in a safe environment, but I still don't feel comfortable to travel to the US without putting my team and myself at risk," wrote Svitolina, a semi-finalist at the US Open last year.

Bertens announced her decision after the Dutch

Murray, Clijsters get wild cards

WASHINGTON: Former champions Andy Murray and Kim Clijsters were on Thursday both handed wild cards for the US Open.

Former world No 1 Murray, currently ranked 129 after a lengthy period battling a hip injury, narrowly missed direct entry.

The 33-year-old won the first of his three Grand Slam titles at the 2012 US Open, becoming the first British male to win a major since Fred Perry in 1936.

Government tightened health measures on Thursday.

"Our prime minister also indicated yesterday that we should be quarantined for two weeks after coming back from the States," she said.

While Clijsters will be looking to repeat her magic from the 2009 US Open, when she famously won the women's singles title as a wild card after returning from an initial retirement, during which she became a mother.

The three-time US Open champion (2005, 2009-10), who came out of a more than seven-year retirement earlier in 2020, will be playing the US Open for the first time since she stepped away from the game following the 2012 tournament. AFP

"This would hinder the preparation for my beloved clay court tournaments in Rome and Paris," Bertens said, indicating that she could play at the French Open, which is due to start in Paris on September 27.

NSW offers to host 2021 Aus Open

SYDNEY: The Australian state of New South Wales (NSW) has offered to host the 2021 edition of the Australian Open along with other sporting events that are usually held in neighbouring Victoria.

The Australian Open is first of the four Grand Slams during the season and usually starts in late January. Victoria's capital Melbourne has been the host venue since 1972. However, the state is currently under a second lockdown and has nearly 8,000 active Covid-19 cases, while NSW has about 800.

"Some of these events down in Victoria are national events hosted in Victoria," NSW deputy premier John Barilaro told 2GB radio. "It's important for the economy, important for the Australian psyche when it comes to sport."

"Absolutely we should be able to work with Victorians to find ways to make sure these all happen, these events are far too important in this crisis to not have."

Manpreet, 4 other players test corona +ve

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian men's hockey team captain Manpreet Singh and four other players have tested positive for Covid-19 but the national camp will resume in Bengaluru as scheduled with those who are fit to train, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) said on Friday.

Besides Manpreet, defender Surender Kumar, Jaskaran Singh, drag-flicker Varun Kumar and goalkeeper Krishan Bahadur Pathak have also tested positive for the dreaded virus.

The players tested positive after returning to the national hockey camp at the SAI South Centre in Bengaluru following a month-long break.

A SAI source, however, said that the camp will resume from August 20 as planned



with the fit players.

"As of now the camp is on and will resume as planned. The fit players can start their individual training and the players who have tested positive for Covid can resume later after recovering but they will have to pass a fitness test," the source said.

According to the SAI

source all the players who have tested positive were part of a 10-member group who have travelled together and there are chances of more positive results come out.

"Don't be surprised if some more positive results come out," the SAI source told PTI.

"Since all the athletes who tested positive have travelled together, there is a high likelihood that they contracted the virus while travelling from their hometowns to Bengaluru."

The SAI further said that all the five players initially tested negative in the rapid test. But when Manpreet and Surender began to show some Covid-19 symptoms, they along with 10 other players, who had travelled together, were made to undergo the Quantitative RT-PCR test on Thursday.