

WORLD 7

HK, CHINESE OFFICIALS
JEER AT US SANCTIONS

MONEY 8

SAUDI STOPS SUPPLY OF OIL ON DEFERRED
PAYMENTS TO PAK AFTER DEAL EXPIRES

SPORT 10

REAL, JUVE CRASH OUT
OF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE



sunday pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

NEW DELHI, SUNDAY AUGUST 9, 2020; PAGES 12-4 ₹4



USUAL SUSPECTS
SWAPAN DASGUPTA

Temple movement unmasked Cong

Some three decades ago, beginning with LK Advani's Somnath to Ayodhya rath yatra in 1990, the slogan "mandir wahin banayenge" had provoked sharp divisions, even within Hindus. Why, it was repeatedly asked, was it necessary to build a Ram temple by displacing an old Moghul structure, even if it was indeed functioning as a Ram temple? The overall reaction to the bhoomi puja on August 5, attended by the Prime Minister, indicated that, with the passage of time and the evolution of politics, these misgivings had substantially evaporated. The social and political reactions to the inauguration of temple construction at the once disputed site pointed to a spectacular level of Hindu unity. The manner in which the media competed among themselves to give the best coverage of the puja in Ayodhya was revealing. It suggested that the construction of the Ram Janmabhoomi temple had become a part of the national common sense. Lord Ram, it seemed, had finally come home to a truly independent India. The sovereignty that had been lost for over a thousand years had been fully reclaimed.

At the time of the demolition of the 16th century shrine in 1992, the Establishment, including the judiciary, had united in rubbing the kar sevaks who had taken the law into their own hands. The RSS was briefly banned and innumerable restrictions were put in the path of the normal functioning of the BJP. Supporters of the mandir movement was harassed. Last week, there were few protests. Some intellectuals lamented what they perceived as the legitimisation of a criminal act. Others despaired of the assault on secularism involved in the presence of the Prime Minister in a purely religious occasion. However, apart from the Left, almost all the non-BJP parties tried to ensure that they weren't perceived as being anti-Ram. Their only refrain was that Ram belongs to everyone and not merely the BJP. The co-optation of the Indian Establishment into the Ram temple project had a great deal to do with the Supreme Court's judgment in a case that had dragged on for nearly seven decades, if not from 1885. Earlier, political leaders opposed to the temple were inclined to put the ball in the legal arena because they lacked the resolve to take the final call. The courts in turn were inclined to prevaricate, knowing fully well that the issue was more political than a mere property dispute. While the BJP had quite clearly committed itself to the Ram Janmabhoomi cause as early as 1989, a party such as the Congress dithered between making Hindus happy and displeasing the Muslim community. At various times in the past, Congress governments had attempted to be too clever — Rajiv Gandhi's conduct being an example — or allowed events to take their own course — as PV Narasimha Rao did on the day of the demolition. However, when confronted by the BJP's aggressive stand, it tried to skirt the issue with characteristic evasiveness, but without a happy outcome. The hard secularism that many intellectuals favoured was never considered a viable option by political parties with a mass base. At best, they preferred prevarication, hoping the issue would go away.

The unhappy position of the Congress is worth dissecting. Beginning from the freedom movement till the mid-1980s, the Congress was the natural party of the Hindus. Without necessarily embracing Hindu nationalism and despite the excessive secularist zeal of Nehru, it occupied the middle ground of the Hindu consensus. However, the Ram Janmabhoomi movement triggered the breakdown of the Congress consensus among Hindu voters. Beginning from the freedom movement till the mid-1980s, the Congress was the natural party of the Hindus. Without necessarily embracing Hindu nationalism and despite the excessive secularist zeal of Jawaharlal Nehru, it occupied the middle ground of the Hindu consensus. It was this position that in turn allowed it to secure the support of the Muslim community leaders, particularly the more conservative elements who were happy by the party's non-intrusive approach to Muslim personal laws. Indira Gandhi displayed a markedly pro-Hindu tilt from 1980 to 1983 but as far as Muslims were concerned, this was offset by her unrelenting opposition to the bigger enemy, the BJP.

The Ram Janmabhoomi movement triggered the breakdown of the Congress consensus among Hindu voters. The highly emotional mobilisation around the Ram temple that began in 1988-89 had a far greater impact among Hindu voters than the Congress realised. The reversal of the Shah Bano judgment by the Rajiv Gandhi, the rise in Muslim fundamentalism globally after the beginning of the war in Afghanistan and the revolution in Iran in 1980 and, finally, the spate of communal riots in the 1980s provided the context for the growing appeal of Hindu nationalism. Between the election of 1989 and 1991, the Congress lost the support of Hindus in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh and it has never been able to recover from that loss. Today, despite Rahul Gandhi's frenzied temple visits and his pathetic attempts at reinventing himself as a committed Hindu, the Congress is no longer seen as the natural home of all middle-of-the-road Hindus. Its position as India's default party has been erased after the two defeats in 2014 and 2019. It has become marginal to the explosion of Hindu pride that followed the advent of Modi.

In January 1993, barely a month after the demolition of the Babri shrine and in the highly charged mood of the times, Girilal Jain — once a pillar of the Congress Establishment who had moved over to the side of Hindu nationalism — wrote: "The structure as it stood, represented an impasse between what Babur represented and what Ram represents. This ambiguity has been characteristic of the Indian state since Independence. In fact, in my opinion, no structure symbolised the Indian political order in its ambivalence, ambiguity, indecisiveness and lack of purpose, as this structure. The removal of the structure has ended the impasse and marks a new beginning."

Jain's observations were very prescient. The coming years will determine the shape of the new beginning.

AI crash probe on amid speculation

On short runway charge, Puri says all issues raised in the past have been addressed

KUMAR CHELLAAPPAN/PNS ■ KOCH/NEW DELHI

The Director-General of Civil Aviation has commenced the enquiry into the crash landing of the Air India Express Flight IX1344 from Dubai at Karipur on Friday night, said Union Civil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Saturday at Kozhikode.

The disaster at Kozhikode airport claimed the lives of 18 persons, including the pilot and co-pilot, of the ill-fated Boeing 737 aircraft, said the Minister while addressing the media.

"As many as 149 passengers are undergoing treatment in various hospitals in Kozhikode and Malappuram districts. 23 persons who had minor injuries were discharged after treatment," said the Minister.

Except for the pilot and co-pilot, all those who lost their lives were from Kozhikode, Malappuram, and Palakkad districts of Kerala.

Minister Puri flew down to Kozhikode on Saturday to take stock of the situation and held meetings with the officials of



Union Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri inspects the crash site of an Air India Express flight at Karipur in Kozhikode

the airport, DGCA and Air India before he met the media. He said a major disaster could be averted because of the instant search and rescue actions initiated by all concerned at the airport.

"The Black Box and the Flight Data Recorder have been retrieved and we have to wait till the probe is on. I request you all not to speculate on anything. What I could say right now is that the aircraft overshot the runway and fell down from a height of 30 ft. The casualties could be restricted only because of the search and rescue mission which commenced within minutes and that too in an exemplary manner," said Puri.

On the reduced length of the runway in Kozhikode airport, the Minister said all issues which were raised in the past had been addressed.

The Kozhikode airport has a tabletop runway, which refers to one located on the top of a plateau or hill with one or both ends adjacent to a steep elevation that drops into a deep gorge. Several international airlines had decided not to fly big aircrafts including Boeing 777 and Airbus A330 jets into Kozhikode citing safety issues over the length on the runway.

AGAINST BACKDROP OF KOZHIKODE CRASH, PATNA AIRPORT CRIES FOR ATTENTION

Patna: The tragic air crash at Kozhikode, in which at least 18 people were killed, has triggered fresh hopes that the spotlight would be back on "risky" airports like the one here which suffers from many deficiencies and has seen one of the major plane accidents in the country's history two decades back. The Jaiprakash Narayan International Airport, reckoned among the 20 busiest ones across the country, had hit the headlines on July 17, 2000 when more than 60 people were killed when a Delhi-bound Boeing 737 from Kolkata ploughed through a residential locality.

Parleys to defuse LAC crisis yield no results again

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India and China held yet another round of military-level talks on Saturday to defuse the situation on the Line of Actual Control (LAC), but nothing concrete came out of the deliberations.

Major General level officers of the two sides held a detailed discussion to expedite disengagement from all the friction points, including Depsang valley.

The talks, which began at 11 am at Daulat Beg Oldie (DBO), also saw the two countries agreeing to sustain the tempo of dialogue and reiterated their commitment to withdraw and de-escalate.

Sources said the two senior military officers also touched upon the other friction points, including Pangong Tso, Gogra, and Hot Springs. While the Chinese have withdrawn their forces from Hot Springs and Gogra, they are reluctant to do so in the Pangong Tso.

In fact, the first stand-off started from here on May 5 when the Chinese intruded and blocked an Indian Army patrol. It led to the exchange of fisticuffs and several men from both sides were injured.

India has maintained that complete disengagement from all the "friction points" is of utmost importance. It has also insisted that the Chinese forces have to return to their positions as existing before May 5.

Officers to meet again next week to review the progress made



The two officers will meet again next week to review the progress made. The Indian side was led by chief of 3 Mountain Division Major General Abhijit Bapat.

Incidentally, the last round of talks was held on August 2 between the Corps Commanders of the two armies without any significant improvement in the situation on the ground. The Chinese continue to sit tight at the Pangong Tso (lake) and in the Depsang Valley, sources said here on Saturday.

Rajasthan BJP fears poaching by Cong, herds MLAs to safety

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/JAIPUR

In the run up to the crucial Assembly session in Rajasthan next week, the BJP too is now said to have started herding its MLAs, mostly from the tribal areas, fearing "poaching" by the Congress whose legislators have already been taken to Jaipur from Jaipur.

The BJP has decided to shift 12 of its Rajasthan MLAs to a resort on the outskirts of Ahmedabad and six others to another resort in Porbandar.

This even as six BSP MLAs moved the Supreme Court on Saturday seeking a transfer from Rajasthan High Court to it the matter pertaining to their merger with the Congress in the State.

The BSP as well as the BJP have challenged their merger.



A Single-judge Bench of the High Court is likely to pronounce its judgment on the decision on their merger with the Congress on August 11. State BJP president Satish Poonia said his party has information that the Congress was approaching BJP legislators in the Udaipur division through administrative officers and other influential people of the area. "So we decided that they

should all be at one place where they can be protected," Poonia maintained.

BJP leaders said they have evidence that the Congress was trying to lure its legislators, especially in the tribal belt of Mewar in southern Rajasthan. Some MLAs have been sent to Gujarat.

State Congress president Govind Singh Dotasra, however, denied the BJP's allegation even as he ruled out any threat to the existence of the Ashok Gehlot Government.

"We have alerted our MLAs and told them to be together," Leader of Opposition Gulab Chand Kataria said asserting that since the Gehlot Government is set to fall, the Congress is approaching BJP legislators for support.

Turn to Page 4

Maha to oppose Centre's move to transfer Sushant case to CBI

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra Home Minister Amit Deshmukh said here on Saturday that while his Government would oppose the Centre's decision to hand over the investigations into actor Sushant Singh Rajput's alleged suicide on the grounds of jurisdiction, but it would abide by the impending Supreme Court in a case in connection with Sushant's "suspicious death".

Talking to media persons here, Deshmukh said: "The Mumbai Police is investigating the case very professionally... The Supreme Court's hearing is scheduled for August 11. We will abide by what the apex court says".

The CBI has registered an FIR based on the one on the basis of an FIR registered at the

Rhea shares Rajput's hand-written note of gratitude to her family



Rajiv Nagar police station in Patna. Meanwhile, a day after she was grilled by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for alleged money laundering in Sushant Singh Rajput case, his girlfriend and actress Rhea Chakraborty

on Saturday shared a picture of a note which she claims was written by the late actor expressing his gratitude for certain things in his life.

Chakraborty (28) also shared through her advocate Satish Maneshinde a photograph of a water sipper, which is a piece of movie merchandise from Rajput's 2019 film "Chhichhore".

"The only property of Sushant that I possess," she said in a message sent along with the photo to the media.

The other picture shows a page of a notebook titled "Gratitude List" with seven serial numbers.

Turn to Page 4

13 dists with soaring Covid fatality remain big concern: Centre

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Alarmed by reports that Covid-19 patients were dying within 48 hours of being admitted in health centres in some parts of the States such as UP, Kerala and Bihar, the Centre on Saturday asked the respective State Governments to ensure timely referral and hospitalisation of people infected with the deadly virus.

Deaths due to Covid-19 in India has crossed 42,000 while over 21 lakhs people have been infected so far.

The Union Health Ministry pointed out that 13 districts in eight States and Union Territories are reporting Covid-19 mortality higher than the national average and advised them to address the issues of low testing and delay in test results, and ensure time-

Govt asks States to speed up more testing, ensure hospitalisation

ly hospitalisation. These are Kamrup Metro in Assam, Patna in Bihar, Ranchi in Jharkhand, Alappuzha and Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala, Ganjam in Odisha, Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh, North 24 Paraganas, Hooghly, Howrah, Kolkata and Maldah in West Bengal, and Delhi.

These districts account for nearly nine per cent of India's active cases and about 14 per cent of Covid-19 deaths. They also report low tests per million and high confirmation percentage.

Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL CASES: 21,52,020

DEATHS: 43,453

RECOVERED: 14,79,804

ACTIVE: 14,79,804



STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	5,03,084	17,367	3,38,362
Tamil Nadu	2,90,907	4,808	2,32,618
Andhra Pradesh	2,17,040	1,939	1,29,615
Karnataka	1,72,102	3,091	89,238
Delhi	1,44,127	4,098	1,29,362
Uttar Pradesh	1,18,038	2,028	69,833
West Bengal	92,615	2,005	65,124
Telangana	77,513	615	54,330
Bihar	75,786	419	48,673
Gujarat	69,986	2,627	52,927
Assam	57,715	140	40,592
Rajasthan	51,328	778	37,163
Odisha	44,193	307	30,242
Haryana	40,843	474	34,031
Madhya Pradesh	38,157	977	28,353
Kerala	33,120	107	20,862

Centre asks States to test grocery shop workers, vendors; says they can be potential spreaders

New Delhi: Expressing concern that grocery shops, vegetable and other vendors can be potential spreaders of coronavirus infection to a large number of people, the Union Health Ministry has advised States and UTs to take up testing of such people to ensure early detection of cases which can lead to reduction in mortality rate.

Noida gets 400-bed dedicated Covid hospital, Yogi reviews facilities

Noida: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday inaugurated a dedicated 400-bed Government hospital for Covid-19 patients in Noida. The facility is located in Sector 39 of the city and has come up in association with the Tata Trusts and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, according to officials.

CAPSULE

CHINA WANTS TRUMP TO LOSE ELECTION: US INTEL
Washington: China has boosted its efforts to influence the US presidential election in November and wants President Donald Trump to lose because it sees him as "unpredictable," a top US intelligence official said Friday. "We assess that China prefers that President Trump — whom Beijing sees as unpredictable — does not win reelection," said William Evanina, director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center.

PM LAUNCHES DRIVE TO FREE INDIA OF GARBAGE
New Delhi: Prime Narendra Modi on Saturday launched a week-long garbage-free India campaign in the run up to Independence Day.

BSF KILLS PAK INTRUDER ALONG IB IN BARMER
New Delhi: A Pakistani infiltrator was killed by the Border Security Force (BSF) on Saturday along the India-Pakistan International Border in Rajasthan's Barmer while trying to sneak in.

HOME THEATRE

Must take this Pareeksha



PAREEKSHA
Zee5
*ing: Adil Hussain, Sanjay Suri, Priyanka Bose, Shubham Jha
Rated: 6.5/10

This is not the first time that a film has been made that talks about the disparity that exists between the haves and the have-nots when it comes to education in our country. Nor is it the first time the writer-director has made a movie on the subject. Remember *Aarakshan*, back in 2011? While *Pareeksha* is not in the similar vein, it takes you on a journey of a father's, a rickshaw-puller, desire to ensure that his son gets the best education. "It is the only way to get out of this hell" he tells his son. For this he is willing to do anything — even take to thieving.

Jha doesn't make any excuses for what the father, played by Adil Hussain, did just tells you that our education system is such that while it offers opportunities for the rich, there are none for those who are less privileged. "Every child has the calibre, it is the hunger to better one's life is where the difference lies" is an apt dialogue.

The film, inspired by a story shared with Jha where a cop would take time from his duties to teach a bunch of underprivileged, but talented kids. Some of the kids were so intelligent that they qualified for engineering colleges, and had Jha's stamp all over in the one hour 42 minutes of some great performances by Adil Hussain.

Hussain, as Bucchi the rickshaw-puller, is brilliant. His emotions are raw and makes you find a connection with the father who wants the best for his child even if he takes the wrong route and has to pay a heavy price for the same.

There are so many heart-wrenching moments that will tear one up. One where Bucchi breaks down in front of the policeman begging him to not tell his son what he has done, another how a rich father doesn't approve of Bucchi's son sitting on the seat in the rickshaw and gets angry.

Despite the predictability in the film, the intent of *Pareeksha* is in the right place, A movie that makes for a must see.

— Shalini Saksena

Story of revenge and justice

SCOTLAND
ShemarooMe Box Office
*ing: Adam Saini, Khushboo Purohit, Chetan Pandit, Manish Vatsalya, Daya Shankar Pandey
Rated: 5.5/10

Revenge is a dish best served cold. This is the premise of *Scotland*, a movie that is part in English and part in Hindi. The movie is about a father who looks for justice for his daughter who is sexually assaulted by four men. Nothing unusual here. However, this one comes with a bit of a twist.

The father is a well-known doctor. For a doctor to turn killer, that too in cold blood, is a kicker. The story is simple enough and there are no other twists and turns. In the first half hour, one comes to know how the story is going to unfold. The question that this film asks here is whether it is correct to take the law in one's hand and serve justice? It makes you think — is it right to walk the dark side when the system fails to get you the justice you want? It is a question of morality versus ethics.

Adam Saini, who is also the story writer, plays



the doctor. It is interesting to see him plot revenge without having any remorse while killing. While he appears to be a little stiff in delivering dialogues, his poker face — I don't know what you talking about — was well-mastered.

Director Manish Vatsalya, who also plays the ACP, manages to keep one engrossed even though the plot is out right at the beginning. He keeps you glued for two hours and one minute with only one thing — does the doctor get away?

— Shalini Saksena

Fun to watch

WORK IT
Netflix
*ing: Sabrina Carpenter, Jordan Fisher, Keiynan Lonsdale
Rated: 5.5/10

If you are looking for a movie that is funny, has great dances and some great music *Work It* is just the right film to watch. Though this is not the best dance movie, there have been others like *Grease*, *Dirty Dancing* and *Flash Dance* still, given this past year, one would say that this one will help beat the blues with its peppy numbers and some awesome moves especially those by the physically challenged. Who said you need two good legs to dance? It is definitely not stopping these guys from following their passion.

That is what *Work It* is about, a girl who has two left feet suddenly finds herself in a position where she needs to learn how to dance or lose a chance of getting into a college her father went to. From there on, the movie takes you on a roller coaster ride where the characters and the situations are relatable. This is what makes this film so likeable despite their being nothing new in terms of the storyline which has been played out a thousand times.

It is the chemistry between two friends who have



known each other since they were in kindergarten, it is the wild side of Liza Koshy that makes you smile, it is the go get attitude of Sabrina Carpenter that makes you think that sometimes it is good to be creative and take risks.

Overall, a sweet and cute movie to watch if you love dancing.

— Shalini Saksena

TELLY TALE

FRIENDSHIP ABOVE ALL

There are plenty of times when unknown actors become friends while working together. This bond is faster and easier to build when actors have something common between them, be it either hailing from the same city or having known friends. However, the case of Alan Kapoor (Angad) and Aparna Dixit (Srishti) is a bit unique. While both the leads of *Pyar Ki Luka Chuppi* belong to Agra, the duo were not aware about having common family friends until discovering them recently while having a conversation.



Talking about discovering commonalities and his friendship with Aparna, Alan Kapoor says: "Aparna is a very sweet and genuine girl. While chatting we realised we belong to the same home town and have a lot of common friends. We also bond over common things and conversation. We are family friends and our parents have some common friends too. Now that we are co-actors, it feels great. Our chemistry on screen is a pure reflection of our friendship"

On realising common connections with Alan, Aparna Dixit says: "So Alan and I recently discovered that we have a lot of mutual friends through our families. We have a lot of common connections that we initially didn't know before we started shooting together. We were almost unaware about these connections until now. Now that we have bonded, we talk about a lot of common things. Since we belong to the same city, we end up talking about places and these conversations have created a natural bond. Also, both of us weren't able to visit Agra due to the lockdown. So, now whenever we get a chance, we will plan a trip together to Agra and visit our homes."

INDIAN TV PREMIERE OF THE LODGE

Repent and all your sins will be forgiven! Directed by Veronika Franz and Severin Fiala, comes an extreme psychological thriller that will make you think that everything is fine up until the moment you realise it's all an illusion. The lingering fear that wraps you in cold chills usually stems from the sins of your past and can invariably make you see and hear things that are just a figment of your imagination. The *Lodge* laden with mystery, paranoia and a deranged past about a suicide cult will be having its Indian Television Premiere this

Sunday, August 9 on Zee Café at 2 pm, &flix at 1 pm and 9 pm and &PrivéHD at 3 pm. Starring Riley Keough, Jaeden Martell, Lia McHugh and Richard Armitage, the movie about your past meeting your present in an intertwined fate makes for a must watch cold blooded psychotic horror.

Escaping from an unsettling past, Grace Marshall (Riley Keough) who is a step-mother to Aidan (Jaeden Martell) and young Mia (Lia McHugh) decides to spend Christmas in the cold eerie isolated family lodge where she hopes to reconcile with her step kids. Unbeknownst to her, the lodge holds a secret that reveals to the kids the horrors that Grace and her father, a leader of a suicide cult were a part of. As things get out of hand, Grace loses a bit of her sanity when she realises that she is playing a pawn in one of her own mind games and faces an existential crisis that she must get out of by purging herself of her own guilt.

The *Lodge* drives a wedge in the plot that makes the audiences question the very fabric of reality in this nerve wrecking premiere.

AMRUTA ALL PRAISE FOR RUTUJA

Sony Entertainment Television's popular show *India's Best Dancer* is creating the right buzz with its newness in content and phenomenal acts by contestants who are battling amongst themselves to win the coveted trophy. These top 11 contestants, along with their choreographers are reviewed by the terrific trio on the judges' panel — Geeta Kapur, Malaika Arora and Terence Lewis. This weekend, *India's Best Dancer* will welcome a special guest who has carved a niche for himself in the dance domain, and



he is none other than Dharmesh.

While mentor Geeta Ma and her protégé Dharmesh reunite on the show, there's another special guest who conveyed her sweet wishes to a contestant. Contestant Rutuja Junnarkar with choreographer Ashish Patil give their best to entertain the judges with their interesting and unique acts. After their performance on *Mayya Mayya*, the judges appreciated their act and even gave Rutuja a special surprise.

Actor Amruta Khanvilkar who is also a well-known Lavni dancer, sang praises of both Ashish and Rutuja for showcasing the beautiful dance form, Lavni, in their acts. She conveyed this through a special video message. Amruta mentioned: "I have seen

Rutuja's performances. She also hails from my hometown, Pune. I just want to say that not only people from Maharashtra but the whole nation is rooting for you and your talent. You are winning people's hearts with your talent, expressions and amazing performances. I feel proud of Ashish and Rutuja, as you'll have presented Maharashtra's folk dance, Lavni, so beautifully on such a huge platform. I wish you both luck and keep giving brilliant performances."

After listening to Amruta's message, Rutuja and Ashish were quite happy and further encouraged on choosing Lavni as their dance form.

ALADDIN CURSED AGAIN

On the hunt for the pieces of Mallika's (Debina Bonnerjee) *khanjar* (knife), Aladdin (Siddharth Nigam) has reached a new world. Sony SAB's *Aladdin: Naam Toh Suna Hoga* has taken another shocking turn as Princess Tamanna (Aradhna Sharma), the guardian of the second piece of Khanjar, turns Aladdin into a cat. The viewers should gear up for the nail-biting twists and turn as things are about to get a lot more challenging and mystical in the show.

After gloriously acquiring the first piece of Mallika's *khanjar*, Aladdin and team head towards their next destination which is towards Princess Tamanna and her mystical palace. Aladdin after reaching the palace witnesses a cat sitting on the throne which suddenly converts into a beautiful princess. Learning that Princess Tamanna is the key to find the next piece of the Khanjar, Aladdin asks her for help but in a fit of rage, Tamanna converts Aladdin into a cat.

On the other hand, Yasmine (Ashi Singh) and Faraz (Amir Dalvi) start worrying about Aladdin as he does not return and later find out that Tamanna has converted him into a cat. Aladdin directs Yasmine towards a portal where they come across some more people in cat form and have been Tamanna's victim.

Aladdin and Yasmine learn that the next part of *khanjar* is in a portal which only a human can cross. Yasmine is in a fix, as in order to turn Aladdin in his human form, someone else will need to sacrifice themselves and convert into a cat.

How will Yasmine help Aladdin? Will Yasmine sacrifice herself?

Siddharth Nigam, essaying the role of Aladdin said: "It was a unique experience while shooting for the upcoming episodes. We shot with a real cat for these episodes and I must say it is a challenging task. My character Aladdin is facing extreme challenges that he has never faced before. The episodes further will bring Aladdin and Yasmine into a place, where Yasmine will be required to make a tough choice to get Aladdin back into his original form. They all are racing against time and it will be interesting for our viewers to watch as to what decision Sultana Yasmine takes to save Aladdin."

Harbheji is here to add more drama

MUSHA HASHMI chats up Tu Mera Hero fame MADHURI SANJEEV about her role in &TV's *Gudiya Humari Sabhi Pe Bhari*, challenges of being a new entry in the show and her life experiences

She is sweet, charming and bewitching, somewhat opposite to her onscreen character, Uma Devi aka Harbheji in &TV's *Gudiya Humari Sabhi Pe Bhari*. Meet Madhuri Sanjeev, who has enthralled the audience all these years with her stupendous acting skill.

Dressed in a vibrant colourful *saree* with a *bindi* dazzling on her forehead, Sanjeev will prove to be a sure shot entertainer in the show.

"I play Harbheji. She belongs to a family of dacoits and was forcefully married off at a very young age. Hence, she was never able to get along well with her husband. After her sister-in-law passed away, she took the responsibility of her son and is like a mother figure to him. She has two kids of her own — an overweight daughter and a mentally challenged son. She fears that her children won't get their due in the property so she tries to convince her sister-in-law's son that he can't marry anyone and he is a *brahmachari*. I won't call it a negative character but there are shades of grey to it. She is a kind hearted woman, but for the sake of her children she does all this. To cut it short, the character is very real and more often than not we all have come across such people in our lives so it is exciting to play such a character," Sanjeev tells you.

Taking over a show when it is already running for a while and make a place for your character in the hearts of the audience is definitely not everyone's cup of tea. "When you enter an already established show, it does require a lot of hard work and dedication. Making people love a new entry is challenging, more so when your character has shades of grey. It comes with a lot of apprehensions too, but that is exactly the job of an actor and you have to live up to it. I am doing my best to look different from the other characters," Sanjeev, who debuted with *Nukkad* in 1987, explains.

Acting, she says, is not an easy job, however it is a very prestigious one. One gets to live a lot of different characters in life. "When you play a character, at a certain point of time, you have to start behaving like it. You have to start thinking in a way in which your character thinks. It is just overwhelming," she tells you. Acting is more than just enacting somebody, she adds.

"Whenever we have enacted an intense or emotional scene, it does take us sometime to get out of that zone even after the director calls it cut. Our directors and producers too, understand the fact and try



and shoot lighter scenes later that day —that are not emotionally exhausting. Sometimes when a scene is too heavy or emotionally demanding, it takes us hours to get back to normal," Sanjeev tells you.

Sanjeev's association with TV is not less than 33 years old and till date she has enjoyed every bit of her career.

"My husband was the reason behind my acting career. He, being a director himself, always supported my dreams of being an actor. Just like my character Harbheji, I too was married off at a young age. And fortunately because of such a supporting husband, I was able to become a part of the industry," she asserts.

In all these years of career, Sanjeev has seen a massive change in how the industry works. "Back then, serials would work on a director's name. Also directors used to call us to offer roles. And I have been fortunate enough to have worked with some of the best directors like Sudhir Mishra and Ravi Ojha to name a few. There were no auditions. We had very good equation with our directors. Now, directors are changed every 15 days, so we don't get enough time to bond well with each other. But now, we are learning to change with time," she tells you.

When you enter an already established show, it does require a lot of hard work and dedication. Making people love a new entry is challenging, more so when your character has shades of grey. It comes with a lot of apprehensions too, but that is exactly the job of an actor

Commercialisation, she says, has taken over the industry now. "Things were far more real back then. But now things have become commercial. Simplicity is lost. Good and real stories are no longer a part of TV. I have a question for all the makers and producers of TV shows that in real life which *saas-bahu* lives like this? We should focus on showing our culture and tradition more, for which we are known worldwide. But, may be this is the new normal," she says.

CM paves ways to make Delhi preferred spot for startups

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday convened a meeting with a panel of industry leaders and young entrepreneurs to kick start the consultation process for Delhi's new policy for startups and discuss ideas to develop Delhi as a leading choice for startups.

The objective of the draft policy is to support entrepreneurs and build a robust economic and policy infrastructure that will create new jobs

and bring new competitive dynamics into the current economic system.

The startup policy consultation will be conducted in two stages. Firstly, in the spirit of the Delhi model of teamwork, the Delhi Government invited industry leaders, entrepreneurs, and policy experts from various sectors to provide inputs in drafting the new startup policy, the government said in a statement issued on Saturday.

"Prominent business lead-



ers and entrepreneurs expressed interest and joined hands with the Delhi govern-

ment in this initiative," it said, adding that the industry leaders who joined today's meeting includes pioneers like Ajai Chowdhry (Co-founder, HCL), Rajan Anandan (MD Sequoia Capital), Padmaja Ruparel (Co-founder, Indian Angel Network) and young leaders like Sriharsha Majety (Co-founder and CEO, Swiggy), Farid Ahsan (Co-founder, ShareChat), Suchita Salwan (Founder and CEO, Little Black Book), Tarun Bhalla (Founder, Avishkaar), Riyaaz Amlani,

CEO & MD, Impresario Handmade Restaurants etc.

Following this, the Delhi government will soon release a draft Startup Policy and launch an online forum to seek inputs from the general public on the start-up policy.

"This will give the startup policy a fresh perspective and in the true spirit of the Delhi Model, cement Delhi government's commitment to delivering results through teamwork and unity," it added.

Referring to a report from

TIE from September 2019, the Hon'ble Chief Minister highlighted that with over 7000 start-ups from the region, Delhi has the highest number of active start-ups in the country and now the valuation of the city's start-ups is about \$50 billion.

"The report states that Delhi-NCR is set to become one of the top five global start-up hubs with 12,000 start-ups, 30 unicorns, and a cumulative valuation of about \$150 billion by 2025," it said.

Delhi being the national

capital is a hub of students, industries, and many prestigious institutions. In the last few years, the startup ecosystem here has amassed a plethora of opportunities for budding entrepreneurs.

At the launch of the startup policy consultation process, Kejriwal said, "Right since my IIT days, I have seen some of the most brilliant minds from India go abroad looking for better opportunities. I believe Indians are the smartest entrepreneurs in the

world and all they need is the right opportunity and the right conditions to help them thrive. With this start-up policy, we aim to make Delhi as one of the top 5 global destinations for start-ups."

The industry leaders welcomed the initiative and lauded Kejriwal's efforts in reducing the incidence of Covid-19 in the city and making continuous efforts towards reviving the economy, and lauded the government's appetite to execute novel ideas.

1,404 +ve cases, tally over 1.44L

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi recorded 1,404 fresh coronavirus cases on Saturday, taking the tally in the city to over 1.44 lakh, while the death toll from the disease rose to 4,098.

Sixteen fatalities have been recorded in the last 24 hours, according to the Delhi health department bulletin. The active cases tally was 10,667. According to the bulletin, out of the total number of beds in COVID hospitals, 10469 are vacant.

On June 23, the national capital had reported the highest single-day spike of 3,947 cases.

Also, 2549 beds in COVID care centres are occupied by persons under quarantine, including travellers who have returned by Vande Bharat Mission and bubble flights, it said.

The number of tests done per million, as was 61,489, it said. A total of 129362 patients have recovered, migrated or been discharged.

According to the Indian Council of Medical Research, suspected individuals who test negative for COVID-19 in rapid-antigen tests should



undergo RT-PCR to rule out the infection.

Rapid-antigen testing requires a prescription and an ICMR form filled by a registered doctor, and a government identity proof, same as that for RT-PCR test.

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

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

Commissioner holds crime, Covid-19 review meeting

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police Commissioner, DSN Shrivastava on Saturday held a Crime and Covid Review meeting with his field officers.

The CP Delhi reviewed the preparedness of Independence Day arrangements emphasizing on police visibility especially during the night and vulnerable areas.

"Disposal of pending cases and complaints should be made

in a time bound manner. Security of senior citizens should be taken care of with regular visits," directed the CP.

The CP also stressed upon training of staff on aspects of investigation, behavioural and counseling and stress management through VC. The CP also rewarded personnel from Rohini District, West District, North-West District, Special Cell, Traffic and Railway units in recognition of their exemplary outstanding works.

Address residents' issues: CM to NDMC

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal visited his constituency of New Delhi on Saturday and directed the officials of 'New Delhi Municipal Council' to immediately address the problems of the residents of the area.

Kejriwal also paid a visit to the NDMC compost plant set up in Sector-4 of the Gol market area where the residents complained of foul smell from the compost plant and that they

were disturbed by mosquitoes and flies. The CM gave a deadline of 10 days to the NDMC officials to ensure cleanliness in the area and said that if the problem is not addressed by 20th August, the plant will be shut down.

After visiting his New Delhi assembly constituency, Kejriwal tweeted, "Today visited the Gol market area in New Delhi assembly constituency. Orders officers to take immediate action on the problems of the local residents."

A year back, the NDMC had set-up a compost plant in the nursery behind Bharti Public School. In this plant, wet garbage is brought and compost manure is made from it, which is later used for plants. Residents from 39 to 69 in Sector-4 in Gol Market are the most affected by the stench.

In another program held in Sector-4 of Gol Market, Kejriwal planted a medicinal sapling in a park and heard the problems of all RWAs members in the area. RWAs brought up

a problem of scarcity of drinking water, power cuts, and no pruning of trees. The Chief Minister directed the concerned authorities to expedite work on resolving all the issues of the residents.

Speaking to media, Kejriwal said, "NDMC officials have sought 10 days (till 20th August). It would be okay if the steps taken by the officials solve the issue of the foul smell, otherwise, the plant will be shut down. I am inspecting the area with residents."

Close aide of Union Minister Athawale mysteriously untraceable

SHEKHAR SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

A close aide of Union Minister Ramdas Athawale for whom the Minister had requested Home Ministry for his security cover over threat perception in June this year is now mysteriously untraceable. Saifi went incommunicado after being asked by Delhi Police to join investigation in connection with the firing incident at his Nihal Vihar farmhouse in which his 50-year-old security guard was injured.

According to police sources, Mohammad Shakeel Saifi, leader of the Republican

Party of India (RPI) 's name came to light after three men were arrested and they during investigation alleged that the firing conspiracy was allegedly planned by Saifi himself to get police security cover

"The main attacker is at large and as many as four teams have been tasked to locate him, whose interrogation is important to unravel the entire conspiracy and allegations leveled against Saifi by the three accused persons who have been arrested," a police official associated with the probe said.

Following this alleged

shootout Athawale had written to the Home Minister to recommend security for his party colleague which was accordingly forwarded to Delhi Police.

Sources said that Saifi — the national president of the minority cell of RPI — is untraceable since the three men, identified as Varun Kumar, Nadeem Siddiqui and Vijay alias Lala, were arrested on June 17 of this year, three weeks after the firing took place at main gate of his farmhouse while he was inside with his family members.

The three accused alleged that on the instructions of Saifi

they had provided logistical support such as a bike and the firearm to the attacker for executing the firing.

Their original plan was only to fire at the iron gate of Saifi's farmhouse. However, the two bullets he fired ricocheted and hit the lower portion of the security guard Hari Nath's legs. Since the allegations of the three men were serious, police tried contacting Saifi and making him join the probe. However, he was unavailable at home and his family members claimed they were unaware of his whereabouts," a senior police officer probing the case

said on the condition of anonymity.

According to the sources, Saifi's farmhouse is locked and as the official notice to Saifi seeking his presence in the investigation could not be physically delivered to him, the same was pasted outside his home.

"However, Saifi has yet not turned up to join the probe," he said.

During the probe it has come to notice that Saifi had been regularly filing applications in the police station and in the offices of other senior police officers, seeking police

protection and claiming threat to his life. Just a day after the firing incident, Saifi wrote a letter to the Home Ministry informing about the incident and seeking police protection.

"On the same day, RPI chief Athawale also wrote to Union Home Minister Amit Shah asking for police security to his party leader Saifi. A fortnight later, the home minister responded to Athawale's request letter by saying that requisite action will be taken after detailed examination into the matter by Delhi Police," the copy of letter stated which is in the possession of The Pioneer.

विश्व आदिवासी दिवस 2020

WORLD TRIBAL DAY 2020

Committed to Upliftment and Development of the Tribals

- Chhattisgarh has become the leading state in the country in distribution of community and individual forest rights certificates. So far more than 4.84 lakh individual and community forest rights certificates have been distributed in the state
- Highest collection of minor forest produce by Chhattisgarh in the country
- National Tribal Dance Festival organized for the first time to showcase the cultural diversity of the state, will now be held every year
- World Tribal Day declared a public holiday
- Minor Forest Produce to be procured at the support price increased from 25 to 31
- The support price for Tendupatta increased from Rs 2500 to 4000 per standard bag
- 4200 acres of land returned to the tribal farmers of Lohandiguda in Bastar region
- Started review and allocation of forest land lease rights
- False court cases against innocent tribals withdrawn
- "Mukhyamantri Haat Bazaar Clinic Yojana" launched to provide free and quality health care in tribal area
- Launched "Malaria-free-Bastar" campaign to make Bastar Malaria free
- Since the launch of "Mukhyamantri Suposhan Yojana", the rate of malnutrition decreased by 13.79 percent
- "Bodhghat Multipurpose Irrigation Project" to be resumed after being pending for 40 years

Committed To Preserving The Heritage and Wisdom of Our Tribes

BHUPESH BAGHEL
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Chhattisgarh

Physical Distancing & Mask Everyday
To Drive Corona Away

Pro Active - Pro People

LeT terror financing module busted in J&K

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Jammu & Kashmir police on Saturday claimed to have busted a terror financing network of Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (LeT) active in the Jammu region for a long time.

A total number of five suspects, working for a Pakistan based LeT handler, were paraded by the police in front of media persons.

Police also claimed these suspects had recently shared images of Northern Command headquarters located in Udhampur and locations of different army camps in Uri to their handlers operating from Pakistan.

It is learnt that all five of them were arrested by the police earlier and were being interrogated to track down the foot prints of several others actively involved in the terror module.

Briefing selected media persons, Mukesh Singh, Inspector General of Police Jammu range said, "The LeT terror module was busted on the basis of sustained interrogation of a Doda based

B.Sc student, Mubashir Farooq Batt, arrested on July 19, 2020. Batt was studying in Kharar near Chandigarh and was apprehended by the Special operations group of J&K police with a consignment of 1.5 lac concealed in a tiffin box.

IG, Jammu said so far they have arrested a Moulvi Toqeer Ahmad resident of Doda, a surrendered terrorist and former SPO Aif Batt, Khalid Latief, a contractor, a Chicken shop worker Gazi Iqbal from Doda, a owner of a Karyana shop Tariq Hussain from Doda.

Singh said, a former district commander of LeT identified as Haroon hailing from Thathri area of Doda was in touch with these people and had tasked them to provide logistics/financial support to set up a network of LeT in Jammu region.

"Haroon is currently operating from Pakistan". According to police records he exfiltrated to Pakistan in 2007, Singh added.

Referring to their role in the terror module Singh said, "these

local recruits were tasked to rope in more youth to widen the terror network, carry out reece of vital security installations, sharing in formation about presence of security forces and their important locations to Pak handlers, Transportation of Arms & Ammunition from one location to another and distributing money among the families of active and deceased terrorists". He said during their interrogation so far it has been revealed that they had shared images of Northern Command headquarters and locations of army camps in Uri to their handlers operating from Pakistan.

Inspector General Mukesh Singh also claimed, "during questioning of all above 06 arrested persons it has surfaced that they received money amounting to Rs 12,19,704 through different means on different occasions as part of this module. They were also instrumental in recruiting Abid Ahmed Bhat (LeT) S/O Waliya Bhat R/O Sazan, Doda (Now Killed) and Jamal Din (LeT) R/O Doda (Now Surrendered).

Maha Covid tally crosses 5L mark

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra notched a milestone on the Covid-19 infections front on Saturday, as the number of infected cases breached 5 lakh mark to touch 5,03,084 after 12,822 people tested positive for coronavirus, even as 275 people succumbed to the pandemic in various parts of the State.

With 275 fresh deaths, the total number of deaths in the state mounted to 17,367.

Of the total deaths reported, Pune accounted for highest 67 deaths, followed by 58 in Mumbai and 48 deaths in Thane district.

Apart from 67 deaths in Pune, 58 in Mumbai and 48 in Thane, there were 17 deaths in Raigad, 14 in Palghar, 9 in Kolhapur, 8 each in Nashik, Dhule and Sangli, 7 in Solapur, 6 each in Jalna and Nagpur, 4 in Ratnagiri, 3 in Beed, 2 each in Ahmednagar, Jalgaon, Aurangabad and Yavatmal and one each in Satara, Latur, Osmanabad and Akola.

After being well below 50 mark for several days, the Covid-19 daily in Mumbai went up to 58, taking the total deaths to 6751 and seeing the total the daily

infection tally increase by 1304 from 6,693 to 6751 and taking the total infected cases to 122316.

In a related development, as many as 11081 patients were discharged from hospitals in the state after full recovery, taking the total number of patients discharged from various hospitals after full recovery since the second week of March this year to 3,38,262. The recovery rate went up to 67.26 per cent. The mortality rate in the state is 3.45 per cent. The state health authorities pegged the number of "active cases" in the state at 1,47,048.

Pune, which has emerged as the second worst-affected district in terms of spread of the pandemic, has recorded 1,09,988 infections and 2961 deaths till now.

With 103642 infected cases and 2961 deaths, Thane continued to be the second-worst hit district in Maharashtra.

Out of 26,47,020 samples sent to laboratories, 5,03,084 have tested positive (19 per cent) for COVID-19 until Saturday.

Currently, 9,89,612 people are in home quarantine while 35,625 people are in institutional quarantine.

J&K L-G Singh reviews corona situation in State

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

The newly appointed Lt-Governor Manoj Sinha, on day one at work, visited SMHS hospital in Srinagar and later reviewed Covid-19 control measures with a team of senior officers at Raj Bhawan on Saturday.

The total number of Coronavirus positive cases crossed 24,000 mark while 10 Covid-19 patients died in Kashmir division, taking the total tally to 459. Spokesman of the Jammu and Kashmir government, Rohit Kansal in a tweet said, "Lt-Governor visited SMHS hospital, reviewed COVID situation on Saturday". He said on noticing shortage of ward staff in isolation wards, Lt-Gov Manoj Sinha directed immediate appointment, on a short term basis, of 200 nursing orderlies (100 each for Kashmir and Jammu) to attend to COVID patients in isolation.

During the review meeting, Lt Gov Sinha announced the J&K Government is considering providing additional support to Health Workers and Frontline Corona Warriors in addition to the existing insurance cover of Rs 50 lakhs.

Briefing about the preparedness for COVID-19 in J&K, Financial Commissioner Health and Medical Education, Atal Dulloo informed the

The total number of Coronavirus positive cases crossed 24,000 mark while 10 Covid-19 patients died in Kashmir division, taking the total tally to 459

Lt Governor that Rapid Antigen Test is being conducted with 18,000 tests done in the last 5 days. 432 Ventilators received from the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India are in the process of installation in various health institutions and 342 ventilators are in transit.

He informed that there are around 7,266 active positive cases out of 24,390 confirmed positive cases in J&K with a recovery rate of 67.78 percent and 56,707 Tests per Million population.

It was informed that the samples of 2,95,878 number of travellers, 83,016 persons in contact and 8,621 health care workers have been taken so far.

According to the media bulletin, 463 new positive cases of Coronavirus were detected, 81 from Jammu division and 382 from Kashmir division. Also 10 COVID-19 deaths were reported from Kashmir Division.

According to the media bulletin, out of 24390 positive cases, 7264 are Active Positive, 16667 have recovered and 459 have died; 34 in Jammu division and 425 in Kashmir division.

Sushant's ex-manager Disha's dance video surfaces, raises eyebrows about her death

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In what appears to be never-ending Sushant Singh Rajput suicide saga, one more piece of evidence in the form of the last video of Sushant's ex-manager Disha Salian surfaced on Saturday - a video in which she is seen dancing with a group that included her boyfriend and actor Rohan Rai.

Given that Disha was full of life - as can be seen in the video clip, the development has among other things raised questions as to how such a live-wire kind of person could commit suicide.

Disha (28), it may be recalled, had reportedly committed by falling from the 14th

floor of Galaxy Regent building at Malad in north Mumbai on the intervening night of June 8-9.

Her death had taken place nearly five weeks before Sushant (34) committed suicide at his rented duplex flat in Bandra in north-west Mumbai on June 14.

The Malvani police station had registered an accidental death report (ADR) in her case. The investigators had virtually closed the case, term it as a "suicide".

In the video clip that has surfaced, Disha can be seen along with a few others in the video and looking happy. They are seen dancing to the tune of a 'Mission Kashmir' number

'Rind Posh Maal' featuring Hrithik Roshan.

On their part, Disha's parents Satish and Vasanti Salian had ruled out any foul play in their daughter's suicide. "All theories and stories are fake and just rumours. I lost my only child but now all these media people social media people will murder us. Therefore I request to stop all this. I request the Supreme Court to stop all this, we are badly suffering because of this. Now we don't have any strength to listen to all these fake news against our daughter," they had told a television channel.

However, Disha's alleged suicide has come to be seen in

the context of allegations by the Opposition BJP that it is linked to Sushant's suicide.

Dubbing the suicides by Disha and Sushant as inter-linked, Maharashtra's former chief minister and BJP leader Narayan Rane created a sensation on August 4 by claiming that both Sushant was "murdered" while his ex-manager Disha Salian was "raped" and "murdered".

Addressing a news conference here on Tuesday last, Rane indirectly had targeted Maharashtra Minister and Thackeray scion Aaditya Thackeray, by demanding to know: "Who all were there in the parties that were held on June 8 and June 13? Find them

out". He had suggested that a Maharashtra minister too was in these parties.

"The State government is trying to shield the culprits behind the deaths of Disha and Sushant. We as opposition are efficient and we will let that happen. Parties are held in Dino Morea every day. Many ministers attend these parties. There was a party on that day as well. The same minister had gone to Sushant's home before the actor's suicide. The police should investigate that minister concerned," Rane had alleged.

Rane had alleged that on June 8, Disha Salian was raped and then murdered, while on June 14, Sushant Singh Rajput

was murdered. "That Disha Salian was raped was evident from the post-mortem report," he said.

Alleging that both the incidents were linked, Rane said: "It is not difficult to find out who was issuing threatening calls to Sushant Singh Rajput".

Two days earlier, Mumbai BJP general secretary and MLA Ameet Satam had raised suspicions over the actor's ex-manager Disha Salian's alleged suicide.

In a letter he shot off to Mumbai's Deputy Commissioner of Police (Zone --IX) Abhishek Trimukhe, Satam had sought to raise questions about Disha's death in the context of the

Sushant's sensational suicide, by saying that "there are a lot of stories and theories that are being talked about and there is a deep desire in public to know the truth".

Satam's letter to DCP Trimukhe came a day after the Bihar police visited the reached the Malvani police station in north Mumbai and sought details about Disha's death.

The Malvani police told the visiting police team that the folder about Disha's file had been "deleted by accident" and could not be retrieved. However, there were unconfirmed reports on Sunday that the Malvani police were very much in the possession of the Disha's death file, but it is not

certain yet if they have not handed over the file to their Bihar counterparts.

In one of a series of questions that he asked in his letter to DCP Trimukhe, Satam had wanted to know to as to what Disha's post-mortem report say, were the circumstances leading to her suicide probed, considering that she had attended a party the previous night and who were present at the party.

Satam had sought details of her phone calls/messages of the 24 hours preceding her death and asked if the mobile tower location of the place where she died was ascertained as to who all were present and she met before her death.

BJP Govt in UP proved to be failure in dealing with virus: Akhilesh Yadav

Lucknow: The BJP government in Uttar Pradesh has proved to be a "failure" in dealing with the coronavirus pandemic and patients were neither getting medicines nor proper treatment, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav alleged on Saturday.

The state has so far recorded 1,18,038 COVID-19 cases and 2,028 deaths due to the disease. At present, there are 46,177 active cases and 69,833 people have been discharged from hospitals after recovery.

Hitting out at the Yogi Adityanath dispensation, Yadav, in a press statement, claimed that it has proved "incapable and helpless" in

dealing with the coronavirus. "As the situation is going out of control, a 'no test-no case' strategy has been adopted in the state."

Alleging that BJP governments, both at the Centre and Uttar Pradesh, are making "mere claims", Yadav claimed that Yogi Adityanath's tenure as chief minister is being "spent in cutting the ribbons of the works done by the previous Samajwadi Party government".

The former chief minister said officials, policemen, members of the judiciary, employees of banks, health and education sector are falling prey to coronavirus infection and this is a matter of grave concern.

"The patients are neither getting medicines nor treatment in time. Because of administrative failure, the number of deaths can go high," Yadav said. Referring to CM Adityanath inaugurating a 400-bed hospital in Noida on Saturday, Yadav said its foundation was laid during his Samajwadi Party Government and the current chief minister has merely fulfilled the formality of cutting the ribbon.

Yadav asked the state government to rise from its slumber and ensure that correct reports of COVID-19 tests are provided and that too promptly. **PTI**

AP reports 10,080 fresh cases, 97 deaths

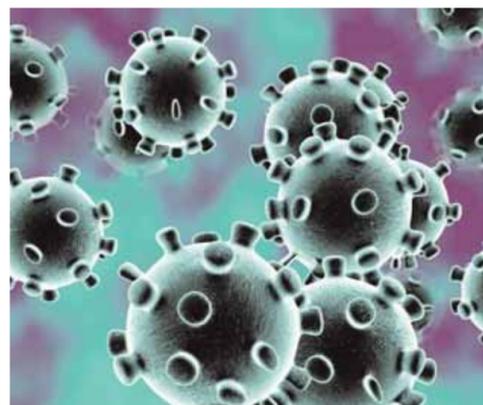
Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh continued to witness a surge in COVID-19 cases as 10,080 fresh infections were reported, taking the overall tally to 2,17,040 while a single day high of 97 fatalities were recorded.

The latest government bulletin said the state now had 85,486 active cases after 1,29,615 coronavirus positive persons got cured, including 9,151 in the last 24 hours, and 1,939 succumbed.

The state reported over 10,000 cases for the fourth straight day.

For the first time, Andhra Pradesh overshot the national average (8.93 per cent) in the infection positivity rate clocking 8.95 per cent.

It also continued way below the national average (68.



32 per cent) in the recovery rate with 59.72 per cent.

Only in terms of mortality rate, at 0.89 per cent, AP was lower than the national average (2.04 per cent).

East Godavari district crossed the 30,000 mark as it added 1,310 fresh cases in the last 24 hours, pushing the cumulative tally to 30,160.

The district has 13,794 active cases. Kurnool too reported 1,253 more cases, taking its aggregate to 26,032.

Visakhapatnam (998), Anantapuram (976) and Chittoor (963) too added more cases followed by SPS Nellore (878).

Guntur district reported 14 deaths, Anantapuram (11), Kurnool and West Godavari (10) fatalities each while Chittoor and SPS Nellore added eight each, Prakasam and Srikakulam added seven each to their toll in the last 24 hours, according to the bulletin. **PTI**

Assam scribe found dead in his office

Tinsukia: A journalist was found dead in his office in Assam's Tinsukia district on Saturday, police said.

Bijendep Tanti, the owner of news website 'Dinpratidin', was found dead with injuries on his body in his office in the Jyotinar area, they said.

A woman, who was reportedly last seen with him, has been held for interrogation, official sources said. Police said they are probing the case from "all angles". The body has been sent for post-mortem, they said. Tinsukia Press Club and other organisations demanded a high-level inquiry into the killing. **PTI**

HP BJP spokesperson tests Covid +ve

Shimla: Himachal Pradesh recorded 114 fresh coronavirus cases on Saturday, taking the infection tally to 3,265.

Meanwhile, BJP state spokesman Baldev Tomar also tested positive for the disease. He had come in contact with Power Minister Sukh Ram Chaudhary, who had tested positive on Thursday. Chaudhary's wife and some of his close relatives also tested positive for coronavirus on Saturday, an official from

Sirmaur district said. Of the fresh COVID-19 cases, 43 were reported from Chamba, 24 from Sirmaur, 17 in Solan, eight each from Kangra, Mandi and Hamirpur, four each from Kullu, and one each from Una and Shimla, Additional Chief Secretary (Health) R D Dhiman said.

In Chamba, Chowgan, Hatnala, Jansali, Chautra, Surada and Sapri have been declared as containment zones, a district official said. **PTI**

Parleys to defuse...

From Page 1

While the Chinese have intruded more than five km into India at the Pangong Tso, they have deployed more than 15,000 troops with heavy armour and artillery on their side of the LAC in the Depsang valley at a height of more than 16,000 feet. This makes this spot also part of the four or five "friction points" at the volatile border in Ladakh. India on Saturday insisted that China scale down its force levels as a confidence-building measure and restore status quo ante, sources said.

Not willing to take any chances in the Depsang plains, India has also bolstered its troops' strength and brought forward its armour elements including tanks and heavy guns. The Depsang plains are strategically important as India can maintain a vigil on the Karakoram highway across the LAC and China wants to negate that advantage.

Also, with the reopening of the Daulat Beg Oldie advance landing ground some years back, India's logistical capabilities have improved manifold as big transport planes can land there with supplies throughout the year. Plans are also afoot to make the airfield fit for fighter jet operations.

Sustaining the drive to improve infrastructure there, a 200-km long road was also recently completed linking some of the rear areas with Daulat Beg Oldie. The Chinese objected to the construction of a small bridge on the road and obstructed an Indian patrol in late May leading to the standoff in the Galwan valley. An ugly brawl there between the two sides on June 15 led to the death of 20 Indians including their commanding officer.

Besides amassing troops leading to heightened tension on the border, the Chinese are also objecting to the Indian Army patrols covering Patrolling Points 10 to 13 in Depsang. India maintains it is patrolling in its own territory. The Depsang valley has seen a prolonged stand-off in 2013 also and intervention at the diplomatic and political levels had resolved the issue then.

13 dists...

From Page 1

"A surge has been observed in daily new cases in four districts -- Kamrup Metro in Assam; Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh; and Thiruvananthapuram and Alappuzha in Kerala," the Ministry said.

In a high-level virtual meeting chaired by Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan, these eight States were directed to ensure availability of ambulances and maintain zero tolerance for their refusal, it said.

As part of the Centre's effort to review and handhold States and Union Territories for collaborative management of Covid-19, two high-level meetings were chaired by Bhushan -- on August 7 and 8 -- to engage with those States with fatality rates higher than the national average in order to advise and support them on efforts to prevent and reduce fatality, it said.

On Friday, the Union Health Secretary also held a virtual meeting with 16 other districts in four States -- Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Karnataka -- reporting Covid-19 mortality higher than the national and States' average.

According to the Ministry, these districts include Gujarat's Ahmedabad and Surat, Karnataka's Belagavi, Bengaluru Urban, Kalaburagi and Udipi, Tamil Nadu's Chennai, Kanchipuram, Ranipet, Theni, Thiruvallur, Tiruchirappalli, Tuticorin and Virudhnagar and Telangana's Hyderabad and Medchal Malkajgiri.

Rhea shares Rajput's hand-written note...

From Page 1

"I am grateful for my life. I am grateful for Lillu in my life. I am grateful for Bebu in my life. I am grateful for Sir in my life. I am grateful for Ma'am in my life. I am grateful for Fudge in my life. I am grateful for all the love in my life," reads the note which Maneshinde said was written by the late actor in Chakraborty's notebook.

In her message shared by Maneshinde, Chakraborty stated, "And this is his (Rajput's)

handwriting... Lillu is Showik (Chakraborty's brother), Bebu is me, Sir is my dad, Ma'm is my mom and Fudge is his dog".

Maneshinde, however, did not say when the note was written or if it was handed over to the Mumbai police which had registered an Accidental Death Report (ADR) after Rajput's death in June this year.

The actor (34) was found hanging at his residence in suburban Bandra on June 14.

AI crash probe on amid speculation

From Page 1

Of the four airports in Kerala, the Kozhikode airport has the shortest runway and has suffered massive damage due to incessant rains in the past.

"Deepak Sathe, who was the captain of the Air India Express flight was one of the most distinguished and experienced commanders of Air India. He had more than 10,000 hours of flying experience and had landed in Kozhikode airport 27 times in the past. He has flown many aircraft including Mig-21 and was well versed in all kind of aircraft. His deputy, Captain Akhilesh Kumar (32) too was an equally competent pilot with more than 1,723 hours of flying," said the Minister.

Puri declined to be drawn into any controversy regarding the operational capability of the crew or the aircraft. He repeatedly asked the journalists to wait till the probe was over the report is submitted to the Government.

2 lakh to each of the injured and Rs 50,000 to each of those who suffered minor injuries.

The Minister also disclosed that the Vande Bharat flights (of which the Air India's ill-fated aircraft was a part) have ferried more than one million passengers from foreign countries to India since the services began on May 6. This is the first accident involving a Vande Bharat flight and we are all distressed and dejected by the mishap," said the Minister.

It may be a strange coincidence that Capt Akhilesh was the first pilot to command a Vande Bharat flight to Kozhikode airport. Friday's flight turned out to be his last one too.

While the Minister said that all the issues which were raised in the past about the length of the runway had been addressed, aviation experts have all along been cagey about the safety concerns about the runway.

In fact, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) had issued a show-cause notice to the director of the Kozhikode airport on July 11

last year after it found "various critical safety lapses" in different places, including the runway and the apron. The DGCA had conducted the inspection after an Air India Express flight coming from Dammam in Saudi Arabia had a "tail strike" while landing at the Calicut (Kozhikode) airport on July 2 last year.

According to officials, after the July 2 incident last year, the DGCA inspected the airport on July 4 and July 5 and found various critical safety lapses. On July 11, Kozhikode airport director K Srinivasa Rao was issued a show-cause notice, stated another DGCA official. In a statement on Saturday evening, the DGCA said, "Based on the above findings, a show-cause notice was issued to the airport director at Calicut for non-compliance and advised to take immediate action on findings."

"Airport Director, Calicut sent a compliance report on August 5, 2019. After the examination of the compliance report, all the major findings were closed," the DGCA noted.

BIHAR EARTH DAY

AUGUST 9, 2020

BIHAR CELEBRATES

ACHIEVEMENT OF A MILESTONE

While Bihar also celebrates the International Earth Day on 22nd April; since 2011, the state additionally celebrates Bihar Earth Day on every 9th August. 9th August was chosen to coincide with the August Kranti Diwas, celebrated to commemorate the Quit India movement of 1942. It was started with the objective to raise environmental awareness, specially among school children; as a day to take pledge for another revolution to protect the environment. On this day, students of all 75000 + Government schools in Bihar used to take a 11 point pledge, committing to protect environment, save energy, conserve water, protect wildlife etc. To boost the morale of children and to emphasise the importance, the Chief Minister himself used to go in one school to administer pledge to the students. As all the schools are closed due to Covid-19 outbreak, this year the day is being celebrated differently - as completion of a new mission undertaken this year, aimed at not only raising awareness among the masses about environment and tree plantation but also to raise the green cover of the state.



involve as many people as possible, so as to engrain the love for nature amongst them.

This was christened as Mission 2.51 crore plantation, or mission 2.51, in short. It was decided to plant atleast 2.51 crore saplings in a period of two months, starting from the World Environment Day on June 5 to the Bihar Earth Day on August 9, June 5 has another significance for the state of Bihar, as it is on this day in the year 1974 that the late JP launched his Total Revolution or Sampurna Kranti. Thus the mission mode plantation was initiated on Sampurna Kranti Divas and culminated on August Kranti Divas.

HUGE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

But it was not the targeted number that made the drive different. What is different is the strategy to execute this mission by having a level of public participation, not attempted so far in Bihar. Attempt was made to involve not only large number of people but also large segments of population. 66 lakh members of the self help groups called Jeevika Didis participated in the drive planting one tree each in their homestead. This itself involved 66 lakh families in the



Chief Minister Shri Nitish Kumar tying Raksha Sutra on a fig tree during the celebration of 'Vriksh Suraksha Divas' on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan in the presence of Dy CM & Minister for Department of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Shri Sushil Kumar Modi

mission. To boost the income of farmers, as well as to increase the green cover, more than 20000 farmers were involved under the scheme of agroforestry planting approximately 14 lakh plants in their fields. Next important force were the units of central paramilitary forces, stationed in Bihar, like SSB, CRPF, ITBP, BSF and CISE. These forces not only undertook plantation in their campuses but also on public land around these while committing to not only plant but also to protect and maintain them. Central government undertakings like NTPC, Railways and Powergrid also contributed in the mission. All state government departments were part of the mission. Each and every of the 8000 + panchayats in the state undertook plantation drive under MNREGA, planting about 75 lakh plants till

9th August. NGOs like Rotary Club and Lions Club, business organizations like Bihar Industries Association and Chambers of Commerce, Religious organizations like Shia and Sunni Waqf Board, Dharmik Nyas Parishad, Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee, Gaushalas and host of NGOs participated in the Mission. Traditionally, only department staff were involved in the plantation within notified forest areas but this year, the people of the villages were involved in the forest plantation and were also given fruit plants for planting around their homes. This way more than 2 lakh families of the fringe villages were involved. To involve more and more people, static counters at the nurseries and mobile sale counters were also started so that people could get plants at their doorsteps. This ini-

tiative could also reach approximately one lakh people. Another important component of the strategy is that, special care has also been taken during this mission in the selection of participants so that they do not simply plant and forget but also undertake full care and maintenance of those plants till they become full grown. The guidelines for the agroforestry scheme was also changed to increase the stake of farmers, to increase the survival rate.

CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT OF THE FOREST DEPARTMENT

To cater to the large target, the nursery capacity of the department was enhanced three times to reach 7 crore plants. The capacity building of the newly recruited 850 odd forest guards and the existing

PLEDGE

I pledge...

- To plant at least one sapling every year and protect and nurture it into becoming a tree.
- To not pollute the nearby ponds, rivers or any other water resource and to simultaneously encourage others also to do so.
- Use water adequately and remember to close the water after use.
- Encourage everyone at home/school/neighborhood into implementing Rain Water Harvesting.
- Constrain myself from electricity misuse and to switch off bulbs/fans before stepping out of the house.
- To keep up the cleanliness of my home/school/neighborhood I will dump the garbage at the right place always.
- To prohibit myself from using plastic/plastic bags and prefer cloth/paper bags over them and also motivate others for the same.
- To be compassionate towards every living organism and not refrain to help with water or crumb as and when possible.
- Walk or cycle to nearby places of work.
- Avoid unnecessary use of paper and try to incline others also towards saving paper.
- To not defecate in the open and to always use the toilet.

MISSION 2.51 CRORE PLANTATION

The state has undertaken plantation in a big way since 2011, with a view to raise the green cover of the state. Since the recorded forest area (RFA) in the present state of Bihar is only about 7% of the total geographical area and there was little or no scope for increasing the notified forests, the state undertook agroforestry and social forestry in a big way to increase the green cover outside the RFA. About 22 crore trees have been planted from 2011 to 2019. This year, the plantation drive was taken with a new strategy, so as to not only plant a larger number of trees but also

staff was also undertaken and they meticulously prepared microplan for each and every Panchayat so that the entire operation of plantation and supply of saplings to such a large group of participant could sail smoothly. It is no less an achievement that amongst the scares of the corona outbreak, the officials and staff of the forest department worked day and night to mobilize and facilitate people and organizations. This has boosted the morale of the department and have made them ready for a bigger target next year.

THE D-DAY

Today, on the final day of the Mission, while the Chief Minister shall plant trees in the capital and administer the 11 points pledge, similar plantation programmes are slated to be held in each of the 8000

odd panchayats, 534 block, 101 sub-divisions and 38 district headquarters and at all the plantation sites within forest area. While the target was kept at 2.51 crore sapling plantations, it is expected that the actual achievement till 9th August shall cross the 3 crore mark. While the Mission is officially closed today, the plantation drive shall continue and it is expected that the actual achievement during this monsoon season shall touch 3.5 crore mark. The Recorded forest area and the green cover outside RFA is about 15% as per the latest satellite survey undertaken by Forest Survey of India for Bihar using advanced LISS-IV cameras. The target is to take this to more than 17% by 2022. Hopefully, we will be back next year with another mission with an even bigger target and even bigger public participation.

PM launches weeklong 'Gandagi Mukh Bharat'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Outlining cleanliness as an important measure in the fight against the Corona pandemic, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday announced a weeklong campaign — 'Gandagi Mukh Bharat' — from August 8 to 15 to free India of garbage.

Inaugurating the 'Rashtriya Swachhata Kendra' — an interactive experience centre on the Swachh Bharat Mission, at the Gandhi Smriti at Rajghat, Modi urged the younger generation to concentrate on the cleanliness in the country and adhere to social distancing norms in the pandemic times. After the inauguration of the Kendra, Prime Minister interacted with school children, stressing for the need of "swachhata" in life and streets.

After interacting with the children, the Prime Minister spoke about the journey of



Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks during the inauguration of Rashtriya Swachhata Kendra, at Raj Ghat in New Delhi

the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) and dedicated the Rashtriya Swachhata Kendra (RSK) as a permanent tribute to Mahatma Gandhi. He lauded the people of India for making swachhata a jan andolan and urged them to continue to do so in the future. Modi reiterated the importance of swachhata in our daily lives, especially during our fight against the coro-

navirus. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Minister, Jal Shakti and Rattan Lal Kataria, Minister of State, Jal Shakti were present on the occasion. The RSK has a balanced mix of digital and outdoor installations tracking India's transformation from having over 50 crore people defecating in the open in 2014 to becoming open defecation free in 2019.

200 doctors died of Covid-19, IMA seeks PM's attention

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The number of doctors, particularly general medical practitioners, succumbing to Covid-19 is on the rise. Flagging this concern, the Indian Medical Association (IMA) has drawn the attention of Prime Minister Narendra Modi pointing out that due to the absence of timely medical facilities like proper beds and treatment after getting infected nearly 200 medical professionals across the country have lost their lives.

In a letter to Modi on Saturday, the association said that such incidents would create a demoralising effect on the healthcare community, who are also at the frontline of the corona war.

"Disturbing reports have appeared about doctors and their families not getting beds for admission and also lack of drugs in many cases. It is pertinent to draw your attention to the demoralising effect it will have on our healthcare community," IMA President Dr Rajan Sharma, National President said in the letter.

The IMA has demanded adequate care for doctors and their families. "We need his (PM) attention and indulgence because of the rising concerns of the safety of doctors during this COVID-19, crisis. An increasing number of doctors are getting infected and losing lives due to COVID-19," added RV Asokan, secretary-general of IMA.

Besides, the association also demanded the extension of state-sponsored medical and life insurance facilities for doctors in all sectors.

As per the IMA, 40 per cent of the doctors who succumbed to the pandemic are general practitioners who work in private sectors or independently. "It is pertinent to mention Covid-19 does not differentiate between the Government and the private sector.

While an increasing number of doctors are getting infected and losing their lives every day, a substantial number of them have been found to be general practitioners. Since, a significant proportion of the population consult general

States/UTs told to take up coronavirus testing of grocery shop workers, vegetable vendors

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Stating that their non-detection can potentially spread the infection to a large number of people, the Centre has asked States and Union Territories to take up coronavirus testing of grocery shop workers and vegetable vendors besides workers at industrial clusters among others.

"There can be potential hotspots for spread of infection like industrial clusters with closed work environment, people coming from high prevalence areas, other high density areas such as slums, prisons, old age homes etc.

In addition, grocery shops, vegetable and other vendors etc can be potential spreaders of infection to a

large number of people. Testing in such areas and of such people should be taken up proactively as per ICMR guidelines," Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said in a letter to states and UTs.

He also stressed the need for operationalising ambulance transport system with oxygen facility and quick response mechanism.

practitioners due to fever and its related symptoms, they remain the first point of contact as well as care, the doctors' body.

"Of all the fatalities we recorded, the substantial number of them are General Practitioners. A significant proportion of the population consults them for fever and related symptoms. They remain the first point of contact and

care. They also happen to spend quality time in consultation and practising clinical medicine," Asokan said.

The IMA also said that the highest number of casualties was recorded from Tamil Nadu, where 43 doctors died due to the Coronavirus, followed by Maharashtra and Gujarat which recorded 23 deaths each.

Dr Vijay Gurjar, Assistant Professor in department of

Geriatric Medicine, AIIMS, Delhi said that it is disturbing that while the Delhi Government is ready to dole out Rs 1 crore to the families of the deceased doctors, but it can't ensure adequate medical facilities and treatment fees to save the life of the Covid-infected doctors who are at the forefront of the war against the pandemic. "It is very demoralising," he added.

Modi to launch agri infra fund worth ₹1L cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch the financing facility of ₹1 lakh crore under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund on Sunday and also release the sixth instalment of funds of ₹17,000 crore to 8.5 crore farmers under the PM-KISAN scheme. The move is aimed to boost private investment and generate more jobs in rural areas as the fund will catalyse the creation of post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets such as cold storage, collection centres and processing units.

The virtual event will be witnessed by lakhs of farmers and cooperatives across the country

and cooperatives across the country and will have Union Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar in attendance. The Modi government had in July approved the setting up of an agri-infra fund with a corpus of ₹1 lakh crore to extend subsidised credit for farm infra-



structure projects. The agri-infra fund was part of the over ₹20 lakh crore stimulus package announced in response to the COVID-19 crisis. The Agriculture Infrastructure Fund, the duration of which will be 10 years till 2029, aims to provide medium-to-long term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets through interest subvention and financial support.

The agri-infra fund was part of the Rs 20 lakh crore stimulus package announced in response to the COVID-19 crisis. Under this, about Rs one lakh crore will be provided by banks and financial institutions as loans to primary agri credit societies, farmer groups, farmer producer organisations (FPOs), agri-entrepreneurs, start-ups and agri-tech players.

Eleven of the 12 public sector banks have already signed MoUs with the Department of Agriculture. A three per cent interest subvention and credit guarantee of up to Rs 2 crore will be provided to the beneficiaries to increase the viability of these projects.

Pak infiltrator killed while trying to sneak into India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Border Security Force (BSF) on Saturday killed a Pakistani infiltrator along the India-Pakistan International Border in Rajasthan's Barmer district.

"BSF troops observed a Pakistani intruder who crossed the IB and attempted to sneak over the fence. He was challenged but he still crossed the fence and ran towards the other side. Troops fired upon him and he hid behind a bush, but was found dead during search of the area," the BSF said. The incident took place



around 1 am at the Bakhasar area along the border, they said. The BSF patrol also saw "10 to 15 torch light flashes and heard shouting from the Pakistan side." The BSF is on high alert in view of the forthcoming

Independence Day celebrations in the country, a senior officer said.

An official said the BSF has asked Pakistan Rangers to identify the intruder, and more details will be made available regarding him after Pakistan responds.

At the same time, the BSF also noticed movement on the Pakistan side, it said.

"Earlier, similar attempts made by Pakistan during day time were also foiled by the BSF. However this is the first time that an infiltration attempt has been made during night in this area," it said.

Idukki landslide toll rises to 26

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The death toll in Friday morning's landslide and deluge in Kerala's Munnar rose to 26 with the rescue workers retrieving 11 dead bodies on Saturday, according to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

Rescue operations were slowed down due to heavy downpour and inclement weather conditions in the high ranges. Even as this report is being filed Munnar and surrounding areas are lashed by torrential downpour.

The NDRF team engaged in the search and rescue operations said they were trying to retrieve 42 more persons who were washed away in the landslide and flood that ravaged the Rajamala quarters of the plantation workers.



NDRF personnel carry out a rescue operation for survivors after a landslide following heavy rainfall, at Pettimudi in Idukki district on Saturday

The possibility of any respite from the downpour looks bleak as the weather bureau has forecast more rains in the next 24 hours.

The Revenue department has issued red alert all along the district as chances of more floods and natural disasters

have increased.

Kerala Government has asked the Tamil Nadu Government to bring down the water level in the contentious Mullaperiyar Dam from 134 ft to 132 ft as more rains in the region is certain to increase the water level further.

Kerala sees 1,420 new Covid-19 cases on Sat

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Kerala continued to be battered by Covid-19 as 1,420 new persons were diagnosed with the pandemic on Saturday, said Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan in his daily press briefing. He said this is the highest number of Covid-19 affected persons being tested in the State on a single day.

The State saw four persons succumbing to the coronavirus during the last 24 hours which ended on Saturday evening, said Vijayan. He said 1,216 persons out of the 1,420 new patients contracted Covid-19 through local transmission. "While 60 expatriates and 108 persons from other parts of the country tested positive, 92 persons failed to point out the source from where they contracted the pandemic," said the chief minister.

He said the only silver lining in the news related to covid-19 was the number of persons who were cured from the pandemic. "On Saturday, we saw 1,715 persons getting cured and discharged from hospitals," he said.

Vijayan said the number of health workers getting infected with the pandemic is disturbing. "More than 30 health workers got afflicted with Covid-19 during the last 24 hours," said the chief minister.

In Thiruvananthapuram, 485 persons were diagnosed with Covid-19 on Saturday. Out of this, 435 were infected through social transmission while 33 persons failed to furnish the details of the source of infection, said the chief minister. He expressed concern over the rising number of Covid-19 patients in the district.

Samples from 27,714 persons were tested during the last 24 hours.

Covid effect: For first time in 100 yrs, national flag sales to fall down

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

This time of the year used to be a busy period for the sale of National flag. But covid-19 and the lockdown has made the manufacturing and the sale of national flag to fall down.

This is the first time in the history of Shree Gandhi Ashram, when the demand for the national flag made here is almost zero. No major or small orders have come since March. Everyone is upset with this. There is only one question in everyone's mind that the national flag which every countryman has felt proud in creating, keeping, waving, hoisting, why there is no demand for it on the occasion of Independence Day? Whereas in the past years, there was no leisure to breathe even these days. Every year on the occasion of August 15, at least forty thousand flags are sold, this time not a single flag has been taken from here.

When Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation, in 1920, was demanding the support of the whole country to make the Non-Cooperation Movement successful against the British. At the same time, Acharya JB Kripalani, working in the Banaras Hindu University, quit his 250-month-old job and established

the Shree Gandhi Ashram. The Shree Gandhi Ashram was established on 30 November 1920 and today its 47 regional offices are operated in the name of the regional Shree Gandhi Ashram. One of these is in Banna Devi.

According to people associated with the Gandhi Ashram, the transition period of Corona Virus, consequent lockdown, no mass organizing, cheap tricolor by private clothing firms etc are responsible for low selling of the national flag. Government apathy, no relaxation in Khadi, even five per cent GST on Khadi also reduced the speed of spinning wheel. However, till August 7, the national flag was stocked in the entire area of the regional Shri Gandhi Ashram, in which four standard size flags were present.

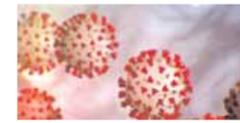
Printing takes place in Barabanki and Faizabad: After Khadi is ready, it comes to the ashram in Aligarh and it is sent to Barabanki and Faizabad for printing. On behalf of the Government of India, these are the only two districts near Aligarh in Uttar Pradesh where the national flag of Khadi Gramodyog Kendra and other textiles can be printed. No one else has the right to it. After printing from there, the national flag comes to

Aligarh. Due to such a long process in different places, it also becomes expensive. Well, after that they are neatly decorated in stores.

The flag made in Aligarh flies up to Lucknow: Shriram Yadav, manager of the regional Shri Gandhi Ashram Banna Devi, told that there are ten stores in the district. Which includes Railway Road, Chitra Mahal, Samad Road, Jawan, Khair, Iglas, Atrauli, Jattari, Harduaganj, Chharran. In addition there is a store in Hathras district. Vrindavan, Govardhan, Chhatta are the three stores in Mathura district. A store is also in Lucknow. In this way a total of 15 stores supply the national flag and other Khadi garments from here to about 18 districts including Noida, Ghaziabad, Kanpur, Barabanki, Lucknow etc.

Pooni comes from Rae Bareilly: Santosh Mishra, Minister of the regional ShreeGandhi Ashram, says that Pooni comes to Aligarh from the Pooni plant of Khadi Village Industries located in Rae Bareilly. Vijayar Bahadur Pandey, the administrator of the place where the thread of this yarn is made by the weavers to make cloth by giving it to the weavers, said that there were 300 weavers till the 1990s, now only 20-25 weavers are weaving.

Gujarat corona case count nears 70K, 23 die



PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Gujarat's Covid19 tally mounted to 69,986 on Saturday with addition of 1,101 new patients, state health department said. With 23 fatalities, the overall toll in the state rose to 2,629. A total of 1,135 patients were discharged in the day, taking the count of recoveries to 52,827, the department said.

A total of 26,272 samples were tested in the last 24 hours in the state, it said, adding that the average rate of conducting tests in the state now stands at 404.18 tests per day per million, it said. 9,56,645 samples have been tested so far in the state, it added.

Muslim family makes dress for Krishna

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

Where there was tension among Hindu Muslim during Ram Mandir Foundation, apart from that Muslim families are engaged in making dresses for lord Krishna for the occasion of Janmashtmi.

Behind the back ground of a communally sensitive city and recent communal tension, a Muslim family of Aligarh is famous for making dress of Krishna not locally but at far flung places also. The demand of thier dress for Krishna increases manifold on Janamashtami. The dresses made by Abid r/o Chowk Bundoo Khan and his younger brother Firaz r/o Civil Lines are being taken by many to make Krishna as Kanha or Govinda. Abid and Firaz did not compromise on dress for Krishna at all. This is biggest example communal harmony in a city which is known for its riots and communal flare up.

Abid and Firaz belong to fourth generation of a Muslim family who prepare dress for Lord Krishna. Abid, Firaz and youngest Jabbar had learnt the art of making dress for Krishna from their father Naim. Now young generation is also carrying on the tradition of their forefathers. Though they are eight brothers but rest of brothers are engaged in other businesses.

All three brothers Abid, Firaz and Jabbar make dress for various Hindu god and goddess like Durga and Ganesha to be used on special occasions such as Janamashtami and Durga Puja. They first stitch the dress and then decorate it with gota and moti. They are receiving big orders from near by areas as Bulandshahar, Hathras, Kasganj, Etah and also from far flung cities. This dress making of Hindu god and goddesses is so dear to Abid, Firaz and Jabbar that they are not prepared to under take any other

business. They are also making crowns and decorative items of Hindu god and goddesses. On this Shree Krishna Janamashtami they have orders of Rs. 2 lac in hand. In this respect Jabbar told Pioneer "his father was inclined for making dresses for Hindu god and goddesses since beginning". Not only this they have married their sister in a family which is also engaged in making dress of Hindu god and goddess.

Now Imran son of Abid is also entering in the dress making for gods. He knows well that which colour will suit on which idol. Some of their customers only order the dress after consulting him.

Interestingly the families of Abid, Firaz and Jabbar are receiving honor and respect across the religions boundaries. People believe that they are honest because they are associated with making dress for god and goddess.

Capt Sathe not lucky this time

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

He had not only survived an air crash with multiple skull injuries when he was with the Indian Air Force early nineties, but he had also resumed flying with full vigour. Capt. Deepak V. Sathe, the pilot who was killed in Friday evening's Air India Express aircraft at Kozhikode International Airport, was not so lucky in his 15th year of his second avatar as a commercial pilot which he became after his 27 years' stint with the IAF.

"It's hard to believe that Deepak Sathe, my friend more than my cousin, is no more," a shocked relative Nilesh Sathe stated in his post on social media.

Describing Capt Deepak as an experienced aerial operator with 36 years of flying experience, Nilesh recalled: "He (Capt Deepak) survived an air crash in the early nineties when he was in the Air Force. He was

hospitalised for 6 months for multiple skull injuries and nobody thought that he would fly again. But his strong will power and love for flying made him clear the test again. It was a miracle".

Capt. Deepak comes from an illustrious family that has made sacrifices for the country. Earlier, his Army-man brother, Capt Vikas, had laid his life while serving in Jammu region.

Capt. Deepak is survived by his wife and two sons, both of whom have graduated from Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay (IIT-B). His elder son Shantanu - who is currently in the United States - had got married on March 8, a fortnight before the Government imposed lockdown across the country in the wake of the outbreak of the Coronavirus. His younger son Dhananjay works for a firm in Bengaluru, while daughter Anjali lives in Mumbai.

Capt Deepak was the son of Brigadier Vasant Sathe, who lives in Nagpur along with his wife.

Reminiscing his last conversation with him, Nilesh said: "He (Caot Deepak) called me just a week before and was jovial, as always. When I asked him about the 'Vande Bharat' Mission, he was proud of bringing back our countrymen from Arab countries". "When I asked Deepak, do you carry empty Aircraft since those countries are not allowing entry of passengers?", he had replied to me saying 'Oh, No. We carry fruits, vegetables, medicines etc to these countries and never the aircraft flies to these countries empty'. That was my last conversation with him," Nilesh said.

Capt Deepak's family lives in the Jalvayu Vihar complex in the upmarket Powai off Andheri (East) in north-eastern Mumbai. After the news of Capt Deepak's tragic death spread on Friday night, a pall of gloom descended on Jalvayu Vihar complex, where messages of condolences poured in from all over the country.

Recalling his friendship with Capt Deepak, Dehradun-based Pradeep Singh Bisht said: "He was my friend since my school days. Both of us studied at a private school, Cambrian Hall. We became close friends after his father, Brig. Vasant Sathe was posted at the IMA Dehradun for five years," Bisht said.

"While I joined the merchant navy as an officer, Capt. Sathe joined the NDA and achieved his childhood dream of becoming an Indian Air Force pilot, and post-retirement, with Air India," Bisht said.

"Academically, Deepak was brilliant and harboured a deep passion for flying from his school days. Deepak was a good fighter from his early days," Bisht said.

Rainfall likely to continue over Kerala due to low pressure system formation over Arabian Sea: IMD

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Saturday said that rainfall is likely to continue over Kerala due to low pressure system formation over Arabian Sea. According to the IMD, the rainfall activity is to become active again in the coastal areas of Maharashtra and coastal Karnataka on August 10 and will remain so for the next seven days. The intensity of rain reduced gradually in the last two days. Due to low pressure system, heavy rainfall at isolated places would occur over East & West UP, East Rajasthan, Haryana, Northern parts of Punjab, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh between August 10 and 12.

The IMD further said that the southwest monsoon will become active over northwest India likely to increase from August 9 to 11, onwards with heavy to very heavy rainfall very likely over Western Himalayan region and adjoining plains. India has received 522.6 mm rainfall as against the normal of 525.1 mm so far.

"Due to strong southwesterly and easterly monsoon flow prevailing over the Arabian sea, scattered heavy to heavy rainfall is likely to continue over Kerala and Maharashtra during the next 24 hours. Coastal Karnataka and south interior Karnataka is likely to experience extremely heavy rainfall in the next 24 hours," K Sathi Devi, Senior Scientist, India Meteorological Department (IMD), said.

Due to low pressure system near Odisha, rainfall activity likely to increase over east and adjoining parts of central India with heavy to very heavy rainfall over Odisha during 9th to 11th and over Vidarbha and Chhattisgarh during 10th to 12th. Isolated extremely heavy falls also likely over Odisha on August 10.

Meanwhile, IMD study shows that whenever a low-pressure system forms near Odisha, rainfall scale up over Kerala. "Kerala - Idukki (Peermade)-176 mm, Kannur (Irikkur) - 173, Kasargode (Vellarikundu)-162, Kottayam (Poonjar)-141,

Kottayam (Kumarakom)-82, Kozhikode (Kakkayam)-258, Palakkad (Adakkaputhur)-117, Pathanamthitta (Seethathode)-111, Wayanad (Padinjarathara_dam)-158, Kollam (Valiyapadam)-51, Ernakulam (North Paravar)-129, Allappuzha (Kanjikazhy) - 79, Thrissur (Poringalkuthu)-79, Chalakkudy-81," the IMD said.

IMD further said that monsoon trough (line of low pressure) is likely to shift northward and will continue to pass close to Delhi NCR during evening of August 9 to 12. During this period south westerly winds from Arabian Sea & easterly winds from Bay of Bengal will reach to Haryana, Delhi NCR and west Uttar Pradesh in lower levels.

"Under influence of this, moderate rain accompanied with one or two spell of intense rain would occur over Delhi during evening/night of 9th to 12th August. Thunder storm would also occur during above mentioned period. Isolated Heavy rain may also occur over NCR," the IMD said.

Express flight crash: CISF first and quick response saved many lives

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CISF acted as first responder and a team of 40 personnel as also reinforcements evacuated most of the passengers of AI Express flight that overshot the runway at Calicut last night before other agencies arrived on the scene.

On Friday, at about 7.30 PM an Air India Express flight IX-1344 from Dubai to Calicut carrying 184 passengers and six crew members, made a crash landing at Calicut International Airport and went off the runway near Gate No.8.

"Assistant Sub-Inspector, Mangal Singh performing duty at Gate No.8, and Asstt. Sub Inspector Ajit Singh, carrying out patrolling in the area, who was near the spot responded immediately. The message was passed to the CISF control room, who in-turn informed the message to ATC Tower, AAI Fire Wing, senior officers of CISF, district authorities and other agencies," the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) said in a statement here.

In the meantime, around 40 CISF personnel led by Deputy Commandant/CASO (Cordon and Search Operation), Kishor Kumar A V, reached the spot and started evacuating the passengers amid heavy downpour. Later AAI officials along with local police and district authorities also reached the spot and helped in the rescue operation. At about 10 PM, NDRF team also reached the spot and rescued two passengers who were stuck between the seats in the flight, the CISF said.

"CISF as the first responder has done excellent work in the rescue of the passengers, and arranged ambulance and other vehicles to shift the passengers to hospital. By the time other agencies arrived at the crash site, CISF had already evacuated the majority of passengers. The Chief Airport Security Officer, CISF Calicut Airport, Deputy Commandant, Kishor Kumar A V reached the site within 20 minutes and mobilized men and material, because of which the passenger could

be shifted quickly for treatment and evacuation was done within two hours, the CISF further said.

Asstt Sub-Inspector, Ajit Singh, Incharge of CISF patrolling team and Asstt. Sub-Inspector, Mangal Singh performing duty near the crash site, showed exemplary alertness and presence of mind by alerting the Control Room and guiding the CISF rescue team to the site.

Director General Rajesh Ranjan has commended the prompt and outstanding efforts of the CISF officers and personnel in saving precious human lives. In recognition of their outstanding efforts, DG, CISF has announced to award DG's commendation DISC to these officers. Reinforcement also responded from the CISF unit lines and helped the personnel who were engaged in rescue operations. Not only the barrack personnel, even those who stay outside the airport campus, rushed to the site after inputs about the crash despite heavy rain.

SC admin seeks explanation from officials over listing of plea filed by Shourie, N Ram, Bhushan

New Delhi: The Supreme Court administration has called for an explanation from officials concerned over the listing of a plea filed by former union minister Arun Shourie, veteran journalist N Ram and activist lawyer Prashant Bhushan in which they have challenged the constitutional validity of a legal provision dealing with criminal contempt, official sources said on Saturday.

According to the cause list on the apex court website on Saturday morning, the petition was scheduled to come up for hearing through video-conferencing before a bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and K M Joseph on August 10. Apex court sources maintained that the plea should have been listed before the bench which is already seized of similar matters, in line with the established practice.

"As per the practice and procedure in use, the said matter should have been listed before the bench which is



already seized of similar matter, but it has been listed by ignoring established practice and procedure. In this regard, explanation from officials concerned has been called," a reliable source said. However, after a couple of hours the matter was dropped from the cause list on the apex court website.

In their petition, Ram, Shourie and Bhushan have challenged the constitutional validity of a legal provision dealing with criminal contempt for "scandalizing the court", saying it was violative of freedom of speech and right to equality. PTI

Incubation period of Covid-19 could be eight days: Study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As researchers learn more about the Coronavirus which has swept the entire world, a new study has said that the incubation period of Covid-19, which is the time after which those infected with the novel coronavirus start showing the first symptoms, could be as much as eight days - longer than previous estimates of four to five days.

The study published in the journal Science Advances, involved the largest amount of patient samples to date in such an analysis.

The researchers identified pre-symptomatic individuals at their time of departure from the Chinese city of Wuhan,

where the Covid-19 pandemic originated, and then followed these infected people until their symptoms developed.

According to the scientists, including Chong You from Peking University in China, the existing estimates of four to five days for the incubation period were based on small samples sizes, limited data, and self-reports that could be biased by the memory or judgement of the patient or interviewer.

In the current study, they developed a low-cost approach to estimate incubation periods, and applied it to 1,084 confirmed cases of Covid-19 that had known histories of travel or residency in Wuhan.

The method has better



accuracy by relying on a public database of dates of infection, and uses statistical methods to reduce recall bias -- the inac-

curate recollection of past events, the scientists said.

Using the new approach, the researchers calculated that

the average incubation period was 7.75 days, with 10 per cent of the patients showing an incubation period of 14.28 days.

For many people, Covid-19 symptoms start as mild symptoms and gradually get worse over a few days.

They said the findings may concern health authorities relying on the standard 14-day quarantine, but cautioned that their approach relies on several assumptions and may not apply to later cases in different parts of the world where the virus may have mutated.

China wants trump to lose election: US intel

Washington: China has boosted its efforts to influence the US presidential election in November and wants President Donald Trump to lose because it sees him as "unpredictable," a top US intelligence official said Friday.

"We assess that China prefers that President Trump — whom Beijing sees as unpredictable — does not win reelection," said William Evanina, director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center.

"China has been expanding its influence efforts ahead of November 2020 to shape the policy environment in the United States, pressure political

figures it views as opposed to China's interests, and deflect and counter criticism of China," Evanina said in a statement.

He pointed to China's criticism of Trump's handling of the coronavirus epidemic, of the US closure of China's Houston consulate, and of the US administration's stances on Chinese actions in Hong Kong and the South China Sea.

"Beijing recognises that all of these efforts might affect the presidential race," Evanina said.

Evanina said Iran is using social media disinformation to divide the country and hurt Trump, while Russia is meddling to damage the campaign of his Democratic opponent Joe

Biden. "Russia is using a range of measures to primarily denigrate former vice president Biden and what it sees as an anti-Russia 'establishment,'" Evanina said.

"This is consistent with Moscow's public criticism of him when he was vice president for his role in the Obama administration's policies on Ukraine and its support for the anti-Putin opposition inside Russia," he said.

Evanina, the top intelligence official monitoring threats to the election, gave no details on the outside interference.

A strong hacking and social media campaign by Russia in 2016 is credited by US intelligence with helping Trump to victory over Democrat Hillary Clinton. "Foreign efforts to influence or interfere with our elections are a direct threat to the fabric of our democracy," he said.

Biden risks alienating young Black voters after race remarks

Washington: Joe Biden's controversial remarks about race this week risk alienating young Black voters who despise President Donald Trump but are not inspired by his Democratic rival.

When pressed by Errol Barnett of CBS News on whether he'd taken a cognitive test, Biden responded that the question was akin to asking the Black reporter if he would take a drug test to see if "you're taking cocaine or not? ... Are you a junkie?"

In a later interview with National Public Radio's Lulu Garcia-Navarro, Biden seemed to draw distinctions between Black and Hispanic populations in the US.

"Unlike the African American community, with notable exceptions, the Latino community is an incredibly diverse community with

incredibly different attitudes about different things," he told the Latina reporter. He later walked back the comment.

Black voters as a whole delivered the Democratic nomination to Biden, powering his commanding win in the South Carolina primary, which rescued his floundering campaign. But that success was heavily dependent on older Black voters. In a general election where Democrats say no vote can be taken for granted, young Black activists and elected officials say this week's missteps could make it harder to get their vote.

"Trump is terrible, and he's a racist, and we have to get racists out of the White House. But then Biden keeps saying racist things," said Mariah Parker, a 28-year-old county commissioner in Athens, Georgia.

HK, Chinese officials jeer at US sanctions

Hong Kong: Hong Kong's leader and China's top representative in the city took pot shots at the United States on Saturday after the Trump administration sanctioned them and nine other officials for allegedly cracking down on freedom and undermining the local autonomy of the former British colony.

Chief Executive Carrie Lam took to Facebook to say that the U.S. got her address wrong, listing the official address of her chief deputy instead. She noted that she was the deputy when she applied for her U.S. Visa in 2016.

"By the way, my entry visa to the U.S. is valid until 2026. Since I have no desire to visit this country, it looks like I can take the initiative to cancel it," Lam said.

The sanctions, announced Friday by the U.S. Treasury Department, block all property or other assets that the individuals have within U.S. Jurisdiction. Luo Huining, the director of the central government's liaison office in Hong

Kong, said being included on the list shows that he has done what he should for the city and his country.

"I don't have a penny of assets abroad. Isn't it in vain to impose 'sanctions'? Of course, I can also send 100 U.S. Dollars to Mr. Trump for freeing," he said in a statement on the office's website.

Hong Kong Commerce Secretary Edward Yau, who wasn't sanctioned, called the sanctions "unreasonable and barbarous" and said they would harm U.S. Interests in the city, an Asian financial and shipping hub.

Hong Kong has long enjoyed civil liberties not seen in mainland China because it is governed under a so-called "one country, two systems" principle in place since it reverted to Chinese rule in 1997.

However, Beijing imposed a national security law on Hong Kong at the end of June, following months of anti-government protests last year.

The new law prohibits what Beijing views as seces-

ionist, subversive or terrorist activities or what it sees as foreign intervention in Hong Kong's internal affairs.

Police now have sweeping powers to conduct searches without warrants and order internet service providers and platforms to remove messages deemed to be in violation of the legislation.

Critics see the law as Beijing's boldest move yet to erase the divide between Hong Kong's Western-style system and the mainland's authoritarian way of governing.

"The recent imposition of draconian national security legislation on Hong Kong has not only undermined Hong Kong's autonomy, it has also infringed on the rights of people in Hong Kong," the Treasury Department said.

The Hong Kong government accused the U.S. Of using Hong Kong as a pawn to create trouble in the China-U.S. Relationship, calling the sanctions "blatant and barbaric interference" in China's internal affairs.

China would love us losing to sleepy Joe Biden, says Trump

New Jersey: US President Donald Trump on Friday said that China would "love" to have an election if he lost to his "sleepy" Democrat presidential candidate Joe Biden.

"China would love for us to have an election where Donald Trump lost to sleepy Joe Biden. They would dream (that) they would own our country. If Joe Biden was president, China would rule our country," he told reporters in New Jersey.

He said that Iran would also "love" to see him lose the election in November, adding that if he won the elections, he will "make deals with Iran very quickly."

"If and when we win, we will make deals with Iran

very quickly. We will make deals with North Korea very quickly. If I did not win the elections in 2016, our country would have been in war with North Korea. We actually have a relation with North Korea," Trump added.

Talking about interference in the US elections, Trump called China "a bigger threat".

"Do you think China is a bigger threat? I think maybe it is. We will be watching all of them very closely. The biggest risk we have is mail-in ballots because with the mail-in ballots it is much easier for a foreign power — whether it is Russia, China, Iran or North Korea — to forge ballots," he further said.

AP fact check: Trump misleads on mail ballots, virus vaccine

Washington: It was a week of relentless attacks by President Donald Trump and his allies on mail-in voting for the November election, and truth took a beating at every turn.

Fearing a pandemic-induced surge in such voting will work against him, Trump persisted in arguing that fraud is rampant for mail-in ballots yet quite fine and safe for absentee votes, which are also mailed.

There is no functional difference between the two, and both have extensive verification systems.

He and his campaign also tried to cast a new Nevada law as allowing ballots to be "showered" across the state to any living person, regardless of age or citizenship, who would have the ability to vote after Nov. 3 without their identities ever verified. Each of those claims is off

the mark.

Meanwhile, on the coronavirus, Trump painted a far rosier picture than his own health experts on when a vaccine could become available. He asserted it could be ready by Election Day.

He also falsely claimed once more that kids are basically immune from the disease, prompting rebukes from both Facebook and Twitter for the misinformation.

Mauritius declares emergency as stranded ship spills fuel

Johannesburg: The Indian Ocean island of Mauritius declared a "state of environmental emergency" late Friday after a Japanese-owned ship that ran aground offshore days ago began spilling tons of fuel.

Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth announced the development as satellite images showed a dark slick spreading in the turquoise waters near environmental areas that the government called "very sensitive."

Mauritius has said the ship was carrying nearly 4,000 tons of fuel and cracks have appeared in its hull.

Jugnauth earlier in the day said his government was appealing to France for help, saying the spill "represents a danger" for the country of some 1.3 million people that relies heavily on tourism and has been hit hard by the effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

"Our country doesn't have the skills and expertise to refloat stranded ships, so I have appealed for help from France and President Emmanuel Macron," he said. Bad weather



Oil leaking from the MV Wakashio, a bulk carrier ship that recently ran aground off the southeast coast of Mauritius

has made it impossible to act, and "I worry what could happen Sunday when the weather deteriorates."

Jugnauth shared a photo of the vessel, the MV Wakashio, tilted precariously. "Sea rough beyond the reefs with swells. Ventures in the open seas are not advised," according to the Mauritius Meteorological Services.

Video posted online showed oily waters lapping at the shore as people murmured and peered at the ship in the distance. Online ship trackers

showed the Panama-flagged bulk carrier had been en route from China to Brazil.

The French island of Reunion is the closest neighbor to Mauritius, and France's Foreign Ministry says France is Mauritius's "leading foreign investor" and one of its largest trading partners.

"We are in a situation of environmental crisis," the environment minister of Mauritius, Kavy Ramano, said, calling the Blue Bay Marine Park and other areas near the leaking ship "very sensitive."



People clash with police during a protest against the political elites and the Government after this week's deadly explosion at Beirut port which devastated large parts of the capital and killed more than 150 people in Beirut, Lebanon on Saturday

Lebanese security forces fire tear gas at Beirut protesters

Beirut: Police fired tear gas and clashed with demonstrators in Lebanon's capital on Saturday at the start of a planned protest over this week's massive explosion that devastated large parts of the capital and killed more than 150 people.

Thousands of people were pouring into Beirut's main square, where they had set up symbolic nooses to hang politicians whose corruption and negligence they blame for Tuesday's explosion at the Port of Beirut.

The huge blast was caused

by thousands of tons of ammonium nitrate improperly stored at the port for more than six years, apparently set off by a fire. It was the biggest in Lebanon's history and caused an estimated \$10-15 billion worth of damage, according to Beirut's governor.

It also left hundreds of thousands of people homeless.

The protest Saturday was the first significant demonstration since the explosion and organisers planned to hold a symbolic funeral for the dead.

Mexico virus cases up, warns of 'prolonged pandemic'

Mexico City: Mexico has posted 6,717 newly confirmed coronavirus cases, increasing the country's accumulated total to 469,407.

Officials also said Friday that the number of confirmed COVID-19 deaths rose by 794 to a total of 51,311.

Hopes for a significant decline in cases have been frustrated by continued high infection rates. Assistant Health Secretary Hugo López-Gatell said Friday that "this is going to be a prolonged pandemic."

Hundreds rally against detention of Thai protest leaders

Bangkok: Hundreds of demonstrators rallied in Thailand on Saturday, after police arrested two leading anti-government protest leaders in an apparent attempt to stifle growing political unrest.

Around 800 demonstrators packed a concourse near a shopping mall in central Bangkok to hear speeches denouncing the arrests and call for Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha to resign.

Tensions rose briefly as police officers moved in,

telling the crowd they were only observing. They withdrew to a chorus of boos and chants for them to get out.

After a period of relative calm in Thailand's fractious politics, the temperature is rising again with a wave of anti-government protests. Many have been held on school and university campuses in Bangkok and other cities.

They reflect a growing anger among many young people with the Prayuth administration.

Judge orders release of body camera video in Floyd case

Minneapolis: A Minnesota judge ordered the release of body camera footage recorded by former officers charged in the death of George Floyd.

Judge Peter Cahill ruled Friday that the videos from the body cameras of Thomas Lane and J. Kueng taken on the night Floyd died will be made publicly available, though it is unclear how or when the footage will be released.

The videos were filed with the court last month by Lane's attorney. Initially only tran-

scripts of the audio were released, but a judge later allowed journalists and members of the public to view the footage by appointment. A British tabloid on Monday published parts of the videos.

The body camera videos and transcripts were filed in court by Lane's attorney, Earl Gray, as part of a motion to have Lane's case dismissed. Attorneys for the coalition of media organizations, including The Associated Press, had asked the judge to allow them to be pub-

lished. Floyd, a Black man who was handcuffed, died May 25 after Derek Chauvin, a white police officer, pressed his knee against Floyd's neck for nearly eight minutes as Floyd said he couldn't breathe. Chauvin is charged with second-degree murder, third-degree murder and manslaughter.

Tou Thao, Lane and Kueng are charged with aiding and abetting both second-degree murder and manslaughter. All four officers were fired.

COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE
An Statutory Authority of Govt. of India
India Habitat Centre, Core-6A, 1st Floor, Lodhi Road, New Delhi, 110003

No. CA/02/NATA/2020 Date: 08/08/2020

PUBLIC NOTICE

RELAXATION IN B.ARCH. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR 2020-2021 AND NEW NATA-2020 REGISTRATION

Attention:- Students, Parents, Architectural Institutions and all Concerned

In view of the Pandemic Covid-19 and partial cancellation of 10+2 level examinations by various boards/ authorities in the country, the Ministry of HRD, Government of India, based on the recommendations of the Council of Architecture, has relaxed the eligibility for admission to 1st year of 5-year B.Arch. Degree Course, prescribed under Regulation 4 of the Council of Architecture (Minimum Standards of Architectural Education) Regulations, 1983, for the academic session 2020-2021, as a one-time measure, as under:

(1) No candidate shall be admitted to B.Arch. Course unless she/ he has passed in 10+2 scheme of examination with PCM subjects or pass in 10+3 Diploma with Mathematics, as the case may be.

(2) The candidates who have qualified the aptitude test i.e. NATA or JEE, with pass percentage in 10+2 scheme of examination with PCM or 10+3 Diploma with Mathematics shall be eligible for admission to B.Arch. course for the academic session 2020-2021.

The same has been published in the Official Gazette vide Notification No. F. No. CA/193/2020/MSAE (Regulations) on August 7, 2020.

Note:- The above relaxation shall be valid for the academic session 2020-2021 only, irrespective of the year in which a candidate has passed 10+2 or 10+3 examination.

All candidates meeting the above eligibility criteria may apply for registration for NATA 2020 on the NATA portal www.nata.in.

NATA 2020 shall be an online examination, comprising Part-A Test (Cognitive skills for Drawing and Visual Composition Test) & Part-B (Test on Scientific Ability & General Aptitude). The First NATA Test shall be conducted on August 29, 2020 while the Second Test is tentatively scheduled during 2nd or 3rd week of September. The candidates (new as well as already registered) are required to confirm their venue of examination as either home or nearest Test Centre as per their convenience. **The last date for Registration for NATA 2020 Examination has also been extended upto 16.08.2020, 11.59pm.**

For further details regarding NATA, the candidates are advised to refer to the brochure available at www.nata.in and www.coa.gov.in and also may contact NATA Helpdesk at Email: helpdesk.nata2020@gmail.com and NATA Help Desk No.: 9319275557, 7303487773.

Registrar

Germany, France challenge US role in WHO reforms

AP ■ BERLIN

Germany and France have challenged Washington's role in leading talks over reforming the World Health Organisation, citing the US decision to quit the global body.

Germany's Health Ministry said the issue was discussed during a call of health ministers from the Group of Seven leading economies Thursday.

In a statement Saturday, the ministry said that in view of the United States' withdrawal from WHO, "Germany and France currently see no mandate for the US to lead the WHO reform process for the G-7"

"How can you be leading while you are leaving?" the ministry added.

The Trump administration, which holds the rotating presidency of the G-7 this year, has accused WHO of bowing to pressure from China in its handling of the coronavirus pandemic.

Second person dies from plague in China's Inner Mongolia

AP ■ BEIJING

A patient in northern China has died from the plague, the second death from the disease in the country's Inner Mongolia region this week.

The victim died on Friday from multiple organ failure in a case of bubonic plague, the Bayannaor city health commission said on its website.

The area where the person lived has been sealed off, and seven close contacts have been placed under medical observation, the commission said.

They all tested negative for the plague and showed no symptoms.

On Thursday, medical authorities confirmed a different form of the disease as the cause of death of another person four days earlier, the Baotou city health commission said.

China has largely eradicated the plague, but occasional cases are still reported.

The last major known outbreak was in 2009, when several people died in the town of Ziketan in Qinghai province on the Tibetan Plateau.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for general information that M/s Vtech Buildcon Pvt. Ltd. has been accorded Environment Clearance by STATE LEVEL ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY (SEIAA), Uttar Pradesh for its "Group Housing Project Homekraft Nobility" at Plot No.01/GH-04, Sector-04, Greater Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. through letter no. 205/Parya/SEAC/4794/2019 Dated 05th Aug 2019. The copy of clearance letter is available on website of SEIAA (<http://www.seiaaup.in/>).

Metro Railway, Kolkata
Kolkata's Pride

HIRING OF VEHICLES

Principal Chief Engineer, Metro Railway, Kolkata for and on behalf of the President of India invites Tender Notice for e-tendering for the following work : **Name of Work** : "Provision of three Nos. vehicles (TATA Mobile or Mahindra or TL-Double cab or similar) on hiring basis round the clock for two years under Sr. DEN/O&M, Metro Railway, Kolkata." **Tender Value** : ₹ 43,00,556.40. **Cost of Tender Document** : Nil. **Earnest Money** : ₹ 86,100/-. **Completion Period** : 24 months. **Date of Closing** : 27.08.2020 at 12.00 hrs. The tender document and other details can be obtained from the website : www.ireps.gov.in The bidding for the tender is to be submitted only through e-tendering on above website. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any manual offer, if received shall not be accepted and will be summarily rejected.

Abridged e-tender Notice No. : Civil-2338-2020 (Open)

FASTER • SAFER • SMOOTHER • CLEANER

Whirlpool
CORPORATION

WHIRLPOOL OF INDIA LIMITED
(CIN: L29191PN1960PLC020063)
Regd. Office: Plot No. A-4, MIDC, Ranjangaon, Taluka-Shirur, Dist. Pune-412220, Maharashtra
Tel No.: 02138-660100; Fax No.: 02138-232376
E-mail: investor_contact@whirlpool.com;
Website: www.whirlpoolindia.com

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 201 OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2013

Notice is hereby given for the information of the Members of Whirlpool of India Limited that the Company proposes to make an application to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India for their approval under Section 196 read with Schedule V of the Companies Act, 2013 for the appointment of its Managing Director, Mr. Vishal Bhola for a period of five years with effect from April 04, 2020, which is at variance with Part I of Schedule V of the Companies Act, 2013.

Any member/person having any objection to the above proposal, shall if he so desires, communicate his objection in writing duly substantiated to the Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India, Shastri Bhavan, 5th Floor, 'A' Wing, Dr. R.P. Road, New Delhi-110001, as early as possible and latest within 30 days of the publication of this notice.

For Whirlpool of India Limited

Place : Gurugram Roopali Singh
Date : 09th August, 2020 Company Secretary

15 proposals of stressed NBFCs, HFCs worth ₹6,400 cr sanctioned

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
The Finance Ministry on Saturday said 15 proposals worth ₹6,399 crore of stressed NBFCs and HFCs have been sanctioned under the special liquidity scheme announced as part of the ₹20.97 lakh crore 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' package. The scheme launched on July 1 permits both primary and secondary market purchases of debt and seeks to address the short term liquidity issues of non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and housing finance companies (HFCs). "The Special Liquidity Scheme (SLS) of ₹30,000 crore was announced as a part of the #AatmanirbharBharat package with an aim to improve the liquidity position of NBFCs and HFCs," Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in a tweet. Sharing implementation status update of the scheme, she

Saudi stops supply of oil on deferred payments to Pak after deal expires

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD
Pakistan has not received the oil on deferred payments from Saudi Arabia since May as a deal signed between the two close allies for provision of USD 3.2 billion worth of the fuel under the arrangement expired two months ago. The USD 3.2 billion Saudi oil facility was part of the USD 6.2-billion Saudi Arabian package announced in November 2018 to ease Pakistan's external sector woes, the Express Tribune reported on Friday. The agreement expired in May and efforts are being made by the Finance Division to renew the facility, Petroleum Division spokesperson Sajid Qazi was quoted as saying by the paper. Pakistan is awaiting response from the Saudi government over its request to further extend the facility, he added. The development comes at a time when Pakistan faces a challenging situation as its IMF programme also remains technically suspended for the last five months. Returning of Saudi loans and expiry of the oil facility could strain the official reserves of the central bank, which are built purely by taking loans, the paper said. The budget estimates suggested that the government was hoping to receive minimum USD 1 billion worth of oil in fiscal year 2020-21, which started from July. Pakistan has already returned USD 1 billion Saudi

Gadkari exhorts industry to identify sectors to boost exports, make India 'self-reliant'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
To boost 'self-reliant India' endeavour, Union minister Nitin Gadkari on Saturday urged the industry to identify the sectors heavily reliant on imports, particularly from China, and look for substitutes towards indigenous production to make India a super power. The agreement over USD 3 billion cash support and USD 3.2 billion oil facility per annum had the provision of renewal for two more years. Saudi had rolled over its USD 3 billion loan from between November 2019 and January 2020. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has termed the rollovers of Saudi Arabian, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Chinese assistance critical for Pakistan's debt sustainability. Pakistan's repayment of USD 1 billion Saudi Arabian loan after borrowing from China and expiry of the oil facility underscores challenging relations between two Islamic nations, the report noted. The Saudi oil facility that had been secured after hectic backdoor lobbying with the royal family remained under-utilised in the last fiscal year. The USD 769 million deferred payment facility on supply of oil was availed from Saudi government, according to the spokesman of the Petroleum Division. The Saudi facility faced roadblocks since the beginning. Initially, both the countries had a plan to make the facility operational from January 2019. But it actually became operational from July last year.

90% of focus of industry bodies is on major industries in big cities, metropolises

is the need of the hour to make India a super power," Gadkari said. "China's 70 per cent of exports are from 10 sectors," Gadkari said and urged CII to identify what was imported in India and how can that be replaced with indigenous production for 'self-reliance' while assuring all government support in this initiative. He said of the China's exports, apart from machinery and equipment, furniture and related things accounted for exports worth USD 100 billion, plastics products (USD 84 billion), vehicles (74.40 billion) and clothing (USD 66.80 billion). "CII should identify sectors to boost exports and reduce imports. In some areas we will have to increase import duty to encourage Indian manufacturers," he said. Assuring all possible help to the industry for making rural and tribal areas their hub, the minister said a wide network of highways, railways and waterways was bound to bring down logistics cost. He also said that a host of initiatives including redefining the definition of MSMEs will yield rich dividends. The Minister informed that the Government is working on a scheme for inclusion of smallest units under the MSME ambit and providing for their micro-financial requirements.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for general information that M/s Fest Homes Developers Pvt. Ltd. has been accorded Environment Clearance by STATE LEVEL ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY (SEIAA), Uttar Pradesh for its "Residential Project **ATS Homekraft Pious Hideaways**" at Plot No.SC-02/J&K, Sector-150, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. through letter no. 29/Parya/SEAC/4447/2019 dated 10th May 2019. The copy of clearance letter is available on website of SEIAA (<http://www.seiaaup.in/>).

WESTERN RAILWAY			
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE			
No.S/15/2020 Date 06.08.2020			
S.N.	Short Description of item	Quantity	T.O.D.
375	Secondary Lateral Damper	254 Nos.	21.08.2020
376	Vortex Mixer	1 No.	21.08.2020
377	Hot Air Oven	1 No.	21.08.2020
378	Plate Centrifuge	1 No.	21.08.2020
379	Digital Shaking Dry Bath	1 No.	21.08.2020
380	Semi Automated Column Agglutination Gel	1 No.	21.08.2020
381	Deep Freezer	1 No.	21.08.2020
382	Centrifuge 5420 with Key Pad	1 No.	21.08.2020
383	Lab Refrigerator	1 No.	21.08.2020
384	Vertical Autoclave	1 No.	21.08.2020
385	Refrigerated Centrifuge	1 No.	21.08.2020
386	Defibrillators	5 Nos.	22.08.2020
387	Class B Table top Autoclave	1 No.	25.08.2020
388	AC Cab Fan	221 Nos.	26.08.2020
389	Mixture of Insulin Analogue 25% to 30%	14516 Nos.	26.08.2020
390	Evolocumab 140mg/ml pfs	162 Nos.	26.08.2020
391	Non Mydriatic and Non-Touch Ophthalmic Screening Device	1 No.	26.08.2020
392	Thermal Imager	1 No.	27.08.2020
393	Automatic Extraction System	1 No.	27.08.2020
394	Secondary Vertical Damper	455 Nos.	28.08.2020
395	Set of Battery Boxes with mounting arrangement	40 Sets	28.08.2020
396	Set of Battery Boxes	40 Sets	28.08.2020
397	Rubber sheet Size: 500 mm wide X 3 mm thick	8000 Mtrs.	28.08.2020
398	Yoke Pin Support for Upgraded High tensile CBC	237 Nos.	28.08.2020
399	Flap Door Arrangement	284 Nos.	28.08.2020
400	PVC Flooring Sheet	1031 Nos.	29.08.2020
401	Improved Rubber Side bearer for WAG-7 locomotives	320 Nos.	29.08.2020
402	Electric Loco Log Book	2400 Nos.	31.08.2020
403	Low Maintenance Lead Acid Batteries 75 AH capacity	824 Nos.	31.08.2020
404	Brake Pad Set	28 Nos.	31.08.2020
405	Panto foot insulator	320 Nos.	31.08.2020
406	Ready Mixed Paint, Scamic Olive Green	30940 Nos.	01.09.2020
407	LMLA 2V/300AH	5887 Nos.	01.09.2020
408	EMU TM SKF-NU 326 PE	87 Nos.	01.09.2020
409	Set of Damper for WAP5 locos	4 Sets	01.09.2020
410	16 Teeth pinion	240 Nos.	01.09.2020
411	Transformer oil pump	80 Nos.	01.09.2020
412	Blower for traction motor	160 Sets	01.09.2020
413	Relay Qn1	945 Nos.	02.09.2020
414	UIC - 130 CTRB FOR LHB	2043 Nos.	02.09.2020
415	HEX HEAD BOLT	5300 Nos.	02.09.2020
416	Set of Maintenance Kit For EP Relay valve of E-70 Brake System	142 Sets	02.09.2020
417	Brake Beam Complete	795 Nos.	02.09.2020
418	8V, 290AH Lead Acid starter battery	33 Nos.	03.09.2020
419	Four 'V' Deep Groove Axle Pulley Assy.	576 Nos.	03.09.2020
420	Mirror Assy.	6100 Nos.	03.09.2020
421	Set of 1500 AMP Capacity CTF-1, CTF-2 & CTF-3	13 Sets	03.09.2020
422	Hanger for Bogie Bolster Spring Suspension	25125 Nos.	04.09.2020
423	Buffer Plunger	3119 Nos.	04.09.2020
424	Rubber sheet Size: 800 mm wide x 3 mm thick	6400 Mtrs.	04.09.2020
425	Side frame Key for CTRB	53657 Nos.	04.09.2020
426	Knuckle for Upgraded High Tensile CBC	3151 Nos.	04.09.2020
427	Complete Assy. of Swing Door	353 Sets	04.09.2020

CORRIGENDUMS : Please visit www.ireps.gov.in for corrigendum issued to following tenders : Sr. No. 236 of Tender Notice No. S/11/2020 dated 08.07.2020 (Diesel Loco Starter Battery) and Sr. No. 346 of Tender Notice No.S/13/2020 Dt.23.07.2020 (LED Signal Route Indicator) is deleted from Notice .
Regarding detailed notice EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit website www.ireps.gov.in and www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in.
For Principal Chief Materials Manager
Like us on : [Facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly) Follows us on : [Twitter.com/WesternRly](https://twitter.com/WesternRly)



NHAI signs MoU with IIT Delhi for setting up of Centre of Excellence on use of Artificial Intelligence in data driven decision making, in presence of Dr. S.S. Sandh, Chairman NHAI, Dr V Ram Gopal Rao, Dir IIT Delhi and other senior officials and faculty



On Saturday, 119th board meeting of Greater Noida Authority was held in the Assembly hall on the fourth floor. Alok Tandon, Infrastructure and Industrial Development Commissioner, Government of Uttar Pradesh and President, Greater Noida presided over the meet. In the said meeting, Narendra Bhoshan, Chief Executive Officer, Greater Noida Authority, Ritu Maheshwari, Chief Executive Officer, Noida Development Authority, Mr. Ravindra Singh, Additional Chief Executive Officer, Yamuna Expressway Authority, Deep Chandra, Additional Chief Executive Officer, Greater Noida Authority, Shri Krishna Kumar Gupta, Additional Chief Executive Officer, Greater Noida Authority, and other officials of the Board were also present in the meet.

OK PLAY INDIA LIMITED							
CIN : L28219HR1988PLC030347							
Regd. Office: Plot No. 17-18, Roz-Ka-Meo Industrial Estate, Tehsil Nuh, District - Mewat, Haryana -122103, India							
E-mail : investor.relations@okplay.in, Website: www.okplay.co.in							
EXTRACT FROM THE STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED ON 31 ST MARCH, 2020 (Rs. in Lacs)							
Sl No	Particulars	Quarter ended		Year ended		Consolidated Year ended	
		31.03.2020 (Audited)	31.12.2019 (Unaudited)	31.03.2020 (Audited)	31.03.2019 (Audited)	31.03.2020 (Audited)	31.03.2019 (Audited)
1	Total Revenue from operations	1,673.18	1,135.89	3,288.71	6,867.98	12,316.40	8,137.58
2	Net Profit/(Loss) before Exceptional items and tax	(181.83)	(431.20)	564.70	(707.27)	1,032.27	(820.67)
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional items)	(220.20)	(434.39)	327.05	(752.34)	778.85	(865.73)
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional items)	257.96	(434.39)	(70.30)	(274.18)	294.58	(361.82)
5	Total Comprehensive Income / (Loss) for the period	260.79	(434.39)	(70.00)	(271.35)	294.88	(358.99)
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital (Face Value of Rs.10/- per share)						
(a)	Basic (in Rs.)	1.36	(2.26)	(0.36)	(1.41)	1.54	(1.87)
(b)	Diluted (in Rs.)	1.36	(2.26)	(0.36)	(1.41)	1.54	(1.87)

NOTES:
1 The audited standalone and consolidated financial results for the quarter and year ended on 31st March, 2020 have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on 07th August, 2020.
2 The above is an extract of the detailed format of the financial results of the Company for the quarter and year ended on 31st March, 2020 filed with the Stock Exchanges pursuant to Regulation 33 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of both these results, standalone and consolidated, are available on the Stock Exchange website (www.bseindia.com) and on the Company's website (www.okplay.co.in).

for OK Play India Limited
Sd/-
RAJAM HANDA
MANAGING DIRECTOR
DIN - 00194590

Place : New Delhi
Dated : 07th August, 2020

MY MONEY SECURITIES LTD						
CIN : L67120DL1992PLC047890						
Regd Office : 10-A, UNDERHILL LANE, CIVIL LINES, DELHI-54						
Ph : 011-23924241, 23908555, E-mail id : mymoneyviews@outlook.com						
Extract of the Standalone Audited Financial Results for the Quarter and year ended 31st March, 2020 (Rs. in lacs)						
S. Particulars No.	Quarter Ended		Year Ended		Year Ended	
	31.03.2020 Audited	31.12.2019 Unaudited	31.03.2020 Audited	31.03.2020 Audited	31.03.2019 Audited	31.03.2019 Audited
1	Total Income from operations (net)	(42.93)	8.25	101.08	(27.51)	44.97
2	Net Profit/(Loss) from Ordinary Activities after tax	(84.94)	(13.13)	14.79	(147.16)	(110.24)
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Extraordinary items)	(84.94)	(13.13)	14.79	(147.16)	(110.24)
4	Total comprehensive income for the period (comprising profit/loss) for the period after tax and other comprehensive income after tax	(84.94)	(13.13)	14.79	(147.16)	(110.24)
5	Equity Share Capital	1000.03	1000.03	1000.03	1000.03	1000.03
6	Earning per share (before extraordinary items) (of Rs. 10/- each)	(0.849)	(0.131)	0.148	(1.471)	(1.102)
Basic	(0.849)	(0.131)	0.148	(1.471)	(1.102)	
Diluted	(0.849)	(0.131)	0.148	(1.471)	(1.102)	
7	Earning per share (after extraordinary items) (of Rs. 10/- each)	(0.849)	(0.131)	0.148	(1.471)	(1.102)
Basic	(0.849)	(0.131)	0.148	(1.471)	(1.102)	
Diluted	(0.849)	(0.131)	0.148	(1.471)	(1.102)	

Note :
The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/Annual Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/Annual Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange website (www.bseindia.com) and company website www.mymoneyviews.com.
For and on behalf of the Board of Directors
Sd/-
Sanjai Seth
Whole Time Director
DIN : 00350518

Place : Delhi
Dated : 24/07/2020

Aro granite industries ltd.						
(100% Export Oriented Unit)						
CIN : L74899DL1988PLC031510						
Regd. Office : 1001, 10th Floor, DLF Tower A, Jasola, New Delhi - 110025						
Ph. : 011-41686169, Fax : 011-26941984, Email : investor@arogranite.com, Website : www.arogranite.com						
EXTRACT OF STANDALONE AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULT FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30TH JUNE 2020 (Rs. in lacs)						
Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter ended		Year ended		Corresponding 3 Months ended
		30.06.2020 Audited	31.03.2020 Audited	30.06.2020 Audited	30.06.2019 Audited	
1	Total Income from Operations	2,844.07	18,086.46	4,841.78		
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	40.22	517.35	339.26		
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	40.22	517.35	339.26		
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	34.03	360.63	240.44		
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	33.90	327.36	238.20		
6	Paid Up Equity Share Capital	1,530.00	1,530.00	1,530.00		
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year		16,618.68			
8	Earnings Per Share (of Rs.10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)-					
A. Basic:		0.22	2.14	1.56		
B. Diluted:		0.22	2.14	1.56		

Note :
The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/Annual Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/Annual Financial Results is available on the websites of the Stock Exchange(s), www.bseindia.com, and www.nseindia.com and the Company's website www.arogranite.com.
For and on behalf of the Board
Sd/-
Sunil Kumar Arora
Managing Director

Place : Housur
Date : 08.08.2020

PSBs need to step up provisioning to restructure Covid-hit loans

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI
Public sector banks would need to increase their provisioning buffer factoring in the incremental provisioning requirement on restructured loans and potential NPAs, a report said. To discourage rampant and unviable restructuring, the RBI has now mandated that banks will be required to make high provisions at 10 per cent on restructured retail/corporate loans (20 per cent on corp loans for banks outside inter-creditor agreement). According to analysts, higher provisioning cost would deter unwarranted restructuring. But, this would put pressure on the PSBs to accelerate the pace of increasing their provisioning buffer or disallow restructuring, even in genuine case of stress due to the Covid-19 pandemic. "Assuming Covid-19-induced stressed loans at 10-15 per cent

and at least 50 per cent restructured in the worst case, our rough calculations show systemic level immediate additional provisioning cost at 10 per cent could be 50-75 bps," Emkay Global Financial Services said in a report.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Clients Sh. Ram Niwas S/O Late Sh. Ram Pal R/O H. No. 1047, Pana Paposhiyan Nerela, Delhi - 40 have disowned & debarred their younger son SUBHAM from his All moveable/immovable properties due to their misbehaviour & undisciplined Conduct. In further, if any body deals with their son SHUBHAM, he shall do so at his own risk & my clients will not be responsible.
Sd/-
Shankar Lal
(Advocate)

WESTERN RAILWAY

CONSTRUCTION WORKS

Dy.Chief Engineer (Construction)II, Western Railway, Pratapnagar, Vadodara - 390 004, invites e-tender as per the details given below :
E-Tender No : Dy.CE/III/BRC/92 (R2). Name of the work : Part-01: Construction of new Pit line, extension of existing Pit line, service building, Bore well, sump along with drainage arrangement & other miscellaneous works, in connection with "Expansion & Modernization of Memu Car shed to increase maintenance facilities from 16-24 Coach rakes" **Part-02:** Construction of New shed, construction of truss less shed & other miscellaneous works, in connection with "Expansion & Modernization of Memu Car shed to increase maintenance facilities from 16-24 Coach rakes". **Approximate cost work : Rs 2021.27 lakhs. EMD : Rs 1160600/-.** **Availability of online Tender for bidding :** From : 14.08.2020 at 11.00 Hrs. To : 03.09.2020 up to 15.00 Hrs. **Date of opening & Time :** 03.09.2020 at 15.30 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.**

Like us on : [Facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly)



EXTRAORDINARY JOURNEYS

We all dream, but only a handful are able to make them come true. MUSBA HASHMI catches up with young guns who have made it from a village to top global universities, all because of talent, a hunger to learn and their fierce determination

Tomorrow's leader

She is bold, fearless and a rebel. Following age-old regressive traditions was not her cup of tea and that is why at a very young age, she ushered a revolution in her village. In her village where the word menstruation was taboo and was even rarely allowed into personal thoughts, she decided to create awareness on the subject and teach women the importance of menstrual hygiene. And if you picture her as a middle-aged woman or someone like Shakuntala Devi, you are wrong.

Meet Shikoh Zaidi, a 16-year-old student and resident of Kuwarpur Baghel village in UP's Hardoi district. Zaidi's determination, paired with the hard work of teachers from VidyaGyan, Sitapur, a differently enabled school for the underprivileged, has earned her admission to the prestigious Georgetown University in Qatar all expenses and paid.

"I am glad to have gotten the opportunity to study abroad. It is a dream come true for me," Zaidi says.

However, sending Zaidi to a foreign land didn't sit well with her family, which feared how she would manage everything all by herself at such a young age.

"My family was initially apprehensive about sending me to Qatar, especially my father who believed I was too young for it. It took me a couple of months persuade them to support me in this once in a lifetime opportunity and that I did not want to let go of," Zaidi, who has been a student of VidyaGyan from Class VI, tells you.

Zaidi is all praise for her teachers because of whom, she says, she has got the opportunity.

"There was a time when I had withdrawn my name from the list of students shortlisted to study abroad. I was unable to handle the pressure, not that anyone was pressuring me to pass the exam, but I thought that my focus would shift from Boards to this. Maths has been my weak point and I was not able to concentrate on it. I told my principal that I didn't want to be a part of that and she said that it's fine. I felt relieved," she recalls.

But destiny had its plans for Zaidi. "After a few days, I was able to tackle the problematic topics in maths. One day, our principal called me again and asked if that was my final decision. She made me realise what I was missing. I



Shikoh Zaidi, a student of VidyaGyan, Sitapur

understood her, gained back confidence and went on to give the final exam for selection," Zaidi tells you.

Breaking societal stereotypes and questioning the norms got imbibed in Zaidi since she was merely six years old.

"The gender discrimination didn't sit well with me. I often questioned my mother but got no satisfactory answers. When I grew up, I went to VidyaGyan where I became a part of an altogether different atmosphere. Whenever I visited my house during vacations, I felt the need to create awareness in my village regarding gender equality. But what I found the most disturbing was lack of menstrual hygiene practises," she tells you.

Zaidi tried talking to a friend about the matter but she was reluctant.

"I tried to convince her that this is natural and nothing to feel ashamed of, but to no avail. Then I thought of organising workshops in the village about menstrual hygiene. When I told my mother about my plans she thought that I was going nuts. She said that it doesn't look nice when girls talk

about these things. I was asked to keep quiet. Then, I went to my father and he agreed in one go. The next step was to implement my plan," she tells you.

But that was not all. The other challenge was to convince women to attend the workshop. "I went door to door to tell people about it. Some laughed it off while others asked what menstruation or periods meant. I tried talking to them, but they all had tons of excuses of not being able to make it to the workshop. I started losing hope as the ones who would benefit from it were not even interested to attend it. But my father asked me to never give up and he accompanied me to their houses. That's how we were able to have a few women in the workshop," she tells you.

The second workshop worked much better and more women were interested to be a part of it. "In the second workshop, I had two boys with me from my neighbourhood. This made the girls uncomfortable, but they soon realised that it was no big deal. Now a lot of women in my village use sanitary napkins and those who can't afford it, know the importance of cloth hygiene," she says.

Zaidi's bold initiative was often attacked with nasty taunts from some women, but that did not stop her from treading the difficult path.

"Some people called us names. They spread rumours about us and tell people that my sisters and I are not decent girls, but I go by my father's words and ignore them. I am focused in life and I want to do more good for society," she tells you.

If one is to wonder, from where Zaidi gets confidence and inspiration, it is because of her teachers, Mahatma Gandhi and Meghan Markle.

"My teachers always tell me to not fear anyone and never shy away from speaking the truth. I also read a lot of books on Mahatma Gandhi and his journey and spirit have inspired me a lot. Another idol that has inspired me to become a strong woman is Meghan Markle. And Prime Minister Narendra Modi who is an example for everyone who doubts his capabilities," she tells you.

Zaidi's goal is to become an usher of positive change in the lives of the less privileged and she has already crossed some milestones in reaching her goal.

'Make every opportunity count however small'

Another bright student of VidyaGyan who has made it to Cornell University, US after scoring 98.2 per cent in Class XII Boards is an 18-year-old Anurag Tiwari, a resident of Parasan Village in Lakhimpur district, Uttar Pradesh.

Tiwari got admission in VidyaGyan, Sitapur in 2013 and since then his life has changed for the better. "I got to know about VidyaGyan when I was studying in primary school in my village through my brother, who was a teacher there. With the help of his guidance and my hard work I was able to crack the entrance exam," Tiwari tells you.

But things didn't go very smoothly. The challenges came after the admission.

"Initially, things were a bit difficult, the medium of speaking was English there and I was studying in Hindi. I thought that it would be very difficult for me to adjust in the environment. When I saw other children conversing in fluent English, I thought that I wouldn't be able to survive here, but with time, when I touched base with my seniors, I got to know that they all have come from similar backgrounds and with an urge to learn, they got hold of the language. This gave me a lot of confidence and with time I got accustomed to living away from home and comfortable in speaking in English," he says.

He tells you that gradually his perception towards education changed too. "Earlier, I was forced to believe that to get a good score, get a degree and a job was the sole purpose of education. But at VidyaGyan, I got to see a much larger perspective. The school wants students to develop skills, to be independent, do things by themselves, and learn to do that practically. The method of teaching is different and students are encouraged to take part in many activities beyond studies. The students who are good at sports, they take part in sports, children who are good in extracurricular activities, they are encouraged to be a part of those activities depending upon their interest," he tells you.

Like any other parent, Tiwari's parents too were apprehensive about sending

their child to a foreign country. "Initially, they were reluctant to send me to the US. They were worried about how I would return. My father got to know that it is very cold there and it added to his worries. I told my parents that Cornell is one of the best universities in the world and showed them some pictures. I made them realise that getting scholarships to study abroad that too with a top university is not easy. I assured them that I will take proper care of myself and that it is safe. That's when they agreed and gave me a go ahead," he tells you.

The opportunity is no less than a dream for Tiwari, who without the financial aid wouldn't have imagined even a trip to a foreign country let alone study.

"My father is a farmer and mother is a homemaker. I have three elder sisters. Since my childhood, I have learnt to not demand anything because I don't come from a financially strong family. There was a time when we were only able to meet basic necessities. My father was not able to give us good education. I used to watch other children go to fancy schools, but I learnt to be satisfied and make do with what I had. I always thought that if I could get an opportunity, I would make full use of it. This has been a breakthrough," Tiwari tells you.

His goal is to become an economist and return to India to help the children who are deprived of education. "As of now, I will be pursuing my undergrad in economics and mathematics and focus on studies to get a good job. I want to be an economist and come back to help children who seek opportunities to fulfil their dreams. Had I not got this opportunity; I would have been living a normal life. I would like to help children with such opportunities, even if I am able to make a small contribution that could make a big difference in their lives I would be happy," he says. Tiwari has advised to all those who fear to dream because of financial constraints.

"Never stop dreaming as you never know when they can come true. When life gives you an opportunity, however small, make full use of it. If you are fortunate enough to get education don't just study to get marks, develop skills to be independent and to be able to stand on your feet and spread happiness in your society and for yourself," he tells you.

Anurag Tiwari, a student of VidyaGyan, Sitapur



SOME PEOPLE CALLED US NAMES. THEY SPREAD RUMOURS ABOUT US AND WOULD TELL PEOPLE THAT MY SISTERS AND I ARE NOT DECENT GIRLS, BUT I GO BY MY FATHER'S WORDS AND IGNORE THEM. I AM FOCUSED IN LIFE AND I WANT TO DO MORE GOOD FOR SOCIETY

TAKING THE UNCONVENTIONAL ROUTE

The list of these young achievers is never ending. Zaidi and Tiwari are not lone cases, there is more. Sagar Rath, a student of VidyaGyan, Bulandshahr with 88 per cent in Class XII is also heading to Georgetown University, Qatar. However, this is not the first time Rath is going to study abroad. His last study trip, also his first one was to the US in 2017 as part of a student exchange programme.

Though Rath is well-versed with the know-hows of studying in a foreign university, but going once again and for a longer peri-

od gives him goosebumps.

"I am extremely excited to go to Georgetown University. It definitely feels amazing to study in a different land as one gets to experience different cultures and is able to see the larger picture of the world," Rath says.

Coming from a family of farmers, it was difficult for Rath to convince his parents to send him abroad. "Everyone in my family is into farming. Even my elder brother helps my father in the job. I turned out to be the black sheep of the family. Even my sister, she is pur-

suing MSc, so we — brother-sister duo are doing a good job of breaking the family traditions and chasing our dreams," he says.

What brings Rath to VidyaGyan was the fact that the school has larger-than-life campus, a variety of sports and even foreign exchange programmes.

"I love sports. I came to know about how good the campus is through a friend. I was fascinated by the whole idea of foreign exchange programmes. That's when I thought that I have to make it to the school and fortunately I cracked the

entrance exam and got the admission," he tells you.

Once reaching the university, apart from academics, Rath wishes to join the Qatar football team one day. "I want to be a part of their football team. I love the sport and would work hard to make it come true," he tells you.

Before securing admission in Georgetown University, Rath's application was rejected once, and that, he says, was the most challenging time for him.

"After I got rejected, all my hopes went down. I was left dis-

heartened. I kept thinking what went wrong and was convinced that I would not be able to go abroad. For at least three months, I struggled with the fear of failure and then fortunately I got selected for Georgetown University. However, my friend Shiva, supported me a lot during the phase," he tells you.

After seeing Rath's journey with the school and what education can do to a human being, a lot more children of his village got motivated to go to schools.

"Children now are more motivated than ever to go to any school,

if not VidyaGyan. They are interested to learn things and explore the world," he tells you.

Rath has a message for those who think they can't excel in academics. "One just has to believe in himself. Self-confidence is the key. You have to figure out your plus point, it is not only about academics, a student can be good at sports while the other can possess excellent communication skills, one just has to figure out his talent and start pursuing it. Also like people say hard work always pay off," he says.



Sagar Rath, a student of VidyaGyan Bulandshahr



VARANE'S NIGHTMARE

Man City pounce on centre-back's mistakes to dump Real

AFP ■ MANCHESTER
Manchester City took advantage of two shocking mistakes by Raphael Varane to beat Real Madrid 2-1 in their Champions League last 16 second leg on Friday and advance to the quarter-finals as Pep Guardiola came out on top in his duel with Zinedine Zidane.

"We can't be happy with the result. But we have to be proud of everything we've done this season."
— ZINEDINE ZIDANE

"We are here to try and win the Champions League. It is one step. If we think that is enough we will show how small we are. If you want to win you have to beat the big clubs."
— PEP GUARDIOLA

two-year ban from Europe handed down by UEFA for Financial Fair Play breaches. They have already qualified for next season's tournament after coming second in the Premier League but now they can look forward to facing Lyon in the quarter-finals at the Estadio Jose Alvalade.

Real, meanwhile, will get over this. They have dined out on success in the Champions League in recent years but their main objective after the coronavirus shutdown was to win La Liga and they did that.

"I think we get nine out of 10 for this season," said Rodrygo. "We don't deserve 10 because of the Champions League but we have still had a great season."



UPHILL STRUGGLE
It was already going to be an uphill struggle for them in the absence of Ramos, sent off late in the first leg, and their task became even harder after they conceded an early opener.

City's high pressing paid off as Varane was barged off the ball in his own area by Jesus, who squared for Sterling to roll in.

There was a response from the 13-time European champions, though, with Benzema and Eden Hazard forcing saves from Ederson before their equaliser arrived in the 28th minute.

A fine move ended with Benzema feeding Rodrygo and the young Brazilian clipping in a cross from the right for the Frenchman, who rose above Aymeric Laporte and Fernandinho to head in from the edge of the six-yard box.

It was his 65th goal in the Champions League, putting him one clear of Bayern Munich's Robert Lewandowski on the

NUMBER GAME

- 2** Real Madrid have lost both legs of a Champions League knockout tie for the first time since 2008-09, when they lost both home and away against Liverpool in the Last 16
- 3** Pep Guardiola is the third manager to eliminate Real Madrid in the knockout stages of the CL on more than one occasion, along with Marcello Lippi (1995/96, 2002/03) and Ottmar Hitzfeld (2000/01, 2006/07)
- 1** Zinedine Zidane eliminated from a CL knockout tie for the first time, having been victorious in the previous 12. Zidane has won just two of his seven CL games against English teams (28%)
- 2** Raphael Varane is the first Real Madrid player to commit two errors leading to goal in a single UCL game since at least 2007/2008 season
- 100** Raheem Sterling has scored his 100th goal in all competitions for Man City, becoming the first Englishman to reach three figures for the club since Dennis Tueart in 1981
- 2** Gabriel Jesus is just the second player to score in both legs of a CL knockout tie against Real Madrid for an English side, after Ruud van Nistelrooy with Man United in 2002-03
- 10** Thibaut Courtois hasn't kept a clean sheet in now ten games against Man City in all competitions
- 1** Lyon is the first French team to eliminate Juventus in the knockout stage of the European Cup/UEFA Cup/Cup Winners' Cup
- 20** Juventus forward Cristiano Ronaldo has scored 20 goals in his last 13 home CL knockout matches. In total, he has scored 67 goals in the knock-out stages of the competition, 21 more than any other player (Messi, 46).
- 6** Memphis Depay has scored in his last six Champions League games with Lyon, only Edinson Cavani (7, with Paris between November 2016 and October 2017) has done better with a French club in the competition

Win not enough

Ronaldo nets twice but Lyon advance on away goals

AFP ■ TURIN
Lyon coach Rudi Garcia hailed his team for seeing off Juventus and the "extraterrestrial" Cristiano Ronaldo to reach the Champions League quarter-finals on Friday.

Captain Memphis Depay's early penalty sealed Lyon's berth in the last eight despite losing 2-1 on the night in Turin.

A goal up after winning February's first leg, Lyon will face Manchester City at the final tournament in Lisbon after drawing 2-2 on aggregate and going through on away goals.

"We came up against an opponent who has an extraterrestrial in its squad," said Garcia of five-time Ballon d'Or winner Ronaldo who scored both of Juve's goals on Friday.

Lyon squeezed past the Italian champions thanks to Depay's 12th-minute penalty which put Garcia's side two goals ahead in the tie and left Juve with a mountain to climb.

Needing to score three unanswered goals in order to go through, Portuguese star Ronaldo tried his best to drag the Italian champions over the line.

He levelled the scores on the night with a penalty of his own with two minutes left in the opening period before crashing home a second goal on the hour mark.

However Juve performed poorly and Lyon managed to hold on to set up a clash with Pep Guardiola's City on August 15.

"I think we did very well in the first half," added Garcia.



Cristiano Ronaldo reacts after Juventus' defeat against Lyon in R16 of Champions League

"Unfortunately the penalty awarded to them, which was completely unjustified, put them back in the game." "This is the victory of a group. We wanted to be in the Final 8 in Lisbon, we are there." "We'll still be outsiders and that suits us very well." "Despite their nine consecutive Italian league titles in a row, Juventus could not get past a French side that finished seventh in Ligue 1 this season." "We went out because of the first half in Lyon," said Juventus coach Maurizio Sarri.

"I'm devastated, but satisfied with the performance. We are very sorry. We had a good game tonight."

Sarri sacked

AFP ■ TURIN
Juventus sacked coach Maurizio Sarri on Saturday after the Italian club's Champions League last 16 exit to Lyon.

"Maurizio Sarri has been relieved of his post as coach of the first team," the nine-time reigning Serie A champions said in a statement.

Sarri, 61, had replaced Massimiliano Allegri last summer, after leading Chelsea to success in the Europa League.

"The club would like to thank the coach for having written a new page in Juventus' history with the victory of the ninth-consecutive championship, the culmination of a personal journey that led him to climb all the divisions of Italian football," the team said.

The *Scudetto* was the first league title for Sarri in his 30-year coaching career, extending a record run in Turin which Antonio Conte started with three titles from 2012 and Allegri continued with the following five.

But the former Napoli boss paid for the club's failure on the European stage. "Sarri Out!" headlined Turin sports daily *Tuttosport*, with *Corriere Dello Sport* saying: "Addio Maurizio." Lazio coach Simone Inzaghi, Real Madrid's Zinedine Zidane and former Tottenham manager Mauricio Pochettino have been touted as possible successors.

Sarri was hired to give Juventus a more flamboyant edge but struggled to impose his so-called *Sarri-ball* high-tempo passing game on the Turin side.

He had been under pressure since his side lost to Napoli on penalties in the final of the Coppa Italia in June.

Sarri, who never played football professionally, began coaching amateur teams back in the 1990s, managing to combine his hobby with a banking career that took him to the United Kingdom, Germany, Switzerland and Luxembourg.

He coached 16 different sides in the lower division of the Italian league before reaching Serie A with Empoli in 2014.

Known as *Mr 33* because he reputedly thought up 33 different plans for setpieces, Sarri joined Napoli in 2016 and turned them into the side most likely to threaten Juve's dominance.

He then spent one season at Chelsea, winning the Europa League with the London side, before joining Juventus.



This defeat is mine: Varane

Manchester: Real Madrid defender Raphael Varane took full responsibility for his side's 2-1 defeat at Manchester City after making two catastrophic errors which saw the Spanish side knocked out of the Champions League.

"I wanted to show my face because this defeat is mine," French international Varane told reporters after the last-16 second leg.

"I have to take all the responsibility for this match. We played well in the game, we'd prepared well for it, but at this level if you make mistakes you end up paying a lot for them." "I can't explain the errors but I have to accept them. This is a complicated moment for me," added Varane, who has made over 300 appearances for Real since joining from Lens in 2011.

"This hasn't happened to me many times in my career but something like this can always happen, errors are made all over the pitch but in my position they have a higher price." "My team mates know I'm sad but I have to show character and get over this quickly. It'll be a sad night for me. I'm a competitor and today I messed up. I'm not happy but I have to accept it."

Bottas takes 70th anniversary GP pole



AFP ■ SILVERSTONE
Valtteri Bottas outpaced his Mercedes team-mate and world championship leader Lewis Hamilton by the finest of margins on Saturday to claim a dramatic pole position for the 70th Anniversary Grand Prix.

The Finn clocked a fastest lap in one minute and 25.154 seconds to beat the six-time world champion by only 0.063 in the final seconds of an enthralling qualifying session.

It was the Mercedes team's 67th front row lockout.

"It feels good," said Bottas who was securing the 13th pole of his career 48 hours after signing a new contract to keep him at Mercedes next season.

He added: "We have

improved the set-up and the car since last week. Mentally, when you start on pole, you can only aim to win the race — and the starting point is good! It is so nice to drive this amazing car."

Hamilton explained his unexpected 'slip' to second.

"I wasn't that great, but Valtteri did a great job and he deserves pole."

Nico Hulkenberg, standing in for coronavirus victim Sergio Perez with the Racing Point team, was third, securing his spot with an impressive performance only 10 days after receiving a late call-up while eating a pastry in a Cologne café.

"It's been a crazy last week," he said.

"Q2 was tricky and I made life hard for myself — and it is definitely going to hurt tomorrow, not having had the experience last week."

He failed to start last Sunday's British Grand Prix at the circuit after an engine problem.

Max Verstappen took fourth for Red Bull ahead of Daniel Ricciardo of Renault, Lance Stroll in the second Force India, Pierre Gasly of Alpha Tauri and down in eighth Charles Leclerc in the leading Ferrari.

Alex Albon was ninth in the second Red Bull and Lando Norris 10th for McLaren.

Wawrinka skips US Open

AFP ■ NEW YORK
Former champion Stan Wawrinka on Friday confirmed that he will not play the US Open citing "the health situation in New York" as the Grand Slam event took another hit.

Wawrinka, the US Open winner in 2016, was already missing from the entry list along with four-time champion Rafael Nadal.

Now, the 35-year-old will instead focus on Roland Garros where he won his second career major in 2015.

"There is the health situation which is particular in New York. I did not want to go the US under these conditions," the world number 17, also the 2014



Australian Open champion, told *RTS* in Switzerland.

Players at the US Open, which starts on August 31, will be subject to tight health controls to avoid the spread of the coronavirus. It will also be played behind closed doors.

"And the sequence of tournaments which follows after the US Open will be tough," he added, referring to the Italian Open which starts a week after the conclusion of the New York event.

Roland Garros, delayed from May-June, will then start in Paris on September 27.

"Finally, there are all the uncertainties related to the quarantine issue. There are still many questions and doubts about the holding of the US Open."

+ve hockey players doing fine: Reid

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI
The five hockey players who tested positive for Covid-19 at the Sports Authority of India's (SAI) centre in Bengaluru are being attended to by the centre's in-house doctor in addition to a doctor from the state Government, SAI said on Saturday.

Additionally, SAI said that it has "got on board expert doctors from Manipal Hospital."

"The vitals of the players like temperature, oxygen levels have been monitored and all five players have been found to be mild symptomatic cases," Dr Avinash HR, who has been deputised by the state Government and diagnosed the players on Saturday, said in a SAI state-

ment. "Except for one the other four players did not have fever. They are doing fine and we have put them on immunity boosters and other support medicines."

SAI has also deputed two officers to exclusively monitor the athletes and cater to their requirements and to ensure that the five athletes have 24-hour access to the SAI authorities.

"I am constantly in touch with all five of them and they are doing fine. SAI has made every arrangement to give them the best care. The chefs are making special dishes for them as per their choice, beyond the mess menu, and the athletes are very happy about it," team coach Graham Reid said.



Just-relegated English football club AFC Bournemouth on Saturday roped in Jason Tindall as the club's new manager. A statement on the club's website said, "Tindall, who has served the Cherries for more than 18 years as a player and coach, has put pen to paper on a three-year contract at Vitality Stadium and will be attempting to lead the club back to the Premier League."

Paul hopes for national team comeback

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
He has not been in the Indian football squad for the last few years but 'spiderman' goalkeeper Subrata Paul is hoping to make a comeback to the national team during the Asian Cup in 2023.

The 33-year-old Paul last played for India in 2017 and since then Gurpreet Singh Sandhu has been a regular under the Indian bar. Paul, though, is still going strong in the Indian Super League for Jamshepur FC and now for Hyderabad FC.

"I strongly believe that I have a lot to contribute to the national team. Coach has (Igor Stimac) said whoever has an Indian passport stands



a chance to get selected to play for the country. I am working day in and day out to achieve it," Paul said.

"I want to play another Asian Cup. It may sound funny," he said during a chat with the *AIFF TV*.

India is already out of contention for a 2022 FIFA World Cup berth but Stimac's side is very much in the reckoning for a 2023 Asian Cup spot. The joint qualification campaign resumes with a match against Asian champions Qatar in Bhubaneswar on October 8.

Paul, who was referred to as 'spiderman' by the Asian media for his exploits during the 2011 Asian Cup in Doha, admitted that the thought of not being able to make it to the national team has been "troubling" him.

"I am blessed to be financially stable, I already have a contract with a club. But there's something in me that is troubling me — and I know I can be there (in the team). That's the challenge which I have taken," he said.

"The urge to be back again is what is driving me. I have full respect for coach Stimac. If he thinks I am good enough he will call me. I am not being arrogant. I have played 74 matches for India."

Paul said if he did not have anything to offer to the national team, he will pack his bags and hang his boots.

"(Gianluigi) Buffon is my motivator. If coach calls me up, I'll come up. Everyone knows about my work ethic. Age is only a number. If you stay fit, you can become number one."

SINGLES

ZIM-AFGHANISTAN T20I SERIES CALLED OFF

HARARE: The Covid-19 pandemic continued to take a toll on international cricket with hosts Zimbabwe calling off their upcoming five-match T20I series against Afghanistan on Saturday. The T20 series was scheduled in August and Zimbabwe Cricket had also sought permission from its Government to organise it in a controlled environment. However, Sports & Recreation Commission suggested the country was not still ready to host visiting teams due to the sudden surge in Covid cases.

LANKA DE SILVA APPOINTED SL EVES COACH

COLOMBO: Former wicketkeeper Lanka de Silva has been appointed as interim head coach of the Sri Lankan women's team following the ouster of Harsha de Silva due to poor performances. Silva, who played three Tests and 11 ODIs for Sri Lanka, will hold the position till the end of 2020 to provide the country's cricket board (SLC) time to look for a long-term coach. The 45-year-old has been associated with Sri Lankan cricket for a long time, having served as the head coach of the men's team in 2015. He has also recently worked with the men's Under-19 team.

CHAHAL ENGAGED TO DHANASHREE VERMA

NEW DELHI: India leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal on Saturday announced his engagement with choreographer and YouTube personality Dhanashree Verma. The latter also announced the news on social media. "We said 'Yes' along with our families #okaceremony," said Chahal in his caption to a picture of the couple from the ceremony on his social media handles.

2 TOKYO OLY ORGANIZERS TEST CORONA +VE

TOKYO: Two employees of the Tokyo Olympic organizing committee have tested positive for Covid-19, officials said on Saturday. That brings to three the number of employees of the committee who have tested positive since the pandemic began. Organizers said a man and a woman had tested positive but gave few details. They said the man was in his 20s and the woman in her 30s, and that both were now working from home rather than at the headquarters located near Tokyo Bay.

MARTIC, KONTAVEIT REACH PALERMO SEMIS

PALERMO: Top-seeded Petra Martic and fourth-seeded Anett Kontaveit advanced to the semifinals of the first tour-level event in five months at the Palermo Ladies Open on Friday. Martic beat qualifier Aliaksandra Sasnovich 7-6 (5), 7-6 (3) then Kontaveit defeated Italian teenager Elisabetta Cocciaretto 6-1, 4-6, 6-1. The other semifinal will feature Fiona Ferro against local favorite Camila Giorgi.

WILD END TO SPAIN'S 2ND DIV 'VIRUS' MATCH

BARCELONA: The match that caused chaos in Spain's second division after being suspended because of a coronavirus outbreak on one team was decided by a stoppage-time penalty. The spot kick scored five minutes into injury time by Claudio Beauvue gave Deportivo La Coruña a 2-1 comeback win over Fuenlabrada on Friday. The outcome meant nothing to the relegated Deportivo, but it did quash Fuenlabrada's bid to make the promotion playoffs while ensuring Elche clinched a spot in the fight for the top-flight.

Woakes wins 1st Test for Eng

AGENCIES ■ MANCHESTER

As just about no one anticipated, England won an extraordinary match, a classic in camera, by three wickets. Needing 277 for victory they slumped to 117-5 and the pitch seemed to have acquired the qualities of a snake pit. Then a sublime partnership of 139 between Jos Buttler, roundly condemned for his keeping in this match, and Chris Woakes, peculiarly ignored by his captain in the field on Friday, united to transform the game. No one could ignore their qualities anymore.

As ever there was a little flurry of wickets as England homed in on their target. Buttler departed with 21 runs still required, lbw to Yasir Shah. The promoted Stuart Broad went the same way when four runs were required but an outside edge through the slip cordon from the bat of the heroic Woakes prompted the players to bump elbows after an epic contest that has justified all the peculiar hurdles that the pandemic has required everyone involved to overcome.

There was little cause for optimism when Buttler and Woakes were united. The English innings, which had reached the dizzy heights of 86 for one, was in freefall. The last two batsmen to be dismissed, pivotal players in Ben Stokes and Ollie Pope (his standing is on the rise), had received hellish deliveries, which had leapt from a dusty dry surface, the likes of which have often been seen in Karachi in the past. A famous victory was on the cards — but not for England.

Such deliveries and such a dire situation encourages freedom for the batsmen so who better to be at the crease



England's Chris Woakes celebrates their win on the fourth day of the first Test at Old Trafford

than Buttler and — as we soon concluded — Woakes? Buttler announced himself with two sumptuous cover drives off Yasir Shah; no one had been able to attack him on a turning pitch like that until now. Then he unfurled some sweeps, reverse and orthodox, with remarkable power, shots which have been honed on the turning tracks of the IPL. Would this be any more than an unavailing display of defiance?

Woakes was equally fluent from the start of the innings. How to explain his barren trot in recent Tests? Until this match he had not gone beyond six in nine Test innings, not a reassuring statistic for a No 7. His cover driving was as exquisite as Buttler's, whether he was fac-

ing leg-spinners or seamers and, like Buttler, he recognised the virtues of an uncluttered mind at the crease. He has never timed the ball better than this.

It mattered little to the two soft spoken Englishmen who was bowling; the pitch seemed to doze off as the strokeplay became ever more assured. Azhar Ali was quick to spread the field against Buttler, all too wary of what he might do. Not until England became the favourites with about 60 runs required did these two rein themselves in when confronted with the alarming realisation that this was now a match for England to lose. Eventually two unsuccessful sweeps from Buttler and Broad produced lbws for

Yasir but Woakes, the most self-effacing all-rounder England have had for a long, long time, was still there at the end.

For nearly all of this match England had been losing it. That was even the case in the first ten minutes of the day. England polished off the Pakistan tail in 16 deliveries, the only problem being that 32 runs had been added in that time, most of them off various parts of the bat off Yasir, who swung merrily and to good effect. 11 came from Jofra Archer's first over; Broad was walloped for four and six before Yasir was caught behind. Those 32 runs had swung the pendulum further in Pakistan's favour.

Yet for the rest of that morning session the pitch

behaved decorously enough. Dominic Sibley dug in and it was not until Mohammad Abbas switched to around the wicket against Rory Burns that Pakistan made some headway. Burns was lbw to a delivery that jaggged in to him. Progress throughout the rest of the morning was relatively sedate and steady; Root was sharp, hawk-eyed, playing everything on its merits and England had advanced to 55 for one by lunch.

The second session was livelier. 31 more runs were added and Yasir Shah had even retreated by bowling around the wicket to Sibley; then he switched back to over, Sibley drove and edged to slip and Yasir gave the impression that this was all part of a very cunning plan. Then Root received a fine delivery from Naseem Shah and the edge was held by Babar Azam at slip; the decibel level out in the middle went up another notch.

Only now did the batsmen feel that sense of betrayal, stemming from a capricious surface that suddenly gives the striker, however skilful, no chance. Stokes received a delivery from Yasir that leapt towards his throat and he could not avoid the ball brushing his glove before being superbly held by Mohammad Rizwan behind the stumps. And there was nothing Pope could do with the lifter he received from Afridi from around the wicket. It ballooned from his glove to Shadab Khan in the gully. Pope may never receive two such devilish deliveries in a Test match throughout what should be a very long career. And he may never play in such a remarkable Test match.

Dhoni will be very good in IPL, feels Manjrekar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Former India batsman Sanjay Manjrekar on Saturday revealed Mahendra Singh Dhoni had told him he would consider himself fit for international cricket as long as he is "beating the fastest sprinter in the team."

Manjrekar, a well-known commentator, said he had a chat with the two-time World Cup-winning former captain regarding his future in international cricket during India skipper Virat Kohli's wedding in 2017.

"During Virat Kohli's wedding, I had a little corner time with him and he said as long as 'I am beating the fastest sprinter in the team, I am going to consider myself fit enough to be playing international cricket or playing high-level cricket,'" Manjrekar said.

"People like Tendulkar, Dhoni, these are champion cricketers. Once they are on public stage, you will never see Dhoni ever on a public stage, like a cricket field, looking slightly unfit or unable to sprint or run..." he said on Star Sports show Cricket Connected.

Dhoni's last outing in competitive cricket was the 2019 World Cup semifinal against New Zealand. Manjrekar also reckoned Dhoni, who has already started practising in Ranchi would come good in the IPL, saying the presence of "only five" good bowlers in the league is not enough to trouble the seasoned campaigner.

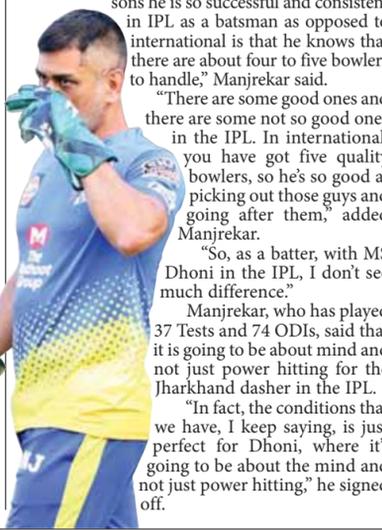
"He is going to be very good and one of the reasons he is so successful and consistent in IPL as a batsman as opposed to international is that he knows that there are about four to five bowlers to handle," Manjrekar said.

"There are some good ones and there are some not so good ones in the IPL. In international, you have got five quality bowlers, so he's so good at picking out those guys and going after them," added Manjrekar.

"So, as a batter, with MS Dhoni in the IPL, I don't see much difference."

Manjrekar, who has played 37 Tests and 74 ODIs, said that it is going to be about mind and not just power hitting for the Jharkhand dasher in the IPL.

"In fact, the conditions that we have, I keep saying, is just perfect for Dhoni, where it's going to be about the mind and not just power hitting," he signed off.



Boxing Day Test to stay at MCG if crowd can come: CA

MELBOURNE: The iconic MCG will not lose out on hosting India for the Boxing Day Test if crowds are allowed inside the stadium, Cricket Australia (CA) interim chief executive Nick Hockley said on Saturday.

It is being speculated that the Boxing Day Test during India's tour later this year could be shifted to Adelaide in the wake of rising number of coronavirus cases in the state of Victoria.

"It comes down to if we can get a crowd at the MCG we'll play at the MCG," Hockley was quoted as saying by cricket.Com.Au.

"All the restrictions that are ongoing, we are just hopeful that they take very quick effect and we get back on top of the situation and people can get out and about, we can get back to crowds and get back to live events."

Hockley said the CA is full steam ahead with the planning

"in the anticipation that we'll be back to some level of normalcy by that point in time".

"It's one of the most iconic events on the Australian sporting calendar. Certainly at this stage we are planning full steam ahead."

"We're in really constructive discussions with the BCCI and the Government to make sure we get all the travel exemptions for India to come," he said.

Puma, Adidas in fray for Team India kit sponsorship

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

German sports apparel and footwear major Puma could be the frontrunner in bagging the Indian cricket team's kit sponsorship rights while rival Adidas could also enter the fray.

However, it couldn't be confirmed whether Nike would re-bid after refusing BCCI's scaled down bid offer

from their ₹370 crore (plus 30 crore royalty), which they paid from 2016 to 2020.

"I can confirm you that Puma has bought the ITT (Invitation to Tender) document worth ₹1 lakh. While buying bid document doesn't mean one is bidding, Puma has shown genuine interest in submitting a bid," a senior BCCI official told PTI.

It is learnt that Adidas too

has shown interest but whether it will be bidding for the sponsorship rights is still not known. Even though some feel that the German giant could independently bid for merchandise products, which will be a separate tender.

Selling of exclusive merchandise products depends on how many exclusive stores a company has along with the point of sales (shops that sells

your company's products). While Puma has over 350 exclusive stores, Adidas has more than 450 outlets which makes these two companies the most sought after.

A senior industry insider explained the whole sponsorship issue in these turbulent economic times.

"Don't be surprised if the new rights holder pays something around 200 crore for a

five-year deal which will be significantly less than what Nike paid during previous term," the industry veteran explained.

"Look BCCI offered Nike the first right of refusal and that too a scaled down offer which they declined. This could mean two things. Either they are not interested or may submit a bid which is even more scaled down than what BCCI offered," he said.



NZ could have hosted WC in 2021 but we support ICC's decision: Robertson

PTI ■ CHRISTCHURCH

New Zealand could have hosted the women's ODI World Cup next year as scheduled but it supports ICC's decision to postpone the showpiece event to 2022, country's sport minister Grant Robertson said on Saturday.

The ICC on Friday deferred next year's 50-over women's World Cup in New Zealand until February-March 2022 because of the impact the pandemic has had on cricket globally.

"This is obviously a disappointing decision for cricket players and fans around the world and for the White Ferns and their supporters here at home," Robertson was quoted as saying by stuff.Co.Nz.

"The disruption caused by Covid-19 around the world has meant no international women's cricket has been played and many teams will struggle to even come together to train in the foreseeable future."

"The organising committee in New Zealand has been working with the Government to ensure a safe and enjoyable tournament could be played. We could have done it in 2021, but now we will look to 2022. As a Government we have reiterated our commitment to supporting the tournament."

2022 World Cup is goal for Jhulan

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's premier pacer Jhulan Goswami will be 39 by the time the postponed Women's World Cup comes in 2022 but the leading wicket-taker in ODIs has not given up on competing in the mega event, saying she would try to stay in reckoning by performing consistently.

The 2021 ODI World Cup in New Zealand in February-March was expected to be the last one for greats like Jhulan and India captain Mithali Raj.

Following ICC's announcement on Friday, Mithali had tweeted that the postponement by another 12 months will give her team much need preparation time as the Covid-19 pandemic impacted their plans immensely but the goal remains to win their maiden global trophy.

Jhulan, who too

is 37 like Mithali, also wants to be there in New Zealand 18 months from now but says her fitness and performance in the run up to the event will decide that.

"We have got a lot of time for preparation, almost 18 months, but on the other hand, it would have been good if it happened next year as I was focussed on that for long," Jhulan said.

"Now you will need to think beyond that. We have not played a ny cricket in the past five-six months and players like me (who play only ODI) played back in November (2019) as all teams played T20s ahead of the World Cup (2020 in Australia in Feb-March. Does she

see herself playing the 2022 edition?"

"To play for India is the biggest honour. Yes 2022 is the goal now but you have to be part of the process and play matches consistently and perform and then you can think about the World Cup because there is a lot of time left and it is not round the corner anymore."

"At this time, I can only think about the next series and performing in it and start from zero and that is what I am going to do. I can't tell you what may happen between now and 2022 as it is still far way."

"At this moment, it is about getting access to the ground, hopefully we will have a camp in September before the Women's T20 Challenge (during IPL in November), which is the next assignment we have," said the holder of 225 ODI wickets.

Commenting on ICC's decision to postpone the mega event, Jhulan said the right call was taken as most teams would have been under-prepared had it happened as planned.

Shakib to start training from Sept

PTI ■ DHAKA

Premier Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan is set to start training at the BKSP facility at Savar from next month, ahead of his return to competitive cricket.

The southpaw was banned for two years, one year of it suspended, for failing to report corrupt approaches by an alleged Indian bookie during the Indian Premier League.

His ban ends on October 29 this year. "Shakib will come to the BKSP next month where he will have coaches and trainers available," Shakib's mentor Nazmul



Abedeem was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo.

"We are functional as the coaches are all residing within the campus, so we can work with

him well. Shakib will have everything at his disposal," he added. Abedeem, who was the Bangladesh Cricket Board's game development manager for many years, is one of Shakib's earliest coaches. He now serves as the cricket advisor at the BKSP facility.

According to Abedeem, the 33-year-old Shakib, who is currently in the United States with his family, plans to return to Dhaka at the end of August in a bid to prepare for his return to international cricket.

Shakib was in sublime form before the ban, amassing 606 runs in the 2019 World Cup in the UK last year.

A business opportunity to script your and India's success story!



NORTHERN RAILWAY INVITES EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR DEVELOPING GOODS SHEDS

EOI is invited from interested Individuals/Customers/Agencies/Startups/Companies and other entities for undertaking infrastructural development of 15 Goods Sheds over Lucknow Division in Public Private Partnership under BOT (Build, Operate and Transfer) scheme

Development work will include improvement in:

- Loading/unloading platform surfaces
- Circulating area
- Lighting arrangements
- Labour resting facilities
- Merchant meeting facilities
- The approach road from Goods Shed to the main road
- Basic amenities and other improvement as per National Green Tribunal norms.

Goods sheds with current traffic potential (Avg. number of rakes per month) are as:

- Alamnagar-42 (AMG)
- Barabanki-16 (BBK)
- Faizabad-26 (FD)
- Vyasnagar-6 (VYN)
- Amausi-6 (AMS)
- Sindurwa-0.8 (SYW)
- Mohanlalganj-7 (MLJ)
- Unchahar-2 (UCR)
- Raebareli-13 (RBL)
- Shahganj-19 (SHG)
- Shivpur-29 (SOP)
- Sonic-6 (SIC)
- Sultanpur-13 (SLN)
- Chaukhandi-6 (CHH)
- Pratappgarh-4 (PBH)

Interested parties may kindly send their EOI/suggestions along with details of the proposal for each goods shed separately up to 15:00 hours on 25.08.2020 to the DRM Office, Northern Railway, Hazratganj, Lucknow-226001, to e-mail id: srdcmfslko@gmail.com. Contact no. 9794833953, 9794833986

Security Helpline No.: 182 Integrated Helpline No.: 139

Follow us on YouTube, Facebook, Instagram



'I have story for Undekhi 3 too'

■What is Bahut Hua Samman about??
The film is totally opposite to the web series — *Undekhi*. I either make dark thriller or crime or dark comedy and satires, which I love. The film is set in Benaras and about two final year mechanical engineering students. In the same college there is an alumnus played by

Sanjay Mishra. He is a bit of a *krantikari* and hatches a plot to rob the campus bank. While he manages to escape. From here the film unfolds.

■You have directed films and web series. What is better?

It is not about what is better. I am storyteller. I need a story to tell, this can be in any form — TV, ad films, films, web series and documentaries — these are different mediums of storytelling. It can be for a few seconds to a couple of hours. It is my job to specialise at all mediums. Web series allows you to develop your character. In films, there are restrictions. Sometimes, we have more to say and we go into sequel. In this sense, web series are a better option since we can give depth to the character.

■Does releasing a film on the OTT platform affect finances?

I am not in the right position to answer this to the fullest, a producer is better equipped. People didn't expect the pandemic and made a film at a budget. Now, they will have to evaluate

THERE HAVE BEEN MANY THINGS THAT HAVE AFFECTED THE INDUSTRY. RECESSION AND #METOO HAD ITS EFFECT. WE JUST HAVE TO ADJUST TO THE PRESENT SITUATION. THERE ARE CHALLENGES, BUT WE WILL FIND A WAY TO WORK AROUND IT

the budget depending on the starcast and release it on the OTT platform and not just release on OTT but also on Satellite, TV, international and DVD. This can either lead to a profit or loss. Henceforth, people will reevaluate their budget in a manner where they don't incur a loss. From now, content will be king.

■Has the pandemic changed the future of the entertainment industry?

Not really. There have been many

things that have affected the industry. Recession and #MeToo had its effect. We just have to adjust ourselves to the present situation. There are challenges, but we will find a way to work around it.

■How did you come up with the story for Undekhi?

I came onboard the project a little late. The script had been in the writing for the last two years; by the time I came, it was in its last stages of writing. The creator-producer of the show — Siddharth Sengupta — told me that the story is inspired from small newspaper clippings which are news but people after empathise with it but flip the paper. The idea was to ask people what they would have done in a similar situation. When I got the script, I was awe-struck with the sharpness of the storyline. I knew that I had to do justice to it, it is rare that you come across such good writing.

■Did you expect such an overwhelming response?

Frankly, I didn't. We knew we had a great story and had approached it with a fresh approach. But since there were no big names associated, we didn't have much expectations from it. But then the lockdown happened and people had time to watch it. Word of mouth worked in our favour.

■I understand Season 2 is in the offing. A little sneak peek — when you start the shoot?

I don't know what the story is about. He is in the process of writing the story. Once he is satisfied, we will know what the story will be about. If things work out, we will start shooting next year — sometime in March. One thing I can say for sure, it will be bigger, better and have many more surprises.

■Usually sequels disappoint. How important it is to take up from where the original left off and build on it?

This will not happen with *Undekhi 2* since my story has not finished. I have more to say. Second, we have seasoned writers who won't take anything for granted. Generally, what happens is that sometimes people treat the show as a franchise and don't bother to develop the story. If I think that is what is going to happen with *Undekhi*, I would end it myself. For now, we have matter for Season 3 as well.

■What next?

I am working on my next web series. But it is too soon to talk about it since we have not announced anything officially. All I can say is that is a romantic-revenge drama.

Talktime

ASHISH R SHUKLA

Known for directing films like *Dev D* and *Prague*, Shukla is now all set to release his latest project *Bahut Hua Samman*. He speaks with Shalini Saksena about how releasing a film on the OTT platforms affects finances and gives a sneak peek into Season 2 of *Undekhi*



Master of intuitive arts

MUSBA HASHMI speaks with AYUSH GUPTA, a 17-year-old Pune-based boy who is known as Youngest Reiki Healer of India and is also the youngest Tarot card reader, about what it took to reach the stage and how he got the title

At the age of eight, when children build sand castles on beaches and play around with superhero figurines and stuffed toys, and intuitive arts are nothing, but mere words for them, this Pune-based boy took to learning meditation. He then got enrolled in Vishwa Reiki Sansthan, Pune and at the age of 12 became a Reiki healer.

Meet Ayush Gupta, a 17-year-old Class XII student, who believes that he didn't chose the art, but the energies chose him.

"My father, Kashi Prasad Gupta, introduced me to meditation when I was eight. He is into spiritual things a lot and he wanted me to walk his path. When I turned 12, he introduced me to Reiki and I found it interesting. Since I was very young, I didn't understand the depths of the art, but for the sake of my father, I learnt it at Vishwa Reiki Sansthan by grandmaster Devansh Shukla. Once I was into the art, my thought process changed completely and I was a different person altogether. It was like the energies had chosen me," Gupta explains.

He tells you that after four-five months, unfortunately his mother was diagnosed with throat cancer and that is when he dug deep in the healing art.

"When the news broke to us, all of us were shocked. We didn't know what to do. That is when I thought of turning to Reiki and see if that will prove beneficial for my mother. I healed her for three months and when we went to Nagpur for her re-checkup, the cancer was cured. The doctors were left shocked because cancer is a disease which is non-curable till date. That was a proud moment for me and there were two reasons for celebration — one, my mother was cured of cancer and two, that it was my first Reiki case. That's when I realised that if the art is beneficial in these kind of problems, then I should use it to make people happy," he tells you.

There were absolutely no apprehensions in Gupta's mind, when treating his mother. "I am into energies since I was eight. I know that if the energies won't heal, they won't cause any harm either. I always had a connection with these energies. Moreover, there was a



hidden trust that I could do that and that trust along with the energies worked in partnership and I was able to solve my first case successfully," he tells you.

The success gave Gupta the much needed confidence and he decided to take it up full fledgedly. "I became 100 per cent confident that I could help a lot more people in life. It was like my life took a U-turn," Gupta, who has cured 400 patients, that of Diabetes, Cancer and even Corona till date, says.

His first corona patient was his friend's sister, who had tested COVID-19 positive in April 29. "My friend called me one day and informed me that his sister, who was pregnant back then, had tested positive for COVID-19. Honestly,

I was a bit nervous in treating her because it was a matter of two lives, but was able to cure her of Corona in a week. She is now doing perfectly fine. I have treated two more Corona patients and they have recovered," he tells you.

Reiki, he says, is a scientifically-proven technology in the world and his success rate in curing all 400 patients is 100 per cent. "In Reiki, we deal with positive and negative energies. Whatever problems that one faces is because of the negative energies.

Through Reiki, there are few symbols — one for mental energy, second for physical and third for distance healing. In distance healing, we send some sounds to the person and he has to sit and listen to them for focus and then

we can send the energies to him," Gupta explains.

There are four levels of learning Reiki. In the first stage, one can only heal himself, in second he can practise distance healing, third he becomes a master and can deal with more energies and heal many people, fourth is the teachers level, where he can teach the art to others as well and fifth is the grandmaster.

"I am a grandmaster. It took me two years to reach the level," he tells you and adds that there is no fixed term of completing the levels, it differs from person to person.

Everything in Gupta's life has happened all of a sudden and so is the case with making it into the World Records

as the Youngest Reiki Healer of India. "One day, I got a call from the World Records Association saying that they have shortlisted five children for the title all over India. Then we were called for an examination. It was like an energy check with their grandmasters and team. I passed it and after a month I got a call from them that I had made it to the World Records. I can never forget the feeling because I had never thought that I could achieve it," he recalls with a smile.

The time taken for healing people depends on the problem they are facing and for how long.

"I have treated and cured a 75-year-old Diabetic, who had Diabetes for several years. It took me a few days to cure him. For rest, it can be months," Gupta, who takes a 25-minute session each day, tells you.

As interesting it may sound to be the Youngest Reiki Healer of India, but there are challenges too. "Sometimes people don't put trust in a 17-year-old. They doubt the calibre. Like the 75-year-old Diabetic I cured, he was initially reluctant to the treatment. He doubted that how can a child cure him when even doctors can't. I wanted to change that mindset, hence I had put all my focus on that one case and showed him the results in a few days. He was shocked. This is, at times, upsetting when adults don't have faith in you just because of your age, but I think with my actions I can and have proved myself to them," he asserts.

Not only that, Gupta is also the Youngest Tarot card reader of India and has done sessions for many celebrities like Remo D'souza, Shankar Mahadevan, Ravi Dubey and Balraj Syal, to name a few.

"All these people came to me through word of mouth. I am glad that I am able to help people and ward off negativity from their life. I would continue doing the good work," Gupta, who doesn't charge any particular amount for healing and even does it for free for those who can't afford it, tells you.

"The moment one tries to commercialise the healing art. It loses essence and results. The art is for people to do good and not make money out of it," Gupta says.

'Songs are a way to emote a wide range of sentiments'



Harpi Gill's latest track has garnered over 10 millions views. The singer speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA about her journey, among other things

■ What is Suit Sandal about?

The song is inspired by the innocent conversation between couples coming from varied backgrounds and a modern take on relationship dynamics. The song is bound to create a feeling of relatability as one-sided love with someone you can't have is a common sight now a days. The song was created with the aim of uplifting your mood so it has peppy beats, a slow tempo, playful tune and catchy lyrics that get people singing the song on loop.

■ From Harpreet to Harpi Gill, how did that happen?

I did my first duet with Raj Brar *sahibji* and during the creation of that song he gave me the name Harpi and it caught on. I was so grateful for the opportunity to work with him so early on in my career that I decided to stay with the name.

■ How did your musical journey begin?

I got interested in music when I was in Class III and started singing at school functions and competitions. My family was extremely supportive of me so when I decided to pursue a diploma in music. During my diploma, I experimented with different singing styles and found a style that suited me best. I got associated with White Hill Music about two years back. That is when I got my first few hits through Punjabi movies like *Muklawa* and *Ardab Mutiyaran* where I playedback. Considering I got so much love from the audience for my work, I released my first single, *Lethal Jatti* that garnered over 54 million views on YouTube and then made *Suit Sandal* that has received over 10 million views. I hope I continue to entertain larger audiences through my music.

■ Was it tough to release a song during the pandemic?

There were many apprehensions. However, I got a lot of support from the team. It was rough but at the end of the day, I believe that as artists, it is our responsibility to help our audience and fan base connect with themselves, and face challenges with a positive attitude. Knowing that the song would cheer up people who would listen, we were convinced that this was the most appropriate time to launch the song.

■ How did you end up collaborating with While Hill Music?

I ended up meeting with people at White Hill Music, when I was still finding my footing in the industry. They had very specific needs that cater to their audience, so I had to work hard to get recognised by the label during the initial days. Once they liked what I had to offer and we came to understand each other's expectations and started working together.

■ Why are all your songs sad?

Songs have always been a way to emote a wide range of sentiments. I do have a few songs that are sad, but most of my recent ones are quite peppy. As an artist we have to showcase a wide range of emotions, basically personifying what our audiences want to feel at a given point. I try to do justice to whatever emotion the song is trying to portray — sad, peppy or romantic.

■ How tough was it to make space for yourself?

I am fortunate enough to say that this industry has been extremely kind to me. Despite not having any prior connection to the music world, the Punjabi music industry offered me ample opportunities to win hearts on merit.

■ What next?

I am working on a couple of projects simultaneously, but the one I can talk about as of now is a duet single with Kamal Khaira that would soon be launched on White Hill Music.

An eye for detail

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

No matter where we go, what we do and what all genres we get to see, but thrillers, mysteries and detective stories will always be our chart toppers. That's the reason why the likes of Byomkesh Bakshi and Karamchand have achieved iconic and legendary stature.

And if one is to talk about the most popular detective character, it goes without saying that it has to be Sherlock Holmes, conceived by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Such has been the craze for the genre that recently, Netflix India posted a tweet, asking people as to whom, other than Sherlock, they would hire to solve a case.

The tweet read: "If you had to hire a detective, who would you approach after Sherlock refuses to take your case?"

Soon after, the tweet became the talk of the town as Twitterati converged in large numbers to share their pick, which ranged from local Indian heroes to Lucifer Morningstar, the Los Angeles-



based devil in disguise played by Tom Ellis, who solves cases just for the affection towards Detective Chloe Decker, an LAPD official played by Lauren German. Lucifer was an obvious choice considering that after four consecutive hit seasons, the fifth season is set for a launch on August 21.

Second in the list was Doctor Watson, who is Sherlock Holmes' assistant and more importantly, his only friend. Interestingly, this character too was introduced along with Sherlock by

Sir Doyle in *A Study in Scarlet* itself. A few others were reminded of Sushant Singh Rajput, who left us for the heavenly abode recently. They recalled the modern Byomkesh Bakshi played by the actor in a Dibakar Banerjee-directed 2015 film.

Amid these popular names, there appeared a few remarkable Indian detective characters, who might not have made it to the silver screen yet, but have certainly created a niche for themselves on the Internet. One such name was that of Detective Boomrah, whose stories published under Kahanikaar Sudhanshu Rai, are immensely popular on YouTube and Facebook. Just days before Netflix posted the query, the creators of the character had launched Boomrah's first look as well.

Well, no matter which character Netflix zeroes in on, high dosage of fun and an edge-of-the-seat thriller seems in store for us. Now let's wait and watch if Netflix India goes vocal for local or settles for already-established western characters.

BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS

It's a truth universally acknowledged that breakfast is the most important meal of the day. Starting off your day with a power-packed breakfast may have plenty of health benefits, especially in the long run. That's also why skipping breakfast is a strict no-no. Contrary to popular belief, skipping breakfast throws your body off balance, considering the fact that it needs quick nourishment after a long gap of not having eaten anything. For those who are always in a hurry and tend to skip breakfast, walnuts have got you covered. Also, it's an excellent way to add a nutritious element to the first meal of the day. Here is a delicious and easy-to-whip-up recipe:

Strawberry, Walnut & Date Smoothie

- Ingredients:**
- 200g strawberries, halved
 - 50g California Walnuts, plus extra to serve
 - 3 pitted dates, roughly chopped
 - 100g natural yogurt
 - 100ml milk



- Preparations:**
- Place all the ingredients in a smoothie maker or blender and blitz until smooth. Pour into 2 glasses.
 - Serve sprinkled with extra chopped walnuts.

By Chef Satyabachi Gorai

the pioneer agenda

I'm going to do what I want to do. I'm going to be who I really am. I'm going to figure out what that is
— Emma Watson



FROM THE INSIDE

Tackling Covid in the capital

Delhi is a microcosm of the complexities which make implementation of plans during a pandemic a steep climb

2



4

Know self for a better future

A lesson in the 'art of living' may help us intelligently negotiate the callings of life, overriding all odds coming our way

As globetrotting has been brought to a grinding halt, the restless millennial's gaze has turned towards buying a home, writes SUSH CLAYS, as she offers a luxury realtor's perspective into the current scenario

Nothing shakes the Indian's faith in land and gold. The birth of pandemic panic definitely put the brakes on the movement in rentals and sales during the stricter lockdown following March 22, further exacerbated by the halting of international flights. But, the luxury real estate market was swift to adapt. With potential clients stalled in various parts of the world, digital innovation in presenting homes played a massive part in changing the structure of how true innovators helped the real estate industry maintain stability during the crisis. And a previously uninterested market emerged. Millennials, with one foot always on a plane, smelt the possibility of a bargain, and began to shop around to plant roots. As lockdown lingered on, Work from Home was born. And suddenly, home was simply the best place to be.

DELHI'S KNIGHTSBRIDGE

The luxury neighbourhoods of Delhi that rely heavily on diplomats and senior corporate expats for housing demand, faced a sudden halt with the airports shut. The heavy diplomatic traffic season, during the months commencing April, saw the industry at a standstill. Arrival numbers dropped like a stone from 100%, with renters jostling for the best homes, to a sharp 0%. As droves of members of the diplomatic community were evacuated in a rush, with skeletal staff left to man the embassies, there was a sudden tilt in the demand versus supply of luxury housing across the neighbourhoods in the Lutyens Bungalow Zone, the Diplomatic Zone, and localities in close proximity. Notices were delivered, *Force Majeure* clauses debated endlessly, and an abrupt glut emerged in the market. Corporate bigwigs that compete for the same housing also caused a major rolling shift with major companies restructuring their setups, and budgets often being scythed by at least 20%. Top brass airline employees faced the same cuts in their housing allowances. And this gave rise to a new trend. With the end of Lockdown 1.0, there was a sudden surge in intra-city housing movement. Top-level expats within the city were suddenly on the move and the brakes lifted. Savvy landlords who saw no end in sight to the airline restrictions being lifted, brought their prices down adequately, between 20-30%, to nab these clients. There has been a slight increase in demand with about a quarter of the diplomats now arriving to replace their end-of-tenure predecessors but restoration of normalcy could take close to a year and a half. Pricing, however, is up in the air, as new arrivals come with the preconceived and fairly appropriate understanding that things have changed. With corporate budgets still undergoing a massive upheaval, luxury rental pricing will continue to fluctuate until giant multinationals arrive at an equilibrium in housing allowances. But a new normal will find itself as flights begin to commence operating to full capacity and previously held back senior corporates on work visas resume their arrivals. For the luxury rental economy to keep its wheels churning, landlords will have to see the light of the new normal and accordingly adjust their expectations.

LOCKED DOWN REALTORS

Luxury Real Estate has always been about structure, curation and presentation. As lockdown 1.0 struck its gong, a complete shift was made to enable clients to understand a city and its housing remotely. Extensive presentations were created to digitally experience the city and each of its colonies. Videos of neighbourhoods' idiosyncrasies and specialties were created. Styles of housing were presented through stock images to delineate the differences between bungalows, builder floors and the ubiquitous 'charming' properties scattered around the capital. Conversation became paramount as words were



REAL ESTATE IN THE TIMES OF CORONA

used to help the eyes see. This resulted in the death knell for quite a few boutique agencies without the ability to cope under the new and changed circumstances. FaceTime and other video communication apps ruled Lockdown 2.0 Realty. As curation had commenced in the earlier phase, video viewings minimised the risk of covid contraction and the interaction between the home and the client became extremely up close and personal, and, unsurprisingly, more prone to close scrutiny, as the camera never lies. However, a number of empty houses were in shabby states as workers had gone into isolation and the worry that they would be delivered spotless had to be constantly quelled, and very often, expectations adjusted.

The king of the lease agreement became the *Force Majeure* clause: the word pandemic flounced its way into every rental agreement. The realtor's biggest task became about adapting to viewings without physically visiting a property with a client, and helping landlords see the financial sense of a cut in rent over a locked up house over an indefinite period.

SUBURBIA

Work From Home (WFH) was the new mantra on everyone's mind. And what home had to be, was now changed. Quiet spaces became prized and as the pandemic raged on, there was a new market player. The exodus of the Delhi resident to inhabit the towers of Gurgaon reversed itself, as more and more companies and employees realised their structures could function unhindered with the WFH model. Senior Indian employees and their families, held hostage by the proximity of condominium living to their skyscraper workplaces in Gurgaon and Noida, sought to return home. Delhi called with its lush green parks and low density of population in the luxury neighbourhoods. Neighbourhoods like Vasant Vihar with their quick commute to Aerocity and Gurgaon saw a resurgence in demand for mid-priced housing. The siren song of admissions in South Delhi's finest schools suddenly looked like it could become a reality, with a move back to the mother metropolis. The price drop, along with a wider

range becoming available to luxury condo residents in the satellite cities, has formed a larger part of clientele in Delhi in recent times.

THE YOUNG AND THE RESTLESS

As globetrotting has been brought to a grinding halt, the restless millennial's gaze has turned towards buying a home. A sea shift in their mindscape has made them look to turning their spend on the ever-changing hotel room and destination towards a home to call their own. Astute at sniffing out bargains, whether in a far-flung flea market or the local property domain, they sense that the time is ripe to acquire property, as sale prices slowly begin to plummet. What was an easy step to take in this city for earlier generations, buying a home close to the standards and neighbourhoods akin to the ones these wealthy millennials grew up in, now looks a more achievable proposition. The growing number of multi-home owning landlords looking to sell is also seeing a rise as the very businesses that enabled them to buy several homes are now in jeopardy. The coming months will see a rise of more realistic numbers being set, with luxury property acquisition coming that one step closer to plausibility. Delhi is already seeing a 10 to 15% drop in prices with Gurgaon surging ahead at around 20%. The market is also flush with the arrival of the home convertor. A keen awareness of the price shift that the pandemic has created, is bringing in a large number of homeowners looking to upgrade. These clients keenly seek to enhance their lifestyle by conversion to better neighbourhoods, quality and age of property, or size. Their shopping has just begun.

THE BLANK CANVAS

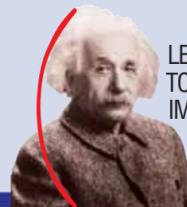
The industry is now at phase where true introspection and change can be wrought. The dwindling number of expats means that home owners need to be more open to local clientele and lose the bias that has long scarred India. The design element of rental prospects could also be revisited to make them more attractive to the taste profile of the potential renter: essentially, a blank canvas of space and colour, left for any

THE COMING MONTHS WILL SEE A RISE OF MORE REALISTIC NUMBERS BEING SET, WITH LUXURY PROPERTY ACQUISITION COMING THAT ONE STEP CLOSER TO PLAUSIBILITY. DELHI IS ALREADY SEEING A 10 TO 15% DROP IN PRICES WITH GURGAON SURGING AHEAD AT AROUND 20%. THE MARKET IS ALSO FLUSH WITH THE ARRIVAL OF THE HOME CONVERTOR



tenant to style to their choice. Expats are increasingly aware that accommodation with standard fixtures in their home countries are now more easily available in India. Modern, updated kitchens with ovens sizeable enough for different cuisines; bathrooms with fittings and fixtures that are standardised and upgraded; boilers for 24 hour hot water supply to replace the legendary Indian geyser that could never fill a bathtub, voiding its very existence. The well-travelled Indian is also aware of advancement in housing design and structure, better exposed to global cuisines, and actively seeking the very same elements whilst choosing housing. To make a property instantly rentable, this time could be used to recalibrate what used to be considered luxury standards to turn it into the new normal. It is also time to consider that WFH is definitely going to be an enormous part of our foreseeable future. Upgrading at least one room in an apartment to office level infrastructure would be a wise yet inexpensive design move. With enough electrical sockets to hold office equipment and storage for supplies incorporated, the average 4 bedroom luxury apartment would definitely be a bigger value proposition if one room could truly serve as an effective work space. Several embassies and companies have already deferred their return to the office space to the summer of 2021. The most important real estate query of the season has been the suitability of at least a couple of the bedrooms being equipped to run as an office or study room for the new digital classroom. With pollution seasons round the corner, another big draw for expats and Indians alike, is the installation of vacuum sealed doors and windows. This feature being available is often the one that gets the property off the market, more than any other. Just as the last decade saw the addition and acceptance of air purifiers in our lives as the norm, this new one brings with it the need for homes and offices to unite in their purpose to become a very viable proposition. This is our new normal. Welcome Home!

The writer is the Founding Partner of Welcome Home Luxury Real Estate Services in New Delhi. Clients include the BBC, World Bank, several top corporates and embassies



LEARN FROM YESTERDAY, LIVE FOR TODAY, HOPE FOR TOMORROW. THE IMPORTANT THING IS NOT TO STOP QUESTIONING
—ALBERT EINSTEIN

TACKLING COVID IN THE CAPITAL

Given the stark disparities between various socio-economic groups and power status of its residents, Delhi is a microcosm of the complexities that abound in India which make implementation of plans during a pandemic a steep climb

STILETTOS



MINIYA CHATTERJI

In early June, the Delhi government laid out an impeccable plan to increase hospital bed capacity to treat Covid patients. It proposed to increase the numbers of beds in private hospitals and transform banquet halls in hotels and community centres into Covid recovery centres while linking them to hospitals in the vicinity. At that time there were only 3,200 hospital beds in the city available to treat 29,943 Covid patients and Delhi desperately needed more beds.

A fortnight later, my team was planning to set up several temporary Covid recovery facilities across the capital with the officials of the Delhi government. We had also just finished setting up temporary Covid recovery facilities in Kerala, Maharashtra and Gujarat. Barring savouring the clock like precision of how things roll in Kerala, we were still reeling from the strenuous effect of arduously working in the other two states. So much so that the plan in Delhi came to us as a source of much relief. It seemed that the Delhi government had nailed it with their ingenious plan. Why did other states not think of linking temporary Covid recovery facilities to hospitals, we wondered! Doing so would overcome the staffing challenges that Mumbai's Covid recovery facilities too were facing.

To a large extent it is understandable why the implementation of Delhi's plan would be fraught with challenges. These are indeed unprecedented times and we are all learning how to cope. Also, given the stark disparities between various socio-economic groups and power status of its residents, Delhi is a microcosm of the complexities that abound in India which make implementation of ambitious plans during a pandemic a steep climb. But the challenges to the plan also came from other sources, a few of which are as follows.

First, there is a serious problem of poor data culture within a preposterous top down organisational structure operating the management of the pandemic in the capital city. This damages the vital communication flow of the organisation's operations. The poor quality of health data is a symptom of the overrun public health system. Data about the prevalence and spread of the virus in communities, capacity and utilisation of medical infrastructure, triggers for behaviour change amongst patients, lends itself to effective policy to help curb the pandemic. Further, in the Delhi administration the top bosses have a vision but — unlike say in Mumbai — they are not directly at work



on the ground. Their vision is instead passed down to subsequent levels in the hierarchy, which is often lost in Chinese whispers by the time it reaches their minions on the ground.

The implications of the loss in the reversed flow of information is perhaps even more hazardous, as minions at times give false or tampered evidence of Covid preparedness to the top bosses. The top down approach is further perpetuated by junior government officials on to daily wage workers and labour on site, in ways I have yet to see in other cities.

The perils of working without data is the reliance on poor anecdotal evidence. In a top heavy bureaucracy, anecdotal evidence can be easily tampered by staff on the ground who pass on only the 'good news' to the bosses. For instance the same set of beds would shockingly be moved around from one hall to another, each time captured for photographic evidence to

send to the top bosses. These bosses are so removed from the ground reality that there is a slim chance that they would ever discover the truth.

A second major challenge is mismanagement. Parts of the plan of linking the temporary facilities to neighbouring hospitals remains only on paper. Despite the rise in Covid cases, the empty beds for Covid patients has been much in the news. The much celebrated 10,000-bed Covid facility at the Radha Soami Satsang Beas in Delhi received 20 patients on the first day of its opening on July 5, and until July 15 only about 200 patients were being treated there. The two 100-bed Covid recovery facilities in Delhi that we set up over the last two weeks in banquet halls in Kapashera and Sinkhole areas in Delhi, are yet to be equipped with health care workers and oxygen cylinders from the hospital it is supposedly attached to. Sadly, it is also well-known that there have

IT WAS NOT JUST THE GOVERNMENT IN DELHI, BUT THE CITY'S BUSINESS HOUSES SUCH AS BHARTI AIRTEL, JSPL, DLF WHO ALSO LED FROM THE FRONT TO DISTRIBUTE FOOD, PPE KITS, OR FUNDS TO HELP IN WAYS THEY COULD

been a few cases of rape and sexual assault upon patients in temporary Covid care facilities in Delhi alone. The reason for this abject mismanagement is not just the obvious lack of healthcare staff such as nurses, doctors, paramedics to run these spaces, but also a glaring gap in know-how and planning of operations. Overcapacity of temporary beds is not a sign of preparedness, it instead points to the lack of planning besides a waste of resources.

On the other hand, Delhi government's promotion of home quarantine of asymptomatic Covid patients or of those who had mild symptoms, has been particularly successful in the city's fight against Covid. This meant that patients could recover in the comfort and security of their homes. This also led to less fear amongst people of testing Covid-positive. People were less likely to hide positive test results. However, the lack of randomised testing in most parts of the country including the nation-

al capital has obviously led to a large section of this category of patients mingling with the rest of the population unchecked and under no quarantine.

Yet overall it has been nothing short of a war waged with full might by India's capital city against the virus, with military style hierarchy and immaculate planning that was much abandoned in the throes of the fight.

It was not just the government in Delhi, but the city's business houses such as Bharti Airtel, JSPL, DLF who also led from the front to distribute food, PPE kits, or funds to help in ways they could. The civil society such as the Population Foundation of India and prominent NGOs in the city such as Sa-laam Balak Trust stepped in to the fight as well, each working in their domain of expertise. The method in the madness has shown good results. According to data shared by the Delhi government, between July and August, the total active cases of Covid-19 in Delhi came down from 27,007 to 10,207 — a reduction of over 2.5 times. Delhi's daily active cases continues to be on a downward curve.

A good war strategy would be to not lose caution, and leverage this breathing time to build data and analysis around Covid cases in Delhi. Delhi has already initiated a second serological (sero) survey across the 11 districts of the capital to estimate the percentage of the population that could have developed antibodies against the novel coronavirus. Not everyone will be tested, therefore it will not be clear how many people in the population are infected but the results will be indicative of the spread within specific communities.

The plan so far is for the Delhi government to conduct a similar sero survey during the first five days of every month. Indeed repeated sero surveys across different areas will help to estimate the spread of Covid in different communities in Delhi. It will also help in making government action to control Covid in Delhi less dependent on random anecdotal evidence, more data driven, and therefore far more effective.

However the sero survey in Delhi due this month is already delayed by ten days. So once again the data culture and ability to implement ambitious plans made by the Delhi administration remains contentious.

The writer is CEO of Sustain Labs and Adjunct Professor at SciencesPo Paris. She is also a columnist and author of the 2019 bestseller Indian Instincts — essays on freedom and equality in India

Best to redefine your career goals

One of the biggest luxuries of the modern day and age in terms of careers is the multitude of options. In the current pandemic-ridden scenario, however, the career goals should be a fluid mix of dreams and practicality, writes KARAN VERMA

For every school or college student, the word 'Career' is often the most polarising word thrown around by seemingly responsible adults at every dinner table conversation, family meeting or gathering. The irony is that most of the modern day parents themselves know little about the modern day careers like digital marketing and data analytics. However that doesn't stop them from giving their two cents on every aspect of a modern day career. The parents don't realise that the world has drastically changed over the course of the last 10-15 years.

The careers that are the biggest money spinners today didn't even exist twenty years back. Social media is a construct of the last 15 years, different apps like uber, bigbasket, makemytrip, bookmyshow all have come up during the same time-period. Gone are the days when memorising rote-learning could get you huge breakthroughs. Today all information is available in your pocket, so skills like memorising and calculations are becoming mundane. So, what ticks today is a different skill set. Critical thinking, data analytical skills and coding are the modern day skills that set you apart. When a young boy ends up in a google or a facebook with a whopping ₹40-50 lakh package as a start, it's not because he is the most hard working kid around. It is because he was into coding from a young age of 13 and he was passionately working hard on a thing that mattered the most in the modern era. And that's my first big message to all students and hustlers — 'Watch where the money is'. Start early and keep your eyes and ears open all the time.

One of the biggest luxuries of the modern day and age in terms of careers is the multitude of options. You can be a college dropout turned youtuber and earn more than an IITian. As amazing as it is, let's not be fooled here by looking at a few examples. The problem with many career counselors, motivational speakers is that they have turned dream merchants rather than mentors. They quote Steve Jobs and Ratan Tata as if every kid can become a trailblazer. The fact of the matter is that there are many who won't be the next Steve Jobs and a plan needs to be in place for them. Truth is that yes every kid can become great, but let's understand that these are rare examples and a little bit of practicality is always welcome. Truth is that many of these great people gradually became great and had probably not planned on becoming this big. So what was critical in the journey of



these great people is the journey itself. They were on the right track in their life. They got to know something they were good at and passionate about and then they worked tirelessly towards their goal. This is the best that we can do in our pursuit of greatness. So how does one pick the right track. Well the ideal career choice should be a fluid mix of your dreams and practicality.

It starts with evaluating your interests. What is it that you would want to do for the rest of your life or at least a major part of your life. At this stage, you can be a total dreamer. Just run in the direction of your dreams and start trying different careers. The best time for this is college. Never ever settle for just classroom experience in your school or college. Step out and start interning under different organisations and individuals. Start volunteering for free services just so you can evaluate your interests. Is your interest for real? I've seen many individuals come to conclusions about

their interests by drawing references from pop-culture. Invest Banking, Film-making and stock-broking excite many young students courtesy the portrayal of these careers on the big screen. However the same students didn't really find film-making so exciting when they visited a film set and found out how non-glamorous and tedious the process of film-making is in real. Once you've come to a shortlist of your genuine interests, you need to run further in the direction of your dreams. And then the dreamer in you will wake up to reality — the reality of your abilities. You'll slowly find out that as much passion as you have for cricket, you actually don't have that magical timing or touch or in the same vein, you might be fascinated by statistical analysis but your math skill might not be of the same quality. You might develop some of the ability needed but actually you have your limitations and it'll perhaps never branch out to become a viable career. It is a tough

call to take but that's where your intelligence needs to kick in.

So my second big message to all students is — Know yourself and embrace your strengths and limitations. Your career should be an extension of your personality. If it is not, then sooner or later, frustration will kick in and you will not be happy with the way your life is unfolding. In the end, you should be happy going to work everyday. A good career isn't just about designations or pay packets, it is most importantly about happiness. In the end, that is all that matters. Of course you'll have to compromise and you'll probably not get everything you wanted but you may get close and that'll be good enough. Once your dreams are defined and your strengths are identified, you're actually in a position to define a career goal. But for that, you need to understand the scope and potential of a career in the given times. As an example, those who are seeking a career in hotel management

right now in the post covid-era might need to rethink. They could probably go about it by a different route. Do a course in management or fine arts and revisit their passion later. They could also compromise given the tough times and take up whatever job they're getting in whichever domain without being too fussy about the role and designation. They can probably survive now and thrive later at a time when the circumstances are right. Flexibility in career paths, choices makes one a winner in the long run. You cannot be rigid about your choices and goals. They have to be dynamic and in sync with the times. You might have a taste for event management and wedding planning but it won't be a good idea to set up that company in the post covid environment right now. Of course if you already have a company, then you need to innovate and hang in there one way or another. So the truth is that there is no 'one size fits all' approach in matters of careers.

We need to start accepting the fact that the skills in demand will keep changing. Today the skills that'll be most richly rewarded will be coding, machine learning and data analytics. Of course, the one big skill that'll forever be evergreen is the art of communication. All stakeholders need to contribute to developing human skills like communication, understanding people, storytelling, accepting diversity, remaining calm under pressure. These are the skills which far outweigh all degrees and certifications in the game of life. Unfortunately they're at best confined to a boring moral science lecture in school. It is high time that these soft skills were imparted to students in innovative ways. Students must understand that along with talent it is their temperament that'll take them a long way in their careers. One cannot function without the other. A solid temperament isn't built over the years. It's foundation has to be laid early on in school. In the times of the Corona pandemic, human temperament has been tested to the hilt. Those who didn't get dispirited and sought ways to innovate have survived this tide and will thrive someday. However the ones with a weak temperament succumb to the pressure.

The biggest skill set that'll determine the altitude of one's career will be emotional intelligence. If one can bounce back from setbacks, failures and go from one task to another with equal vigor then sky is the limit.

The writer is the author of Dhruv: Love Story of an Alchemist

India no more 'soft state' under Modi's leadership

"All of the great leaders have had one characteristic in common: it was the willingness to confront unequivocally the major anxiety of their people in their time. This, and not much else, is the essence of leadership."

John Kenneth Galbraith in THE AGE OF UNCERTAINTY

April 1983. I, first time in Delhi from a small town Gorakhpur, having travelled more than 24 hours to cover a distance of almost 800 odd kilometres, lodged in a dhamshala where I was allotted a small room with slow-moving ceiling fan coupled with totally ineffective and non-functional fan-regulator. Beggar's can't be choosers. It does not take much wisdom to pronounce such dictums but realisation of truth behind these words was yet another milestone I reached in my early life. Yes, India, then, was a poor country by any socio-economic standard. More importantly then even after almost 35 years of its independence, it had all the attributes befitting the status of what Swedish economist Gunnar Myrdal, the most eclectic economist of last century and famous for his magnum opus *The Asian Drama*, called Asian countries' "soft state".

A day later, I was before the interview board assessing my worth and ranking in Civil Services. One of the members asked me if I had heard of economist Galbraith and his book *The Affluent Society*. My answer was affirmative. He asked me the meaning of the word, "affluent." I replied; he seemed satisfied. Another question ensued. "Why did Galbraith call India a 'functioning anarchy'?" I was at a loss for words. I had no answers. But I took a chance and quoted Nirad C Chaudhuri who in the context of tardy implementation of land reforms wrote in one of his books, "We don't have guts to do it." The member looks at me ambivalently and passed me on to the next member.

I have been an admirer as much as of Nirad C Chaudhuri's intellectual prowess as of Galbraith's candidly shared experiences. How true both were? What Galbraith implied, as is commonly understood, was that the country did well despite the Government not doing much. Government not doing much was the main theme of Galbraithian oxymoron. What is a "soft state"? Myrdal had a definition ready with him. He illustrated a soft

state in terms of a set of characteristics. These inter-alia include 1) various types of social indiscipline which manifest themselves by deficiencies in legislation and, in particular, law observance and enforcement, 2) a widespread disobedience by public officials and, 3) often, their collusion with powerful persons and groups... whose conduct they should regulate. Vested interests play a vital role in soft state. Galbraith wrote, "Ideas may be superior to vested interest. They are also very often the children of vested interest."

For Myrdal "competence of the government of the poor country is itself a part of equilibrium of poverty." Myrdal emphasised the intimate relationship between poverty, population and soft state. Functioning anarchy connotes when society develops and grows in the absence of any help from state like authority and continues to perform its normal functions. Read together, both these terms combine to refer to a situation where society functions without any state interference and help. The principal reason why India remained a "soft state" or met the criteria of "functioning anarchy" was absence of "guts" to take in time hard decisions in larger public good.

India, for a fairly long time, represented a combination of a soft state enduring indifference and incompetence of its functionaries while a social order existed marked by inadequate functioning of both state and society. In India if we look at the behaviour of society, individuals, institutions, policy making circles and the social elite and systems, there are reasons to believe that for a considerable part of post freedom period, the illusion of governance rather than good governance was the perceived reality.

With the BJP coming to power under the leadership of Narendra Modi in 2014, the image of India as a soft state has undergone complete change. Last six years have witnessed foundational changes in economy and society. The scenario is much cleaner: the haze has vanished, transparency is inbuilt in decisions taken and the hands of a strong firm leader are writ large. Neither Gunnar Myrdal's "soft state" nor does Galbraithian "functioning anarchy" holds water. The leader of almost 138 crore Indians leads from the front: be it digitisation, demonetisation, a new India, surgical strike, handling Covid pandemic or

recent skirmishes with China. Let us take three examples.

During recent past in remote Ladakh region bordering China, the soldiers of the two countries did face off for nearly two months. In June this year there was hand-to-hand combat between Indian and Chinese soldiers that resulted in casualties on both sides. It was the worst confrontation in over four decades between two countries which fought a border war in 1962, spilling into Ladakh. The two countries have been trying to settle their border dispute since the early 1990s, without success. The disputed border covers nearly 3,500 kilometres of frontier referred to as the Line of Actual Control and stretches from Ladakh in the north to the Indian State of Sikkim in the North-east. Indian leadership headed by the strong Prime Minister took an extremely courageous step to correct a historical wrong. It declared Ladakh a federal territory while separating it from Kashmir in August 2019, ending the territory's semi-autonomous status. It must have infuriated China that condemned the move. Historical wrongs by one country more often than not please many countries especially neighbours. These open gates for other countries to fish in troubled waters.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi made an unannounced visit to this region. He met troops in Ladakh region and interacted with brave armed forces personnel. Praising the valour of Indian jawans, he chanted, "Long live mother India." Reminding that "after every crisis, India has emerged stronger", the Prime Minister said, "Enemies of India have seen your fire and fury." And gave a firm message, "Days of expansionism are over. Expansionism creates danger for world peace. This is an era of development. Expansionist forces have either lost or forced to turn back." His message was loud and clear: he meant business. No-nonsense attitude requires political guts and now there is no dearth of it. Government's decision to ban Chinese apps and do away with many big projects that had gone to Chinese companies must have taken China by utter surprise. First time in the history of independent India, an Indian leader showed firmness of voice and intent. Similarly in case of Pulwama terrorist massacre, there was a retaliatory Indian airstrike on the Jaish-e-Mohammed's lair in



Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with the troops during his visit to the forward post at Nimu in Ladakh. PTI/File

Balakot. The days of a soft state are over. Modi minces no words when it comes to calling a spade a spade: be it within the country or outside especially with irking neighbours.

Second, let us now come to abolition of Article 370. Article 370 of the Constitution granted special status to Jammu & Kashmir whereby provisions of the Constitution which were applicable to other States were not applicable to J&K. This article provided, except for defense, foreign affairs, finance and communications, Parliament needs the State Government's concurrence for applying all other laws. Did it not sound ridiculous? Over a period of time, Article 370 allowed vested interests within Jammu & Kashmir prosper for their own nefarious purposes. Most importantly Article 370 compromised the unity, integrity and sovereignty of the country. Article 370 created power elites wielding prodigious power and control over resources resulting in genuine demands of common people remaining unmet. Article 370 was utilised to deprive both Ladakh and Jammu region of a fair share of economic pie. While, Article 370 provided political, economic and cultural and other safeguards to Kashmiris, it was also misused by some to deny the same safeguards to people

of other regions of the State. Existence of Article 370 brought sufferings, trauma both physical and psychological and alienation to common people of J&K.

In August 2019, the Government abolished Article 370 that gave special status to Jammu & Kashmir. It also moved a Bill to bifurcate the State into two separate union territories of Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh. The UT in Ladakh will have no legislature like Chandigarh while the other UT of Jammu & Kashmir will have a legislature like Delhi and Puducherry. The move deserves high praise for it corrected a historical wrong. It's easy to commit historical wrongs with a view to obtain some short-term benefits with long-term adverse consequences but correcting such historical wrongs really requires tough interior of leadership and political guts. A historical wrong existing for decades can be corrected only by a leader who has visionary qualities in him both: short-term and long-term. One of the most important consequences of abolition of Article 370 is now the veil covering J&K has evaporated. Article 370 that prompted separatist forces to feel enthused to indulge in separatism, including terrorist activities, will now not protect them. The monopoly of a few households in J&K to hold the Union Government to ransom ended and ended for good. Sunrises can now peep into J&K and transparency is very much already in place. Abolition will also help economically weaker sections. For example, during last one year, the Government issued domicile certificates to West Pakistani refugees, Valmiki Community. This community, along with Gorkhas, was considered non-state subjects and thus was deprived of their citizenship rights. The process of assimilation of Kashmiris into the national mainstream has begun.

Third, demonetisation. The concept of New India and digitisation cannot be achieved without demonetisation. Economists, by and large, believe that delivery of public goods through the systems before high-value currency notes were demonetised in November 2016 was imbued with corruption leading to huge delays and inefficiency. Black money implied parallel economy eating into the vitals of healthy economic relations. The objective of demonetisation was to curtail the black money running as shadow economy

and to prevent the use of counterfeit cash to fund illegal activity and terrorism. The move was riddled with administrative hiccups which got overcome with the passage of time.

The audacity of the move sent out a strong signal about governmental determination to establish rule of law and pursue it firmly and vigorously. There has been a marked broadening of India's direct tax base. The lesson learnt is that the premium on honesty has been restored. Demonetisation is the greatest financial reform aiming at tackling black money, illegal practices and counterfeit currency notes. The move has already helped the Government to track the black money and the amount collected by means of tax can be better utilised for the public welfare and development schemes. Most importantly, demonetisation has been seen as a move to place a drastic curb on terrorist activities. The funding of the terrorism because of inflow of unaccounted cash and fake currency in huge quantity has stopped. Money laundering will eventually end as such activities can easily be tracked and lawful action initiated. One key impact of demonetisation has been that more people have made digital payments part of their lives and loved moving towards a cashless economy. The end results have been successful digitisation, honest transactions and financial transparency both in public and private life by effectively pushing the transition from a cash-based to digitally enabled economy. Digitisation and demonetisation make excellent bed-fellow. Both encourage access to technological innovation, enhancement of digital financial services infrastructure and greater financial inclusion. For policymakers it is easier now to pinpoint areas relevant to designing policies needed to facilitate the adoption of digital payment systems. Coupled with tax and regulatory overhaul, demonetisation is set to boost economic growth and prosperity. Demonetisation is an essential measure to strengthen democracy.

In my view the most crucial element that has contributed to the end of "soft state" and "functioning anarchy" is massive empowerment of people particularly from lower strata of society. Those who listen to "Mann Ki Baat" programme of the Prime Minister, delivered on last

Sunday of every month, must have noticed it is a mighty means for the Prime Minister to reach out to 138 crore people and equally mighty means for 138 crore people to reach out to the Prime Minister. This is real empowerment. Real empowerment brings national unity and collective prosperity. It ends vested interests and corruption. It allows sunrises to illumine people and society.

Before we finish and come to a conclusion, it is pertinent to highlight what Galbraith recorded in *The Age of Uncertainty* regarding his association with India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. Let me quote Galbraith, "For Nehru, the temptation to equivocate was especially strong. Nehru himself moved easily among Europeans, often with a poorly concealed sense of his own superior grace and education. Once he told me, again not quite seriously, that he would be the last Englishman to be Prime Minister of India... When Hitler became the great source of anxiety, Roosevelt faced that fear, as did Winston Churchill and Charles de Gaulle. Nehru did not have a similar capacity for change... In his last years his leadership suffered. A leader must be able to confront the anxieties of his time. He must also change as these changes." Nehru did not change with changing mass anxieties, and thus his leadership suffered in his last years, so said Galbraith.

The three above cited examples which are only illustrative and not exhaustive answer very effectively whether India is still a "soft state" or a "functioning anarchy"? The answer is an emphatic "No". India functions much better, it believes in sagacity and benevolence but it has done away with being a "soft state". The signs of complacency, general inertia and propensity towards appeasement of certain sections of society prevalent in society have vanished. Hard decisions with positive consequences of far-reaching effect are being taken in the interest of nation and people. To draw an analogy from Galbraith who wrote in the same book "The greatest support to evasion comes from complexity. The problem seeming difficult, we postpone, compromise, yield to conveniences of politics." That is simple hari-kari and Prime Minister Modi has simply put an end to such hari-kiris by not evading taking hard decisions. Thus the first require-

ment of India ceasing to be either a "soft state" or a "functioning anarchy" has been more than adequately met by the leader of the nation who with his visionary qualities not only "confronts the anxieties of his time" but also changes as these change. Narendra Modi as Prime Minister has successfully confronted the anxieties of 138 crore Indians. This in turn offers a New India which preserves and enhances human freedom, fosters prosperity, reduces inequality, discrimination and oppression and above all upholds the dignity of human beings. India is well poised at a great moment in its history.



KK SRIVASTAVA

(Born in Gorakhpur in 1960, KK Srivastava did his Masters in Economics from Gorakhpur University in 1980 and joined Indian Audit & Accounts Service in 1983. He is a poet, writer and critic. His fourth book *Soliloquy of a Small Town Uncivil Servant: a literary non-fiction published in March 2019 by Rupa Publications, New Delhi has been receiving international acclaim in literary field. He was Additional Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General in the office of Comptroller & Auditor General of India when he superannuated recently. Views expressed here are his own)*

PERSPECTIVE

75 years of Hiroshima & Nagasaki survivors' message of peace

The worst that descended on humanity was the explosion of the two nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6 and 9, 1945, respectively. The 75th anniversary of this heinous act is quietly observed in both the cities by the survivors of the nuclear attack and the peace-loving people of Japan. What it brings home is the gruesome misuse of science & technology on innocent civilians. And, it is plainly in the name of fighting the enemy and to subsequently herald peace to the world. The central argument that justified the actions of that horrifying act was shaped to convey the message that the bombing finally put an end to the Second World War. Also it prevented a protracted conflict spearheaded by the "Axis Powers" consisting of Italy, Germany and Japan. Arguably, the ghastly scenes of Hiroshima and Nagasaki clearly discouraged the rest of the nations to plunge into another nuclear war for the rest of the century.

The two atom bombs dropped over Hiroshima and Nagasaki were known as "Little Boy" and "Fatman". Once the first bomb was dropped over Hiroshima on August 6, almost after sixteen hours, then US President Harry S Truman

asked the then Japanese Government to surrender. However, Japan did not agree and this led to the second bombing of Nagasaki. The first bomb was dropped by the US bomber called Enola Gay. Interestingly, this bomb was dropped little over 600 metres above the ground which had a force equivalent to 15,000 tonnes of TNT. This allowed in fact optimal destruction that has never been witnessed during the wartime.

The exact death toll was not known. But as per reports available, nearly 2,40,000 people died in the attack. And this horror attack had indeed left millions traumatised and even stigmatised in the days to come. The victims were killed by intense heat, radiation, flashes, firestorms, etc. Initially people just noticed huge ball of fire on the spot of the bombing. The relics of the atomic attack can be witnessed in an unquantifiable legacy of radiation, leukaemia, anemia, cataracts, keloids (in this case, a scar tissue heals and at times heals too much which finally leads to swelling and can result in abnormal growth), major birth complications like microcephaly (a condition in which the head of the baby is smaller than the usual size) and

finally, environmental degradation of monumental volume. Many reports say that temperatures at the epicentre of the blast reached an estimated 7,000 degrees Celsius. As the temperature rose, it caused massive burning of people within a radius of approximately three kilometres. The whirlwind of heat brought by it further led to thousands of fires in and around both the cities.

Meanwhile more and more people died of suffocation because of lack of oxygen as the firestorm consumed all of it. The saddest part of the tragedy was that these complications have become a significant part of inter-generational legacy of Japanese people living in these cities and adjacent areas.

What had exactly taken place in Hiroshima is vividly spoken in this historic poem called, "No More Hiroshimas":

"Here atomic peace is geared to meet the tourist trade. Let it remain like this for all the world to see. Without nobility or loveliness, and dogged with shame That is beyond all hope of indignation. Anger too is dead. And why should memorials of what was far From pleasant have the grace that helps us to forget?"

Precisely, this poem speaks volumes about the agonies of the after-effects of "Little Boy" and "Fat Man". The survivors known as "Hibakusha" today suffer terminal illnesses such as cancer. This has left an indelible mark in the Japanese society, economy, culture, and most importantly on the polity. The then Emperor of Japan Hirohito surrendered to the Allied Powers on August 15, 1945, and that brought an end to one of the most devastating wars in human history.

The rise of the militarists in Japan in the inter-war period indeed had spiked its ambition to become an Asian power in the continent. Simply put, Japan's war aims were primarily to establish a "New Order" in East Asia. And interestingly this was based on a framework of co-prosperity which will place Japan at the centre of an economic bloc consisting of Manchuria, Korea and North China. Ironically, the smart imperial moves advanced by Japan gradually undermined the slogan called "East Asia for Asiatics" and replaced it with "East Asia for Japan".

Apart from these Japanese ambitions, the entire Second World War was a unique one. First of all, it was a multi-theatre war wherein wars were

fought in Africa, Europe and in the Pacific. However, the Pacific theatre saw some of the intense fighting zones. Second, for the first time, the atomic weapons were used in this war and also on civilian targets which eventually led to the end of the war. Third, the war in the Pacific saw the Allied Power of the US fighting the Axis Power of Japan. Historical records reveal that this part of the war had remained incredibly brutal and devastating for soldiers on both sides. In fact, fighting the Japanese Army was one of the toughest tasks for the American soldiers because of their extreme loyalty to the nation and their Emperor. This was very evident in the war of Iwo Jima that took place from February to March 1945 between the US and Japan, codenamed by the Americans as "Operation Downfall". It was really difficult to defeat the Japanese forces because of the fact that they either die fighting till the last or by resorting to ritual suicide instead of surrendering to American forces. The "Bushido Code of Honor" followed by a unique war propaganda to project the American soldiers as ruthless animals prevented the Japanese forces to quit the war. It must have been one

of the few important reasons that compelled the US to finally press the nuclear button against Japan.

The long-term effects of the atomic bombs are still around in both Hiroshima and Nagasaki. And these disastrous effects can be easily noticed in the vast landscape, environment and most importantly on the people of these cities. Even today historians are widely divided on the matter whether nuclear bombings have finally stopped the war and averted a massive land war, probably leading to the loss of millions of soldiers on both sides. This was evident in what was later expressed by the US Secretary of War Henry Stimson in 1947, "The principal political, social and military objective of the US in the summer of 1945 was the prompt and complete surrender of Japan." Though the decision was unfortunate, it was adopted for a greater good of humanity. A Gallup Poll conducted in 1945 among the Americans revealed that 85 per cent of them were in favour of the nuclear bombing. But such conjectures hardly mattered to those who died and more importantly those who have survived till date. Many of the "Hibakushas" have been

encountering physical and psychological traumas and struggling to live in open societies. They being the first victims of atomic age are at times shunned by people when it comes to marriage because of the prejudice that they may carry radiation related diseases. It is purely an insurmountable mental battle for the survivors of the disaster simply to live and to let their next generation carry forward.

Is war morally justified? Can a pacifist perspective save this planet from war hawks? Can the whole lot of non-violent and peace-loving populace prevent the brutes? These are alarming, complex and terrifying questions, having almost no accurate answers. Nowhere on this earth, can one justify war, leading to killing of civilians, either to protect ones sovereign territories, groups and especially to annex territories of other countries. Hiroshima and Nagasaki are mindless human disasters and symbols of ultimate war brutality. Not a single American President so far has apologised for this tragedy. Barack Obama was the first sitting US President to visit Hiroshima in 2016, but he did never mention of any such apology. The remnants of this horrendous

Being the only country to have gone through the nuclear devastation, Japan has been making all-out efforts to make the world free from nuclear weapons. But rogue nations have ensured the race does not stop



MAKHAN SAINIK

episode will remind mankind of the misuse of science & technology developed by legendary scientist Albert Einstein. Ironically, the great physicist was an avowed pacifist!

(The writer is an expert on international affairs)



I'VE ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT YOU CAN THINK POSITIVE JUST AS WELL AS YOU CAN THINK NEGATIVE — JAMES BALDWIN



YOUR WEEK AHEAD

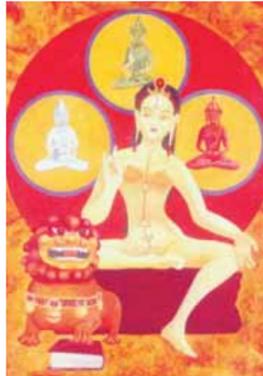
MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

This week you will find yourself busy in the nitty-gritties of life. You may have to take some important decisions. There will be a big shift in your schedule. Some exercises, yoga practices and solitude are required. On the career front, a sudden change within the present circumstances may surprise you. Cards indicate unexpected job opportunities. You may possibly be offered a dream project. This may cause you to feel positive. You've got all the reasons to feel proud and content today. In relationship and private affairs, you are in a mood to confront your near and dear one. Take care as your anger and aggression might push limits. There's no need to get hyper and vent out your resentment.

Lucky number 12
Lucky colour Red
Lucky day Thursday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

This week health is good. While other things have kept you busy in the past, you will now feel the need to follow some spiritual practices in order to feed your soul. You have got faith in yourself and therefore the Almighty. Joining a spiritual group with people coming from different backgrounds will enhance your personality. At work, this is a transition period. You're trying to find a change. Hospitable change is the only way through which you'll make smooth job transition. Confusion, which had become a part of your life, will come to an end now. You will find yourself on the proper track, and things are moving towards positivity. You're likely to stress or lose sleep over delays in personal affairs. This is not a good time to look for a replacement relationship.

Lucky number 15
Lucky colour Grey
Lucky day Friday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

The week is crammed with fear and doubts and this may cause confusion. You are feeling tired, inactive and may fail to navigate this situation. This is a time to refresh and seek advice from an expert. You are constantly under a self-created dilemma which has shaped into a baseless fear. Stay positive, life will soon become exciting and goals will be attained. On the career front, new opportunities will make you creative in the coming week. You will feel the drive to advance your career. This is the time to write down what you aspire for and wish to accomplish. A positive time to place ideas into practices. Success is foreseen. Relationships may suffer. Things might not happen as you had hoped for in love. Be honest with yourself first, then with your beloved.

Lucky number 21
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Monday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week you may feel restricted, indecisive and confused. You have recently come through a really difficult time. Take care that you don't repeat the same mistakes. Those who are trying to find work, you may be looking in the wrong place. In this week your professional matters need your attention. To have an honest knowledge of your area of interest is most desirable. But to have the ability to process this data is equally important. Unless you've got a command over your area of experience you can't brew new ideas. On the relationship front, others may feel envy for you. You're sharp together with your mental abilities. Written language needs attention, be gentle and soft in your approach and expression.

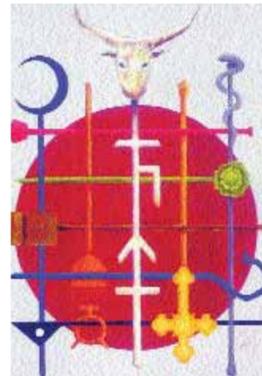
Lucky number 22
Lucky colour Blue
Lucky day Sunday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Health needs immediate attention. Try to change your routine and bring in new things for better health. Start with the fundamentals. Make sure you are getting enough sleep, exercise, and are eating healthy. You don't need to follow a difficult regime to feel better. Small, positive steps is all you need to take to get the desired results. For an honest living, a disciplined lifestyle is vital. Professionally, the week is marked for tough and intellectual activities, and you must get involved in it if needed. Those in the artistic fields may get very busy in the week. Haste, anger and aggression should be avoided to get the simplest results. In the matter of heart, you'll feel misunderstood by your partner. Keep the communication clear.

Lucky number 19
Lucky colour Black
Lucky day Saturday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week your health needs your attention. Those affected by BP, heart and diabetes issues, it is advised that you get yourself checked. A strict diet is a must. Maintain a positive attitude, for that is required for a balanced life. Ditch all the tensions and mental worries. Professionally, this may be a busy week for you, perhaps it might be challenging also. You ought to know your limitations and resources to be more proactive and successful in your work. On the relationship front, you will find yourself in a network of old friends. You are likely to come in contact with new people, and add them to your network. Getting nostalgic while speaking to a childhood friend is likely. An old flame may come into your life and bring happiness.

Lucky number 17
Lucky colour Sky Blue
Lucky day Wednesday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

This is an excellent time to think about what you're doing and what you ought to do to enhance your health. It might mean more exercise or more rest. Think it through and you'll do better with moderate changes in your current schedule. You will be in a mood for enjoyment and celebrations, but as the week progresses, you'll enter solitude in search of spiritual awakening. On the career front, some baseless fear has seized your mind and is making you restless. Worrying about your job will not help things. Specialise in what you control, and get rid of your anxiety. Your intention is true and you show care to your near and dear ones. On the other hand, people in your life are contributing to your anger and aggression. Stay positive and calm.

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Tuesday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

You will feel good and pamper yourself in the coming week. Go for some basic grooming to rejuvenate yourself. This would make you feel happy and positive. Professionally, it's an excellent week for your career. Your emotional level is amazingly creative and focused. News of a promotion or appraisal is on the cards. Self-confidence will keep your morale high. In the week, you will handle any situation deftly with your intelligence. Your dreams are big and may create a world of your own. You will make a mark for yourself. In the matters of heart, you're living in illusions and an imaginary world. Try to keep an honest and motivating friend circle. You're expecting a lot out of your life and personal relations. It is best that you don't, lest you will feel cheated.

Lucky number 12
Lucky colour Yellow
Lucky day Thursday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

A push and pull sort of energy may bring in negativity. This may not be unfamiliar, as you've often faced such mood swings. Get yourself examined because the energy of the week is not very positive. Take advice from a healthcare professional. If something is wrong, don't hesitate to take a second opinion. On the career front, make sure that you have updated all your financial documents and kept an account of your income and expenditure. A slight carelessness may give you a jolt. How you speak your mind is as important as what you say. There could also be some unfairness at play at your workplace. Ensure your behaviour is impeccable. Expect the something good to happen in the relationship.

Lucky number 8
Lucky colour Pastel colours
Lucky day Wednesday



CANCER June 21-July 22

This week there may be some turning points in your health. Be accountable to yourself and move forward. Sometimes things just happen and you are, by no means, alone. If needed, reach out for support. Resisting change can be bad for your health. Keep your stress in check. Meditation and yoga is the best treatment for the mind. At work, read the documents carefully, especially if you're signing any deal. Bonding with a colleague may become stressful. In such a case, adopt a diplomatic approach else you may find it difficult to realise the set targets. Avoid conflicts. In love, your spouse may turn a little arrogant and demand something out of your limitation. This might upset your routine.

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Monday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week it may be difficult to retain your peace of mind as you will find many issues bothering you. You may feel restricted — mentally, physically and financially. Maintain a positive outlook. For perfect health, take excellent care of yourself. It's never too late to try to do the proper thing. You will earn well this week. Professionally, there's a particular element of perfectionism related to you. You're careful in your approach and ensure that everything is planned and executed well for overall success. You will not leave any task half done. You want to complete all assigned tasks and projects to a particular standard. On the relationship front, you will find yourself in a position where you may be able to exert your power more productively.

Lucky number 14
Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Friday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week you will be filled with enthusiasm. You will be much in demand and feel the spotlight on you. Your overall health remains good. You may decide to go on a long drive to experience some change. It is also possible that you simply connect with people from different places. Enjoy and celebrate. On the career front, you'll get the chance to kick start your career. Students will get to prepare well in advance so they are in tune with their curriculum. You've got the talent, intelligence but need the right guidance to enhance your skill and prepare yourself for a brighter future. Research related work is on the cards. You will have the power to influence your near and dear ones. Think before you speak as your words might affect a relationship.

Lucky number 10
Lucky colour Golden
Lucky day Sunday

Madhu Kotiya is a tarot card reader, spiritual healer, and Founder, MShezaim Institute of Tarot and Divination. Contact details: madhu@indiatarot.com, www.indiatarot.com, M: 9873283331



ASTROTURF
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Know self for a better future

We are all born with a sense of freedom ingrained in our mind. So, unless otherwise forced by circumstances, one would wish to live on own exclusive terms. If, perchance, the ego level is high, one would not care for other's sensibilities and concerns either, often inviting discomfort. In this complex world, where every being is born unique, each manifesting varying desire and mind traits, is it possible to pursue one's whims and fancies unhindered? Not at all, in fact, the world is a natural breeding ground for conflict of interest. So, no initiative or movement can come about without being faced with challenges. That calls for a lesson in the 'art of living', which may help us intelligently negotiate with the callings of life, overriding all odds coming our way.

The other day a worried mother came asking: "Sir, my daughter is in acute stress. She is very intelligent. Yet, she is struggling in her career. She was not comfortable in her job. In a state of desperation, she left her job and is now pursuing her own business venture. Here also, things are not moving along the expected lines. She doesn't get along

with her family members either. Please guide me as to what is in store for her?"

Well, in so far as your daughter's potential is concerned, she has the capacity to make it big in life. Provided, she overcomes her inherent fault lines that stand in way of her positives blooming out in full. Intelligence by itself can't ensure success. Even more important is to learn how to use it productively. It appears that she may keep breeding very good ideas, but because of her own infirmities she is not able to successfully pursue them to their logical end.

Here, an insight into astrological pointers to her personality traits becomes imperative. The main marker is Mercury, the *lagna* as well as Moon sign lord. Although Mercury is exalted, meaning high level of intelligence and analytical abilities, but is ill-disposed off to Moon, Mars, Uranus and Neptune. This planetary alignment, in the first place implies that plurality is her passion and would never be satisfied with the just one task in hand. Midway through, she may delve into too many things, leaving all of them half way. She, thus can't remain riveted to her priority preferences. Second, she wishes to live



on her own exclusive terms. She would be stuck to her delusional perceptions, and not prepared to look beyond for a reality check. Third, she literally suffers from 'I am the only right person syndrome', as if others are not intelligent enough to understand and appreciate her perception. She would wish from all others to follow her script. If someone disagrees, she may become overcritical, and would not hesitate passing sarcastic remarks. In fact, 'my way or high way' is her attitude. Fourth, she is temperamental, moody and irritable. What further compounds her problem is that Mercury is placed adverse to Neptune, which accounts for her insensible reasoning and judgment. Fifth, Moon opposite Uranus gives her a mercurial temperament. Sixth, she is vulnerable to suffer from inferiority complex, which comes into play as and when things don't move on expected lines. All put together tells upon her interpersonal relationship skills, which is why she is not able to get along with others. It may not come as a surprise that she would be trying to force her ideas even on her clients. Later, admitting this, the girl said: "Sir, I try to give my best to them but they don't appreciated my view-

point." What she doesn't understand that the client is better conversant with his logistics, and accordingly he may have other perspective, which she needs to appreciate. With this mindset, the business won't grow. On top of all that, the Sun placed adverse to Jupiter speaks of her swaggering ego, which makes her stuck to her self-defined parameters and would not take kindly, if a contrarian view is offered even with best intent. Instead of trying to understand what the other person really means, and accordingly make necessary amends, she will become overcritical and try to defend herself. And the result is there to see.

All the above infirmities could be overcome given the fact that benevolent Jupiter extends its harmonious aspect on Mercury, which also speaks loud of her immense potential, lying dormant thus far. Provided, she consciously exploits this inlaid potential, when her positives may come into full play that may lead her towards a better tomorrow.

The writer is an astrologer, vastu consultant and spiritual counsellor. Write to him at G-102, Bharat Nagar, New Friends Colony, New Delhi-110 025
Tel: 91-11-49848475/9818037273
Email: bharatbhushanpadmadeo@gmail.com