

**OPINION 6**  
SET NEW ENERGY GOALS

**WORLD 8**  
BEIRUT BLAST: LEBANON GOVT RESIGNS AMID PUBLIC FURY

**SPORT 12**  
SANCHO WILL STAY AT DORTMUND

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**KANGANA SLAMS AYUSHMANN 11 VIVACITY**

## Sachin Pilot's ghar wapsi

As face-saver for Raj ex-Dy CM, Cong forms panel to look into issues flagged by him

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA/PNS ■ NEW DELHI/JAIPUR

The month-long crisis in Rajasthan Congress ended on Monday after rebel leader Sachin Pilot opted for an "unconditional" truce and his MLAs left for Jaipur from Manesar in Haryana.

The breakthrough was worked out by Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi, who met Pilot two weeks ago. The process of reconciliation was set in motion in that meeting. Pilot completed the formality of his "home coming" by calling on Rahul Gandhi and later announcing his commitment to work for strengthening the Congress.

For a "face saver" Pilot was offered a three-member committee that would look into the issues flagged by him regarding the functioning of the Rajasthan Government and Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's



style of governance.

KC Venugopal, Ahmed Patel and Priyanka Gandhi are part of the committee set up by Sonia Gandhi to address grievances of Sachin Pilot and his supporters.

Late at night, Pilot and his supporting MLAs, who were camping in a hotel in Manesar, arrived at Rahul

Gandhi's residence where Priyanka, Congress organisational general secretary KC Venugopal and Ahmad Patel were present. The MLAs are believed to have conveyed their grievance to the Gandhis, who promised to look into them.

Talking to the reporters — his first media interaction after he rebelled against Gehlot —

Pilot said, "Sonia Gandhiji heard all our concerns and the governance issues that we raised. Formation of the three-member committee by the Congress president is a welcome step. I think all the issues will be resolved."

Pilot kept repeating that he was only trying to raise issues about governance and functioning of the Government and there was nothing personal in his action against anyone.

Throughout his press interaction, he never named Gehlot but expressed dismay on name calling and invectives hurled on him.

KC Venugopal said Sachin Pilot expressed his grievances in detail. "They have had a frank, open and conclusive discussion. Sachin Pilot has committed to working in the interest of the Congress party and the Congress Government in Rajasthan," he said.

With at least 5-6 of the 18

MLAs supporting him not ready to risk expulsion and the BJP not in a position to help him achieve his objective because of lukewarm response from former Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje, Pilot has few options but to return "home" unconditionally.

Sources said his meeting with Rahul was arranged by Priyanka at Rahul's residence, where both the Gandhis had "meaningful" discussion with Pilot.

Sources said after Pilot left Rahul and Priyanka, met Sonia to discuss the latest developments following which Sonia called on Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot over phone. Gehlot reportedly assured Sonia Gandhi that he will not defy the party irrespective of the decision it takes on Pilot. He left the matter to Sonia and Rahul to resolve.

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## Pranab tests Covid positive, flooded with 'get well soon'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former President of India Pranab Mukherjee has tested positive for Covid-19 and admitted to the Army's Research and Referral (R&R) Hospital here.

"On a visit to the hospital for a separate procedure, I have tested positive for Covid-19 today," 84-year-old Mukherjee tweeted.

"I request the people who came in contact with me in the last week, to please self-isolate and get tested for Covid-19," the Congress leader, who was the President from 2012-17, said.

Mukherjee on Monday underwent a brain surgery at the Army's Research and Referral hospital for removal of a clot, sources said.

Several leaders wished a speedy recovery to Mukherjee. "We wish former President Pranab Mukherjee a speedy recovery from Covid," the

## Ex-Prez was in hospital for brain surgery



Congress said on its official Twitter handle.

Abhijeet Mukherjee, the son of the former President, also tweeted, "I wish my father a speedy recovery! I appeal to all my countrymen to pray for his speedy recovery & good health." Several leaders from across the political spectrum also wished him a speedy recovery.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot tweeted, "I have come to know former President of India Pranab Mukherjee has tested positive for Covid-19...concerned about his health. Wish him a speedy recovery."

"Wishing Pranab Mukherjee a speedy recovery. I am sure he will be out of this sooner than later," said Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge. Union Minister Piyush Goyal also wished good health for Mukherjee, and said he is confident that the former President will quickly recover from the virus.

Congress leader Abhishek Singhvi said, "Astonishing and matter of concern that former President Pranab Mukherjee tested positive for Covid per press reports. Very active, regular walker, wish him quick recovery and restful convalescence."

## 15% students of Delhi Govt schools unable to avail online class facilities

STAFF REPORTER/PTI ■ NEW DELHI

About 15 per cent students enrolled in Delhi Government schools are not "traceable" since the lockdown was announced and have not been attending the alternative classes conducted online or through phones, said Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia.

Sisodia, who is also the Education Minister, said efforts are being made to locate these students either physically or telephonically to get them into the system.

"We are conducting full fledged teaching learning either online or through phones and teachers have been instructed to ensure personal involvement with each student. So far, there are maximum 15 per cent students who are not traceable and are not in contact with their schools and hence not attending the classes," Sisodia told PTI.

"I have been reviewing this personally and we have been able to trace few students, for

others either they are not staying at the same addresses or their phone numbers mentioned in our records are not traceable. I have asked that School Management Committees should be roped in to track these students. There are certain students who have gone to places like Uttarakhand and Bihar but are still connected with us and are attending the classes and doing assignments," he added.

There are around 15 lakh students enrolled in over 1100

Delhi Government schools.

"We started conducting online classes for class 12 students from April 6 and sending e-learning material or activities to those enrolled in classes nursery to eighth over WhatsApp or SMS. The Government has also provided a subsidy of ₹200 for internet packages to all its class 12 students who had registered for the online classes," a senior Directorate of Education (DoE) official said.

Continued on Page 2

## DU ONLINE OPEN BOOK EXAM BEGINS, STUDENTS FACE NUMEROUS PROBLEMS

New Delhi: Delhi University's online open book examinations for final-year undergraduate courses began on Monday with many students complaining about receiving two question papers and difficulty in uploading answer sheets.

The exams began at 7.30 am and are being held in three

shifts. Zubair Khan, a student of School of Open Learning, said, "I had my Hindi exam today according to the date-sheet. When I opened the portal for downloading my question paper, I found that two question papers were uploaded — one of Hindi and another of the paper scheduled for August 13."

## 3 die of Covid at Tirupati, over 740 test positive

PNS ■ TIRUPATI

Three staffers of the famous Lord Venkateswara temple in Tirumala, governed by the Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), have died of Covid-19 and at least 743 others have tested coronavirus positive since the temple re-opened on June 11 for the public after being close for two and a half months owing to the coronavirus-induced lockdown.

Of the 743 infected, three employees succumbed to the dreaded contagion and about 402 personnel have recovered so far from infection while 338 people were undergoing treatment at different Covid care facilities in Tirupati, TTD Executive Officer Anil Kumar Singhal told reporters.

Singhal denied reports in sections of the media and on social media that TTD had reopened the hill shrine after the coronavirus lockdown for the public with an intention to fill its coffers.

He said the ancient temple was reopened on requests from

devotees and entry was allowed by following strict Covid-19 measures.

About 22,000 people, including regular and outsourced workers, are employed with the board. Tests have been conducted on 9,102 of these employees till now.

Meanwhile, 2.38 lakh devotees from across the country visited the Tirumala temple in July alone. No devotee, who visited the temple ever since it reopened for darshan, has tested positive for the positive,



according to media reports.

The TTD board has arranged screening facility for visitors at the foot of the hill and at other points. The board for the richest temple in the country received about ₹16.69 crore in Hundi collection and about ₹3.97 crore through e-Hundi.

## Covid-19 IN INDIA

**TOTAL**  
CASES: 22,67,153  
DEATHS: 45,352  
RECOVERED: 15,81,640  
ACTIVE: 6,39,694



A medic wearing a PPE collects samples from a woman for Covid-19 rapid antigen testing in Kolkata on Monday

STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	5,24,513	18,050	3,58,421
Tamil Nadu	3,02,815	5,041	2,44,675
Andhra Pradesh	2,35,525	2,116	1,45,636
Karnataka	1,82,354	3,312	99,126
Delhi	1,46,134	4,131	1,31,657
Uttar Pradesh	1,26,722	2,120	76,724
West Bengal	98,459	2,100	70,328
Bihar	82,741	450	54,139
Telangana	80,751	637	57,586
Gujarat	72,120	2,672	55,376
Assam	61,738	151	42,326
Rajasthan	53,670	800	39,060
Odisha	47,455	337	33,021
Haryana	42,429	489	35,492
Madhya Pradesh	39,891	1,015	29,674
Kerala	35,515	116	22,616

## CAPSULE

### UGC CHALLENGES DELHI, MAHA CANCELLING EXAMS

New Delhi: The UGC in the Supreme Court on Monday questioned the decisions of Delhi and Maharashtra Governments to cancel final year exams of state universities amid the Covid-19 pandemic, saying they were against the rules.

### COP KILLED AS TEEN RAMS CAR INTO PATROL VEHICLE

New Delhi: A constable was killed and another injured after a speeding car driven by an inebriated youth rammed into their patrolling vehicle in north Delhi in the early hours of Monday, police said.

### MAHA: DIABLED COW GETS ARTIFICIAL LEG

Pune: A disabled cow got a new lease of life after a team of doctors from a hospital here fitted an artificial leg, helping it to walk properly. A team led by Dr Saliil Jain, head of prosthetics and orthotics department at Sancheti Hospital, made the artificial leg and gifted it to the cow from a shelter home on Pune-Solapur highway.

### UP WOMAN GIVEN UP FOR DEAD COMES ALIVE

Amroha: An Amroha woman whose relatives were arrested for honour killing after she was declared dead by police over eight months ago has turned up alive. Police have reopened the case and the officer who had investigated the matter has been suspended, a senior officer said. Her father had lodged a complaint on February 6, 2019 that his daughter had gone missing.

## Rhea, father, brother grilled for 8 hrs in money laundering probe

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday questioned actress Rhea Chakraborty, her brother Showik, their father Indrajit for the second time in a money laundering probe relating to the allegations of abetment of suicide of film star Sushant Singh Rajput.

The trio appeared at the ED's Mumbai office at 11 am as per the second summons issued by the agency against them, officials said, adding that their questioning continued till late in the evening.

Later, Shruti Modi, business manager of Rhea and Rajput, also joined the probe. All the four accused were also questioned by the ED on Friday.

In the second half, Rajput's friend and roommate Siddharth Pithani also arrived at the ED office for recording his statement under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. Pithani's statement was earlier recorded by the Mumbai Police as part of their accidental death case probe under CrPC in the alleged suicide case.

The ED confronted the accused with one another as also with discrepancies in their statements relating to Rhea's income and investments along with their banking transactions and IT returns.

Continued on Page 2



Bollywood actress Rhea Chakraborty and her brother Showik leave after a fresh round of questioning by ED in Mumbai on Monday

## Sushant death case blown out of proportion as elections are due in Bihar, Rhea tells SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI/MUMBAI

Actress Rhea Chakraborty on Monday told the Supreme Court the Sushant Singh Rajput death case has been blown out of proportion as elections are due in Bihar and claimed she was being subjected to media trial due to "constant sensationalisation" causing her "extreme trauma".

Chakraborty, 28, also submitted in an additional affidavit filed in the SC she should not be made "scapegoat of political

agendas" in the case, and alleged that Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is "reported" to be responsible for registration of the FIR in Patna against her. There was no immediate reaction from the Bihar Government.

She said the "constant sensationalisation" was causing extreme trauma and infringement of privacy of her rights came a day ahead of the next hearing of her plea for transfer of the Bihar police FIR against her from Patna to Mumbai.

## Faesal quits politics; speculation rife about 2nd innings as IAS babu

### His resignation in Jan 2019 has not been accepted yet

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Former IAS officer Shah Faesal, who had launched Jammu & Kashmir Peoples Movement (JKPM) in March 2019, stepped down from the post of the party president on Monday claiming he was not in a position to "continue with political activities".

Shah Faesal was detained in the second week of August 2019 at the IGI Airport in Delhi and was later sent back to the

Valley. Thereafter, he was detained under the Public Safety Act, which was revoked in the first week of June 2020. Since then he has remained confined to his home amid speculation that he may resume his bureaucratic career soon as his resignation has not been accepted so far.

Faesal had resigned in January 2019 to protest unabated killings in Kashmir and marginalisation of Indian Muslims.

The official website of the Jammu & Kashmir General Administration Department says, "The officer has submit-

ted his resignation which has been forwarded to the DOPT, GOI for acceptance". There is no mention whether his resignation has been accepted or not.

According to the statement issued by the JKPM, "The State Executive Committee of J&K Peoples Movement (JKPM) in an online meeting today discussed the ongoing political developments in the State. In the said meeting, the request of Dr Shah Faesal to spare him from the organisational responsibilities was discussed."

Continued on Page 2

## Rafale jets start practice sorties at LAC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The first five Rafale jets, which came to India last month, have started practice sorties to familiarise themselves with conditions in Himachal Pradesh, which shares the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China. After a few weeks, these jets are likely to fly in Ladakh where the standoff is on for the last three months between the Armies of India and China.

Based at the Ambala airbase after arriving from France on July 29, the five Rafales are going through their paces with intense flying day and night.

Continued on Page 2

## NIA team in UAE to probe ₹14.82 cr Kerala gold smuggling

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A two-member National Investigation Agency (NIA) team has gone to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to probe the Kerala gold smuggling case.

The NIA team reached Dubai on Sunday night to investigate the sensational gold smuggling case and is expecting the UAE authorities to share more evidence on the involvement of Kerala officials in the scam, many of whom are suspected to have visited that country.

from that country will further help in unravelling the larger racket involving Kerala officials.

"The NIA will interrogate one of the key accused in the case — Fazil Fareed — and a couple of more accused who have been taken into custody by the UAE authorities," agency officials said here.

The NIA took over probe into the case on July 10 in which the accused have been booked under stringent provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 and other offences under the IPC. The key accused in the case

include Sarith PS, Swapna Prabha Suresh, Fazil Fareed and Sandeep Nair and others in connection with the seizure of 30 kg of 24 carat gold worth ₹14.82 crore at Trivandrum International Airport on July 5 by the Customs (Preventive) Commissionerate, Cochin.

The said consignment was found camouflaged in diplomatic baggage from UAE that is exempted from inspection as per the Vienna Convention. The consignment was to be received by accused Sarith PS who had worked in the UAE Consulate earlier as Public Relations Officer.

Initial investigation by Customs Department has revealed that Sarith PS had received multiple such consignments earlier as well.

As the case pertains to smuggling of large quantities of gold into India from offshore locations threatening the economic stability and national security of the country, it amounts to a terrorist act as stated in section 15 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

Initial enquiries revealed that the proceeds of smuggled gold could be used for financing of terrorism in India.

# Indian-Americans protest China's aggression against India

## Human right violations of Uyghurs

**Washington:** A group of Indian-Americans from in and around the national capital held a protest here against China's aggression towards India and the human right violations of Uyghur minority groups in the country's restive Muslim-majority Xinjiang region.

Maintaining social distancing and wearing masks, the peaceful protestors on Sunday gathered at the historic national mall facing the US Capitol and displayed anti-China posters, banners and raised slogans against the Communist

Party of China and its leaders. "This summer while the world was fighting coronavirus, China was trying to encroach upon other's land. It's not only in Ladakh in India but also against its other neighbours as well. It's time that the world unites against this Chinese

aggression," said Adapa Prasad from Overseas Friends of BJP USA.

Indian and Chinese troops have been locked in a bitter standoff in several areas along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh since May 5.

The situation deteriorated after the June 15 Galwan Valley clashes in which 20 Indian

Army personnel were killed and an unconfirmed number of Chinese soldiers died.

"China's Communist party has infringed on the religious rights of the Uyghur community and violated human rights of people of Hong Kong," Puneet Ahluwalia, who is an Indian-American Republican and founder of the Proud American Political Action

Committee, said.

Ahluwalia, who is exploring to run for the post of Lieutenant Governor of Virginia, said US President Donald Trump's hard measures against China was in the right direction.

"China has to play international rules," he said. "We have seen what they have done in Africa. We have seen

that they are doing in Iran.... Most importantly, they recently backstabbed India," Ahluwalia said, alleging that China is spying on Americans through various social media applications and by stealing data and information.

Sunil Singh, an eminent Indian-American from the Greater Washington DC area, praised Prime Minister

Narendra Modi for banning Chinese applications in India.

Noting that people of India have stopped buying China made goods, he said there was also a need for the Americans to make a similar move.

This was the second major anti-China protest by Indian-Americans here in Washington DC. **PTI**

## Israeli President Reuven Rivlin wishes Pranab Mukherjee speedy recovery

**Jerusalem:** Israeli President Reuven Rivlin on Monday wished his former Indian counterpart Pranab Mukherjee a speedy recovery after the latter was detected positive for COVID-19.

"Sending our best wishes and prayers for the speedy recovery of former President Pranab Mukherjee," Rivlin tweeted in English and in Hindi.

His tweets came hours after 84-year-old Mukherjee said that he has tested positive for COVID-19. He was admitted to the Army's Research and Referral (R&R) Hospital in New Delhi.

Mukherjee, who was the president from 2012-17, visited Israel in October 2015, becoming the first Indian pres-

ident to visit the Jewish state.

Rivlin visited India at Mukherjee's invitation in November 2016. The visits paved the way for the historical exchange of Prime Ministerial visits that elevated the status of bilateral relationship to "strategic partnership".

Describing Mukherjee "a good friend" of Israel, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) also wished him good health.

"Wishing a speedy recovery, good health & long life to former President of #India, and a good friend of #Israel, The Hon. Pranab @CitizenMukherjee", deputy Director General of Asia and Pacific Division at MFA, Gilad Cohen said in a tweet.

**PTI**

## Defence infra of PSUs, OFB to be modernised: Rajnath

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI**

A day after unveiling the negative import list to boost the Indian defence industry, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday launched the initiatives of a number of modernisation and up-gradation of facilities as also new infrastructure creation by Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) and Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), through digital link here. This move is part of the of the Atmanirbhar Week celebration of the defence ministry.

Launching the new drive, he said the government has made timely and thoughtful interventions during Covid-19 times like issuing negative list for import, increase in FDI limits, separate budget for domestic capital procurement and emphasis on indigenisation.

"The ban on imports of 101 items is a big step towards an Atmanirbhar Bharat. This list of negative items contains not only small items but weapon systems of high and

critical technology. More such items will be added to this list shortly which will save crores of rupees in imports," he added.

The minister said the government will take more steps towards, indigenisation, investment in defence infrastructure and expansion in defence manufacturing capability.

Under upgradation of facilities, Pinaka Rocket Complex at Ordnance Factory (OF) Chanda has launched Maarech integration facility to manufacture 12 Maarech systems per year to meet the enhanced requirement of Pinaka and other rockets as well as the assembly and testing facility for SRCG at OF, Trichy all of which are critical requirements towards defence preparedness. Modernisation of facilities at OLF Dehradun will serve the purpose of manufacturing of high-end Optoelectronic products for T-90 Tanks.

The DPSU BEML has set up the Mission and Industrial Design Centre at Bengaluru as part of its new infrastructure creation. The Centre is first of

**LAUNCHING THE NEW DRIVE, RAJNATH SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAS MADE TIMELY AND THOUGHTFUL INTERVENTIONS DURING COVID-19 TIMES LIKE ISSUING NEGATIVE LIST FOR IMPORT, INCREASE IN FDI LIMITS, SEPARATE BUDGET FOR DOMESTIC CAPITAL PROCUREMENT AND EMPHASIS ON INDIGENISATION**

its kind in India, focusing on implementing factors of Industrial Design & Human Factors as a part of developmental strategies for setting the global benchmarking in Industrial Design and Ergonomics in Products. It is proposed to develop this facility further as a national facility and would be offered to the industry in the next stage.

Under modernisation of facilities, Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSEL) has enhanced the capability at its Raja Bagan Dockyard to meet the production requirement for the ongoing prestigious P17A project.

New infrastructure has been created in the defence sec-

tor in the shape of foundation laying of Seeker Facility Centre (SFC) at Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), a new modular facility for manufacturing of Missile System (RF Seeker) that will reduce import dependence for seekers and Foundation Laying for Warheads Production Facility at BDL for manufacturing and testing of indigenously developed warheads required for Konkurs-M, Invar, Akash, Astra missiles, etc. The facility being modular will cater to all futuristic missile warheads with incremental modifications.

Rajnath unveiled these facilities by pressing a remote button through digital links.

## China, India jointly safeguarding peace at borders, ties Beijing's future diplomatic priority: Official

**Beijing:** China and India jointly safeguarding peace and security along the borders and the two countries together maintaining sound development of bilateral ties is one of Beijing's future diplomatic priorities, a senior Chinese official said here on Monday.

Asked about China's diplomatic priorities in future as the international landscape is undergoing changes unseen in a century due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian outlined Beijing's plans to enhance bilateral ties with the US, Russia, the European Union, Japan and India.

Zhao was responding to a question by China's official Xinhua news agency at a regular foreign ministry briefing.

"We will continue to improve relations with neighbouring countries," he said.

"For the China-India relationship, the two sides should jointly safeguard peace and security in the border areas and maintain a steady and sound

development of bilateral ties", he said. Zhao's comments came in the backdrop of the border row between India and China in eastern Ladakh. He said China will continue to deepen strategic mutual trust and expand shared interests with its neighbours and other developing countries.

"We have actively planned and developed our relations with other major countries, responded rationally to the unreasonable pressure the United States has piled on China, made new progress in advancing China-Russia relations under the strategic guidance of the two heads of state and sustained cooperation as the main tone of China-EU relations," he said.

The spokesman also said that China will also undertake cooperation in drug and vaccine research and development, provide assistance to countries in need to the best of its ability and improve global public health governance. **PTI**

## Rhea, father, brother grilled...

**From Page 1**  
Rhea (28), the prime accused in the case, was questioned for about eight hours on Friday. The ED also had earlier questioned Rhea's chartered accountant (CA) Ritesh Shah.

Apart from her business dealings and investments in conjunction with the late actor, the ED has so far grilled the actress on her income, investments, business and professional deals. During the questioning on Monday, the mismatch between her income, expenditure and investments was prominently emphasised, sources said.

A property located at Khar area in Mumbai and another in Navi Mumbai, both linked to Rhea, are being probed for the source of funds and ownership patterns, officials said.

Confronting Rhea with her Income Tax Returns for the last two fiscals showing an annual income in the range of about Rs 14-18 lakh, the officials sought answers on the source of funds for acquiring the properties that are much higher in value.

Rhea told the agency that she had made the property investments from her income, savings and bank loans.

The ED, during the questioning sessions, is learnt to have confronted Rhea, Showik and Modi with certain bank statements that purportedly show transfer of small amounts into Showik's accounts from those of Rajput and the accused actress.

Rajput's father Krishna Kumar Singh had on July 25 filed a complaint with the Patna police against Rhea, her parents (including mother Sandhya Chakraborty), Showik, Rajput's manager Samuel Miranda, Shruti Modi and unknown persons accusing them of cheating and abetting

his son's suicide. The CBI had re-registered the Patna police FIR as a fresh case on Thursday and named as accused the same six persons named in the original case.

The late actor's father also alleged financial irregularities in bank accounts of his son. In the complaint, Singh alleged that an amount of Rs 15 crore was siphoned off from Rajput's bank account in one year to accounts of persons not known or related to the late actor.

The ED is also probing two companies linked to Rajput and some financial deals involving Rhea, her father and Showik, who are said to be directors in these firms and their questioning revolved around these aspects, the sources added.

## Faesar quits politics; speculation rife about...

**From Page 1**  
Dr Shah Faesar had informed State Executive Members that he is not in a position to continue with political activities and wants to be freed from the responsibilities of the organisation, said the statement.

It was decided to accept his request so that he can better continue with his life and contribute whichever way he chooses, added the statement.

Feroze Peerzada, currently holding the post of party vice president was appointed as president of the party till formal elections can be held for the post of president," the statement read further.

## Yogi seeks Central assistance for flood relief

**PNS ■ LUCKNOW**

**Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath** has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to provide financial assistance to Uttar Pradesh for relief and rehabilitation of the flood-affected people.

The request was made during a video-conferencing.

On Monday, the prime minister reviewed the flood situation with chief ministers of flood-affected states through video conferencing, in which

he was apprised of relief measures being implemented by different states.

The prime minister assured the UP government of full assistance in combating floods and for the relief and rehabilitation of people affected by the calamity.

Yogi Adityanath informed the prime minister that 15 teams of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and nine teams of State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and 17 flood companies of the

Provincial Armed Constabulary were deployed for relief and rescue operations in flood-affected districts of UP.

He said the NDRF had organised a mock drill while preparing for relief operations on July 1. He also informed the prime minister that flood helpline 1070 was also being operated by the relief commissioner of UP.

The chief minister said that so far, 88 flood protection projects with an outlay of Rs

856 crore had been completed and Rs 318 crore was released so far by the state government for 2020-21 fiscal.

He said all necessary repair and strengthening of flood protection embankments was done before the coronavirus pandemic.

He also said that in all flood-affected districts, flood protection outposts, wireless centres and flood control rooms were operational.

Yogi further said that breaches in flood protection

embankments was reported from Mau, Azamgarh and Gonda and they were repaired.

He said that in 20 flood-affected districts, a little over one lakh families or 5.75 lakh people were affected by the floods.

The chief minister said that standing Kharif crop on 38,248 hectares land was ravaged and so far, 13 people had died due to floods.

The flood-affected districts in UP include Ambedkarnagar, Ayodhya,

Azamgarh, Bahraich, Ballia, Balrampur, Barabanki, Basti, Gonda, Gorakhpur, Kushinagar, Lakhimpur Kheri, Mau, Siddharthnagar, Maharajganj, Deoria, Sant Kabir Nagar, Pilibhit, Pratapgarh and Sitapur.

Yogi also informed the prime minister that over 90,000 food packets and food grain kits containing 17 items were distributed among affected people, 178 cattle camps were set up and over six lakh cattle head were vaccinated.

## Sachin...

**From Page 1**  
Sources said that no action will be taken against rebel MLAs. It has also been promised that the rebel Ministers of the Pilot camp will again be given the ranks of Ministers. Even if not immediately, Cabinet expansion will be done soon.

Sources said Pilot during the last few days had made back channel attempts through senior leaders of the party to have a word with the Congress' first family which he ignored despite several attempts made by the party leadership to pacify him.

Late Monday night when reports began to trickle in that dissidents staying at a hotel in Gurugram have started returning to Jaipur, Priyanka reached at party troubleshooter Ahmed

Patel's residence to deliberate further on Pilot's future.

Congress organisation general secretary KC Venugopal had visited Gehlot and his MLAs in Jaisalmer on Saturday and informed them about a possible end to the month-long stalemate. Venugopal urged the CM to not give any fresh statement against Pilot.

"This time the party was quick to respond as Jyotiraditya Scindia exited and joined BJP after blaming the same leadership for not giving him a personal audience for over a year. Yes, we can say the party this time was sensitive in handling the internal affairs as Scindia case could be an eye opener for them," said a senior party leader.

The move ahead of the Assembly session on Friday where the Congress is likely to go for a trust motion is significant as this is being seen as a

step forward in breaking the deadlock in Rajasthan where Pilot along with 17 MLAs raised a banner of revolt against Gehlot.

Another party leader said that the meeting of Pilot with Gandhis was a "positive development" but speculated that Pilot must have put certain conditions agreeable to Gandhis after so much mudslinging in recent days.

"Much has changed over the last one month. Pilot has been removed as both Deputy Chief Minister and State unit chief of the party. Any negotiation will happen only when both sides take a clear stand on who is willing to walk how many steps. We have to also keep in mind that right now the talks are limited to Delhi and the views of Rajasthan's top leadership will also be crucial," said the party leader.

Sources said that Pilot has

assured Congress high command that he will end his rebellion and there will likely be no action against rebel Pilot loyalists.

Pilot is unlikely to get any role in Rajasthan Congress or Gehlot Government for now but he might be roped in for key responsibilities in AICC.

The month long battle started by Pilot witnessed allegations against Union Minister Gajendra Singh for toppling the Government and the matter reached the Rashtrapati Bhawan as well as Prime Minister Narendra Modi in form of a serious charge by Gehlot. Source mentioned that disciplinary action initiated against Pilot loyalists Vishvendra Singh, Ramesh Meena and Bhanwarlal Sharma may be dropped for now as Sharma already met Gehlot ending his rebellion. Singh and Meena, who were dropped

from the Gehlot Cabinet along with Pilot last month, may get back their portfolios.

Gehlot on his part immediately called a meeting with the Rajasthan Pradesh Congress Committee (RPCC) president Govind Dotasa in Jaipur to discuss handling of the day's development.

Sources from both the Congress and the BJP mentioned that sudden change of aspiration within Pilot camp could have been after they realised that BJP leader and former CM Vasundhara Raje was reluctant to support Pilot joining the BJP and then take over as the CM. Of the total of BJP's 72 MLAs in Rajasthan, 40 are Vasundhara loyalists.

All MLAs of Gehlot camp are at a resort for nearly a month now while the Opposition BJP has kept its legislators at places in Rajasthan as well as Gujarat.

## Rafale jets...

**From Page 1**  
This is part of the drill to make the versatile planes operationally ready, sources said here on Monday.

Though the jets will be formally inducted into the "Golden Arrow" squadron later this month, planners are keen to expose the jets to all kinds of Indian conditions and therefore a batch of at least 12 pilots are engaged in intense flying, they said.

Given the volatile situation at the border in Eastern Ladakh, the IAF has already mobilised most of its other frontline fighter jets, including SU-30, Jaguars and MIG-29, to forward bases all along the 4,000 km long LAC stretching from Ladakh to Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Arunachal Pradesh.

In fact, the newly inducted Apache attack helicopters are flying regular operational sorties near-

the LAC in Ladakh and Chinook heavy-lift helicopters practicing runs to ferry troops and equipment in the region. This deployment is to boost the Indian Army which has bolstered its troop strength besides bringing forward heavy guns and tanks. This measure was undertaken at the Chinese scaled up their strength at all four "friction points."

Realising the sensitive nature of the LAC at present, the planes are not flying very close to the LAC in Himachal Pradesh and will follow the same routine in Ladakh, sources said. India and China have an agreement about "no-fly" zone where in fighter jets of two sides have to conduct sorties at least 15 km from the LAC in their respective regions. The ongoing intensive practice sorties are also testing Indian specifications fitted into the Rafales. The 13 India Specific Enhancements (ISE) are part of the Rs 60,000 crore deal for 36 Rafale jets.

The ISE include Israeli helmet-

mounted displays, radar warning receivers, low-band jammers, infrared search, and tracking systems among others. In addition, the Rafale is armed with the Meteor missile considered a game-changer in the region with a range of over 150 km, SCALP long-range stand-

off attack, air-to-ground missile, and MICA multi-mission air-to-air missiles. The IAF is also arming the Rafale with HAMMER (Highly Agile Modular Munition Extended Range) medium-range air-to-ground missiles being procured through the emergency route.

## 15% students...

**From Page 1**  
The HRD Ministry had last month asked States and Union Territories to ensure that the names of children of migrant workers who returned home during the Covid-19 pandemic are not struck off their school rolls.

Issuing a set of guidelines, the ministry had also directed the states to prepare a database of children who have left the local area for their homes in other states or other parts of the same state.

It also suggested that the state governments may direct all schools

to give admission to any child who recently returned to village without asking for any other documents, except for some identity proof.

Universities and schools across the country have been shut since March 16, when the Centre announced a countrywide classroom shutdown as part of measures to contain the COVID-19 outbreak. A nationwide lockdown was announced on March 24, which came into effect the next day and threw economic activities out of gear, rendering many homeless and penniless and leading to an exodus of migrants to their home states.

**Executive Engineer C.D, P.W.D, Khurja (Bulandshahar)**  
No. 151336/E-TENDER/2020  
**E-Procurement Inviting Tenders Notice** Dated 31/07/2020

On behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh, E.E. C.D., U.P.P.W.D., Khurja invites following percentage rate bids online through <http://etender.up.nic.in> from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP PWD, from, on 04.09.2020 to 11.09.2020 upto 12.00 PM. The technical bids will be opened online on the Same working day that is, on dated 11.09.2020 at 3.30 P.M. at the Office of Executive Engineer, C.D., U.P.P.W.D. Khurja if the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened online on the next working day respectively, at the same time and validity of bid will be considered from the original date. The date and time of opening of the financial bid shall be notified on the website.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Bid Security (Rs. in Lacs)	Work Completion	Tender document fee including GST	Contractors Category
1	For the Financial Year 2020-21 Potholes/ Patch Repair work in Pahasu Block	30.00	3.00	6 Month	Rs. 800.00 Tender Cost+Rs. 150.00 G.S.T.	A B C D
2	For the Financial Year 2020-21 Potholes/ Patch Repair work in Danpur Block	30.00	3.00	6 Month	Rs. 800.00 Tender Cost+Rs. 150.00 G.S.T.	A B C D
3	For the Financial Year 2020-21 Potholes/ Patch Repair work in Shikarpur Block	30.00	3.00	6 Month	Rs. 800.00 Tender Cost+Rs. 150.00 G.S.T.	A B C D
4	For the Financial Year 2020-21 Potholes/ Patch Repair work in Debai Block	30.00	3.00	6 Month	Rs. 800.00 Tender Cost+Rs. 150.00 G.S.T.	A B C D
5	Renovation work in Residence No. 16 & 17 of Type-1 in Tehsil Shikarpur in Bulandshahar district (residential Building)	1.12	0.112	2 Month	Rs. 650.00 Tender Cost + Rs. 120.00 Total=Rs. 770.00	A, B, C & D Registered Building work

Terms & Conditions related to bids are available on <https://etender.up.nic.in>  
U.P.: 154128, Date: 07.08.2020  
रिजिस्ट्रेशन वेबसाइट [www.up.gov.nic.in](http://www.up.gov.nic.in) पर उपलब्ध है। (Surenindra Kumar) Executive Engineer C.D. PWD Khurja

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Information is given to general public at large that my client Axis Bank Ltd. having its address at Noida is inclined to grant Loan facility against Apartment No. 108, Block-A, on First Floor, having super area measuring 1413.91 Sq. Ft. i.e. 131.35 Sq. Yds. in Sunrise Apartments, built on Plot No. 3, situated in the Vaishali Group Housing Scheme, Vashi, Ghaziabad (U.P.) (hereinafter referred to as 'Said Property') belonging to Sh. Virendra Kumar Gupta and after the death of Late Virendra Kumar Gupta the Said Property devolved in favour of Sh. Aditya Jain S/o. Smt. Vioha Jain R/o. D-6/13B, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-110057 by virtue of the Will dated 16-06-2008. If any person(s) has/have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the Said Property then contact us within 10 days from the date of this notice on the number mentioned herein below, failing which my client i.e. Axis Bank Ltd. shall not be held responsible in any manner whatsoever.  
Himanshu Ahuja (Advocate)  
Contact No- 9810310730/011-41630049  
Email Address: alolegals@gmail.com

**State Bank of India**  
Regional Business Office-II, A.O.-I,  
11 Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001  
Tel: 011-23407868

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
We are pleased to announce the merger of our underneted Branch's to a more convenient location w.e.f. 24.08.2020:-  
1. State Bank of India, Acharya Niketan Branch, D-39 A Acharya Niketan, Mayur Vihar Phase I, Delhi, Pin: 110091 to merge with State Bank of India, Mayur Vihar, Phase-I, 101/A Pratap Nagar, Delhi, Pin: 110091.  
Ph.No.: 011-227503310  
Mob: 882679831  
2. State Bank of India, Sachdeva Plaza Branch, 1st Floor Sachdeva Plaza II, Mayur Vihar Phase II, Delhi, Pin: 110091 to merge with State Bank of India, Mayur Vihar, Phase-II, Plot No. 9, Block B Shopping Complex, Delhi, Pin: 110091.  
Ph.No.: 011-22785682/83  
Mob: 9958147046  
3. State Bank of India, Satnam Marg Branch, A-223, Chachi Building Main Road, Krishna Nagar, Delhi: 110051, to merge with State Bank of India, Jheel Chowk, Gandhi Nagar Branch, 409 Jheel Khurja, Gandhi Nagar, Delhi, Pin: 110031  
Ph.No.: 011-22053402  
Mob: 9990977082  
4. State Bank of India, Vivek Vihar-Phase II, A-22, Ground Floor, Phase-II, Vivek Vihar, Delhi, Pin-110095 to merge with State Bank of India, Vivek Vihar Branch, D-212, Vivek Vihar, Delhi-110092.  
Ph.No.: 011-011-43045441  
Mob: 8447999880  
Authorized Official

# 707 fresh cases, 20 deaths in Capital

Of total 1.46 lakh Covid-19 cases, only 10,346 active

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The national Capital recorded 707 fresh coronavirus cases on Monday, taking the tally in the city to 1,46,134, while the death toll from the disease increasing to 4,131.

Twenty fatalities have been recorded in the last 24 hours, according to the Delhi Health Department bulletin. The active cases tally was 10,346. According to the bulletin, out of the total number of beds in COVID hospitals, 10346 are vacant.

The national capital had reported the highest single-day spike of 3,947 cases on June 23. Also, 3238 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 63, 389, it said. A total of 131657 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-anti-

gen 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.

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With two fresh cases reported last week, the number of people suffering from dengue in the National Capital has reached 77. Five fresh cases of dengue also reported in a week, taking the total number to 72 this year.

According to data provided by municipal corporations out of total dengue cases, 31 patients who diagnosed with the disease belong to Delhi while 25 patients traced here were from different states and other 12 patients did not provide their address.

Meanwhile, mosquito-breeding has been reported in at least 28578 households in Delhi and 23598 legal notices have been issued and 639 numbers of prosecutions launched this year, according to data released by the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC). The dengue breeding checkers have checked 10739929 premises.

A senior SDMC official



said that all the preventive steps have been taken to reduce the cases. "The key to prevention of Dengue is ensuring there is no clean stagnant water in homes and around, which does not allow the Aedes mosquitoes to breed, and therefore dengue cannot spread," he said.

Dengue mosquito larvae breed in clear, standing water while those of malaria mosquito thrive even in dirty water. Doctors have advised people to take precautions and ensure that there is no breeding of

mosquito larvae around them. They have urged people to wear full-sleeves clothes and use mosquito nets.

The malaria parasite is transmitted by female Anopheles mosquitoes, which bite mainly between dusk and dawn. According to the World Health Organisation malaria is caused by the protozoan parasite Plasmodium. Human malaria is caused by four different species of Plasmodium: P. falciparum, P. malariae, P. ovale and P. vivax.

## G'gram to begin 2nd round of sero survey

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

In order to evaluate how many people have been infected with coronavirus in the Gurugram district, the health department will conduct a second round of a sero survey in which about 850 people will be tested.

"The purpose of this survey is to monitor the population of Stork-Cove 2 infection in the district. Out of 850 persons selected for the sero surveillance survey, 500 are from rural and 350 are from urban areas," said civil surgeon Gurugram, Dr. Virendra Yadav.

As part of the exercise the urban area will be divided into four clusters for the survey and each cluster will be fur-

ther divided into four parts.

A survey of 22 houses will be done in a section i.e. 88 houses will be surveyed in each cluster. Similarly, each cluster will be further divided into four quadrants by dividing the rural area into 12 clusters.

A three-member team, comprising a doctor, a health worker and a lab technician, will visit consecutive houses from this point till the required sample size for the location is completed.

The official further informed that 44 clusters have been placed in each cluster in rural areas which will be surveyed.

"This survey will consist of stratified multi-stage sampling, in which samples will be taken with the consent of people

above 18 years of age. Also, a supervisor will be designated to monitor the two clusters," Yadav said.

The survey will be held in 20 areas. The rural areas include Daultabad, Bajghera Sector 112, Bajghera village, Sarai Sector 109, Palra village, Badshahpur, Aklimpur, Pataudi, Sherpur, Inchhapuri, Rathiwas, Bhorakalan, Bhudka, Kharkhera village and Jeetpur.

The urban areas include Basai Enclave, Patel Nagar, Khandsa and Tigra.

He further said through this surveillance it can also be easily ascertained whether the said person was infected with the virus in the past.

"With this test we also came to know whether any person infected with covid-19 and recovered himself. It will

also be known whether antibodies to corona infection have been developed in his body or not," he said.

A sero survey on a smaller scale was conducted in the city in the first week of July. Of the 360 samples collected to check antibodies, 24 had returned positive.

The total number of coronavirus cases in the city on Monday rose to 9,771 including 57 new cases. The Covid-19 toll has reached 125 in the district.

Gurugram now has 657 active cases and 537 of them are in home isolation, officials added.

The health department said out of 125 deaths 87 died due to comorbidities and the remaining 38 without comorbidities.

## DRUNKEN DRIVING

### Cop killed as car rams into Prakhar van

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 50-year-old Delhi Police Head Constable was killed while a constable was injured after their patrolling vehicle 'Prakhar Van' was allegedly hit by a car in an accident near Khalsa College in North Delhi.

Police said that the driver of the offending car identified as Tushar, (19), a resident of Model Town, was driving in inebriated state and has been held.

According to Monika Bhardwaj, the Deputy Commissioner of Police

(DCP), North district, the accused driver who also sustained injuries in the accident was on his way back home after meeting a friend when around 1:30 AM on Monday his Honda City car ramed into a patrolling vehicle of Delhi Police called 'PRAKHAR' near Khalsa College.

"PRAKHAR" vehicle of the Delhi Police are patrolling vans tasked especially to curb street crimes and crime against women in vulnerable areas.

"The impact of the accident was such that the patrolling vehicle of the Delhi Police

upturned and skid for 10-15 feet and Head Constable Wazir Singh, who was stuck inside the patrolling vehicle," said the DCP.

"However, constable Amit, who was driving the patrolling vehicle rescued Singh with the help of public and shifted him to Trauma Centre, Civil Lines where he succumbed to his injuries during the course of treatment while constable Amit who sustained injuries in the accident has been discharged and stated to be stable," said the DCP.

"In the MLC prepared, the

doctors opined that the accused driver, who was also injured in the incident, was under the influence of alcohol at the time of accident, said the Deputy Commissioner of Police adding the driver of the offending vehicle has been nabbed.

"A case under section 279 (Rash driving or riding on a public way), 337 (causing hurt by act of endangering life) and 304 II (Punishment for culpable homicide not amounting to murder) of Indian Penal Code has been registered," said the Deputy Commissioner of Police.



A view of Connaught Place in Delhi on Monday

Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

## Kejriwal misleading people on job scheme: BJP

Delhi BJP chief asks Govt to specify number of people employed through its job portal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta slammed the Kejriwal Government for "misleading" people of Delhi by re-launching an employment scheme which had already failed two years ago.

Gupta said that just as the same picture is shown again and again in the bio-scope and the Kejriwal government keeps re-launching the old schemes. "The Delhi Government launches the same scheme such as odd-even, doorstep delivery, e-vehicle and the recent employment scheme again and again to get attention of the people," he said.

The government had spent 34 crore 41 lakh rupees for the employment scheme but only 334 people got employment. "Kejriwal has again come up with an employment scheme to mislead the people of Delhi in the name of employment," he said.

Gupta further said that the mentality of Kejriwal government is anti-women as there are many leaders like Sandeep Kumar, Sharad Chauhan in his party who are accused of sexual harass-

ment and exploitation of women and the victims are still deprived of justice.

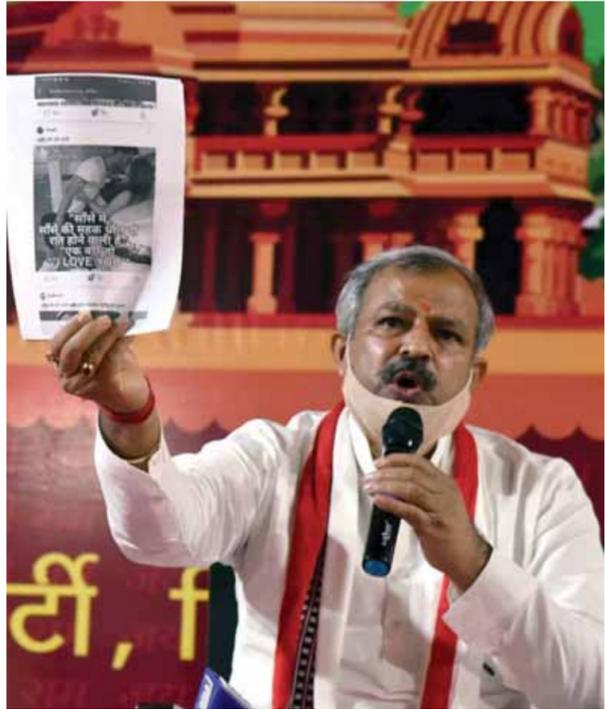
"The Kejriwal government had promoted the Rojgar Mela in 2018 but failed to provide jobs. Likewise, it announced that both job providers and job seekers can register on the Delhi government job portal and apply for jobs this year also," he said.

On Friday, Kejriwal Government Minister Gopal Rai claimed that the job portal has more than nine lakh vacancies and the applicants are 8 lakh 64 thousand, he said, adding that if the claims are so true, then the Kejriwal government should tell how many people have jobs so far through the portal.

Showing a screenshot of a job posted on the portal, Gupta said that people are being given the opportunity to look at the video and earn with that. Under this, people are asked to download a video application named V Clip through a link being received on WhatsApp and in exchange of watching their videos; they are giving 4000 to 10000 Rs per month as per the Job description.

On this App, videos and photos with vulgar and offensive contents are present, he said, adding that along with this, data privacy is also being violated.

In reality, instead of taking steps to provide financial help, the Kejriwal government is playing with the feelings of people in the name of employment and is doing scams of crores, he said.



Delhi BJP President Adesh Gupta addresses a Press conference in New Delhi on Monday

## Man held for luring slum dwellers to Ponzi scheme

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested a man for allegedly duping people through his fraudulent finance schemes on the pretext of giving them higher returns.

Police said that the accused identified as Sudhir Parkash Sharma and his associates targeted people living in slum clusters here and lured them to make smaller investments with them on daily basis. They con-

vinced them to open FDs and invest Rs. 100 daily basis for a year to get Rs. 41,400 after 12 months of the scheme.

The fraudulent schemes were being run by the gang through their fake company in south Delhi's Kalkaji, which has been operational since 2013, police said.

Sharma and along with his associates have duped at least 25 people so far, he said.

Elaborating on their modus

operandi, Atul Kumar Thakur, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), South district said that initially, the gang members returned the maturity amount to win the trust and attract more investments into their schemes.

"But after collecting huge amount, they refuse to refund the amount. After duping people, they would close down their office and switch off their mobile phones," said the DCP.

Transport Corporation (DTC) were involved in 10 fatal accidents leading to 10 deaths while DTC buses were involved

in fatal accidents in which six people were killed," as per Delhi Traffic Police data.

"Around eight fatal acci-

dents were caused by tractors leading to nine deaths. Meanwhile, 262 unidentified vehicles were involved in road accidents this year in which 265 people lost their lives," as per police data.

The police data also shows that around eight people were killed while riding e-rickshaws, while four cycle rickshaw pullers also became the victims of fatal accidents leading to four deaths.

A senior Delhi Traffic Police official, there are innumerable points of clash between cyclists and other motorists across the city.

"There is a constant conflict between them due to lack of space on the roads but police teams are doing our best by keeping the overall speed on the roads low by issuing thousands of fines," said the senior Traffic Police official adding that they have been writing regularly to civic agencies to construct more rumble strips and reduce speed limits.

## AIIMS medical attendant arrested for fleeing with patient's ₹60,000 cash

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police has arrested a 52-year-old man for allegedly fleeing with Rs 60,000 cash from a patient who had come to All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) for his operation.

The accused Satish Kumar Dhama, who worked as a nursing attendant at the hospital was hired through a placement agency. Police said that he belongs to Haridwar in Uttarakhand.

According to police, the patient, who is in media sector, had to undergo an eye operation at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) on July 25.

"On the day incident, just when the patient, was going for the procedure, he handed over Rs. 29,500 from the accused and further investigation is underway, he said.

cash, the patient asked him to wait till his procedure gets over but instead, he fled with the money," said Atul Kumar Thakur, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), South district.

"Police registered a case and conducted raids in areas of Haridwar, Ghaziabad and Noida but couldn't be arrested. While analysing the details of the suspect, police found that he was using multiple mobile numbers and regularly changed his places but booked hotel rooms via an app," said the DCP.

"On the basis of our further investigation, our team conducted a raid in Gurgaon and arrested the accused from a hotel where he had been staying," the DCP said.

## Road accidents down with cut in vehicles

SHEKHAR SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Due to less availability of public transport and ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, there has been a surge in the number of cyclists in the National Capital.

The Delhi Police said that there has been a steep downfall in the number of road accidents this year but a new challenge has emerged following the rise in the number of cyclists and pedestrians.

According to Delhi Police data, around 243 pedestrians were killed from January 1 to July 31 this year in road accidents while 17 cyclists were also killed in the fatal road accident.

Police data also states that 193 fatal accidents involving scooter/bike fatal were reported in which 199 people lost their lives.

"This year from January 1 to July 31, around 2164 accidents have been reported in which 1908 persons were injured while 557 died," said a senior police official.

"Around 78 accidents were from private cars in which 83 lives were lost in the city. Around 45 accidents were from

offending vehicles such as 'Goods Carriers' in which 47 people were killed. Cluster buses running under Delhi



# Health officials fear Covid spike in festive season



ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

With no let-up in the covid-19 cases which crossed the 22-lakh mark on Monday, health officials are now keeping their fingers crossed in view of the upcoming string of festivals like Janmashtami, Ganesh Chaturthi, Navratras, Dussehra, Diwali and Chhath in the coming months.

The officials fear a further spike in cases during the people's participation in these festivals.

For the last five days, in fact

after Raksha Bandhan, a Hindu festival, which was on August 3, India has been reporting more novel Coronavirus infections than any other country in the world. On Saturday, India's over 64,000 new infections comprised more than 22 per cent of all the cases detected globally, said an official from the Union Health Ministry.

He pointed out that while the United States and Brazil which have greater number of people infected by the virus till now, have been finding fewer number of new cases every day



during this period, while India's case numbers have been increasing steadily, with more than 60,000 new cases for the last three days.

Many Northern States like the Uttar Pradesh had allowed opening of sweet shops and those selling rakhis on Sunday in view of the Raksha Bandhan festival on Monday. Soon after, various parts of the Uttar Pradesh like Lucknow reported huge surge in the Covid-19 infection cases.

Now, with a series of festivals coming up in the next few

months, which are celebrated across the country, we fear more cases on anvil, said the official.

Though State Governments have been urging people to not to congregate at public places, but being major festivals many times citizens fail to adhere the norms of social distancing and visit the markets to purchase sweets and other items for prayers.

"We have also observed that people tend to visit their relatives during festival times as a ritual and do not follow mask wearing norms, thus leaving

## India's fatality rate falls amid rise in cases

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the total coronavirus patients across the country crossed the 22-lakh mark, India's fatality rate dropped to its lowest two per cent in the last 24 hours whereas the recoveries reached a new peak of over 15 lakh so far.

The latest data shared by the Union Health shows that the current Case Fatality Rate (CFR) is two per cent and is steadily declining even as the country tested a record over 1,000 deaths in a single day,

themselves vulnerable to the disease," said the official.

For instance, if Ganesh Chaturthi is major festival in Maharashtra, Chhath Puja is celebrated with great fervour in Bihar. Similarly, Navratras is important fest in Gujarat. Hence,

pushing the death toll so far to 44,386.

The Ministry said the fatality rate is at its lowest and India is among the countries with lowest fatalities.

"Early identification of cases has also led to steep fall in percentage of active cases," it said.

Early identification helps to ensure timely and prompt isolation of mild and moderate cases and hospitalisation of severe and critical cases, thereby leading to effective management of cases, the Ministry

increase in cases in these States after these festivals cannot be ruled out, said the official.

Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Telangana, Karnataka and Bihar are the ten worst-affected states

said.

The Ministry data further mentions that India's COVID-19 recoveries have crossed the historic peak of 15 lakh on Monday, more than twice the active cases while recovery of 15,35,743 patients, it said, has been made possible because of the policy of aggressive testing, comprehensive tracking and efficient treatment.

Better ambulance services, focus on standard of care and use of non-invasive oxygen had given the desired results, it said.

accounted for about 82 per cent of all the cases in the country, both in terms of total caseload, as well as new cases so far.

The number in India reached 22 lakh on Monday, and at this rate, India is poised

With the highest-ever single-day recoveries of 54,859 patients in the last 24 hours, the recovery rate had scaled another high of almost 70 per cent.

The record recoveries ensured that the actual caseload of the country, namely the active cases, has reduced and currently comprises only 28.66 per cent of the total positive cases.

India has posted more than 9 lakh recoveries compared with active cases (6,34,945).

to overtake Brazil within a month's time. In the last three days, Brazil has been adding more than 50,000 new cases daily, but in India, everyday around 60,000 cases are being added up to the total tally, pointed out the official.

## Modi reviews flood situation with CMs of 6 States

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday urged the flood affected States for extensive use of innovative technologies and local investments for the development of forecast and early warning systems. PM was reviewing the flood situation in six States with Chief Ministers of Assam, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala. The States complimented central agencies including NDRF for prompt co-ordination and timely deployment of rescue operations.

Chief Ministers Sarbananda Sonowal, Nitish Kumar, Yogi Adityanath, Uddhav Thackeray and Pinarayi Vijayan appraised the flood situation in their States. Karnataka was represented by Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Health Minister Harsh Vardhan and Ministers of State Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy and Nityanand Rai also participated in the review meet.

Modi emphasised on better coordination between all central and state agencies to have a permanent system for forecasting of floods and extensive use of innovative technologies for improving forecast and warning system. Prime Minister said that over the past few years, our forecasting agencies like India Meteorological Department and Central Water Commission have been making concerted efforts to make better and more usable flood forecasts. They are trying to provide not only rainfall and river level forecast but also location specific forecast of inundation. There are pilot efforts underway to also use innovative technologies such as artificial

## PM dedicates Chennai-Andaman & Nicobar submarine optical fibre cable link

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday dedicated to the nation, 2,300 km submarine optical cable connecting Andaman and Nicobar Islands to Chennai, which is set to be a big leap in the communication technology. Modi congratulated the engineering team which finished this prestigious project in 18 months. The foundation stone for this project was laid by the PM on December 30, 2018 at Port Blair.

Addressing the function thru video conferencing, Prime Minister said this great leap in communication technology will boost the development of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Modi admired the laying of cables for about 2,300 kilometers under the sea as surveying in the deep sea, maintaining the quality of the cable and laying of the cable with specialised vessels is not

intelligence to improve locations specific forecast, for which States should provide necessary information to these agencies and timely disseminate the warnings to local communities," said PMO in a statement.

Prime Minister mentioned that investment should be increased in localised early warning system so that people in a particular area can be provided with timely warning in case of any threatening situation such as breach of river embankment, inundation level, lightning

an easy task.

The project also had to overcome challenges such as high waves, storms and monsoons and the tough times owing to Corona Pandemic. Telecom Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad also attended function and praised the engineering team in executing this project in speedy manner.

Modi said providing better and cheap connectivity to the people of Andaman & Nicobar Islands is the responsibility of the country.

PM said the Submarine Cable is one such effort to prove that A & N Islands are not far away from Delhi and from the Hearts of the Mainland. "Submarine Cable will help A&N in getting cheaper & better connectivity and all the benefits of Digital India, especially in improving online education, tele-medicine, banking system, online trading and in boosting tourism," said Prime Minister.

etc. "Prime Minister also emphasised that in view of COVID situation, while undertaking rescue efforts, States must ensure that people follow all health precautions such as wearing of face mask, hand sanitisation and maintain adequate physical distance and relief materials must include provision for hand washing/ sanitizing and face masks for the affected people. In this regard, special provisions should be made for elderly people, pregnant women and people with co-morbidity.

## EIA 2020 criticism is premature as draft is not final: Javadekar



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar on Monday termed 'immature' the criticism of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), 2020 from green activists and political parties including the Congress, and said that all suggestions will be considered before the draft is finalised.

"The criticism of the EIA, 2020, was 'premature', as the document is merely a draft at this stage. As per rules, only 60 days notice is to be given, but owing to Covid-19, we extended it up to 150 days," Javadekar said on the sidelines of the ministry's World Elephant Day celebrations.

"Thousands have sent their views, but some are overage and hence they are protesting. People jumping at the draft [EIA] is not a fair practice. It is just a draft right now, we will take a call on these views and then it will be finalised."

The Minister also

slammed the Congress, alleging that its erstwhile government did not consult people on such decisions.

"The erstwhile United Progressive Alliance-led government did not consult the people on key environmental decisions. I have mentioned this in my letter and reply to [Congress leader] Jairam Ramesh," he said. "This is all unnecessary and premature."

Javadekar also objected to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's comments earlier in the day. Gandhi called the draft a "disaster" and urged people to protest against it. "Those who want to now protest, during their regime took many of the big decisions without consultations," Javadekar said.

On Sunday, Rahul Gandhi had said the draft (EIA) notification, 2020, is "not only disgraceful, but it is also dangerous".

"Not only does it have the potential to reverse many of the hard-fought gains that have been won over the years in the battle to protect our environment, but it could also potentially unleash widespread environmental destruction and mayhem across India," Gandhi wrote in a post on a social media platform calling youth to protest against it.

The new updates to the

draft 2020 EIA notification prescribe the procedure for industries to assess the ecological and environmental impact of their proposed activity and the mechanism, whereby these would be assessed by expert committees appointed by the environment ministry.

Several environmentalists and organisations have alleged that the draft notification does away with the requirement for public consultation for a number of projects that could create an adverse ecological impact.

Ramesh had said last month the draft notification reduces public participation in all steps of the environmental clearance process by "lessening the notice period for public hearings and doing away with them for a large category of projects".

On August 5, the Karnataka High Court directed the Ministry of Environment to not publish the final draft notification until September 7 as it noted that it was published on March 23, two days before the imposition of the nationwide lockdown to control the coronavirus, people had not been able to file objections to the document. It also criticised the publication of the document only in Hindi and English.

## Elephant conservation is vital as it balances ecosystem: Minister

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Every-year, at least 500 people are killed by jumbos and 100 elephants lose their lives as they come into conflict with humans in search of food and migration from one habitat to another in the country.

This is a matter of concern, said Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar at an event here after release of a document on best practices of conflict management and launch of the national portal of project elephant which will have all the data and details of elephant

"We do not kill animals. Animals are revered in India. We have to devise good conflict management practices. We have also started a fodder and water augmentation programme in elephants' habitat and corridor," Javadekar said on World Elephant Day on Monday. As per the last census conducted in 2017, India is home to 30,000 elephants while over 2,700 are in the captivity.

Addressing the event, Javadekar said elephant conservation is vital as it balances the ecosystem. Elephants have to be kept in forests for which fodder and water augmentation programme has been initiated, the minister said, adding that by next year results will start showing.

"The Government has taken initiative of fodder and water augmentation in forest areas so that animals will get food and water in forest area and will not come outside," he said adding that LiDAR technology is being used for it. Union Minister of State for Environment Babul Supriyo said, it is a moment of pride that India is having 60 percent of Global population of Asian Elephants.

Giving out the figures of deaths due to human-elephant conflict, Additional Director General of Forests (Wildlife) Soumitra Dasgupta said hun-

dreds of elephants migrate and come in contact with human beings.

"More than 500 human and 100 elephant deaths take place each year due to the conflict. In last five years, the ministry has unleashed a series of activities for the conservation of elephants. More elephant corridors have been identified, budget has been increased by 30 per cent and several committees have also been formed," said Dasgupta.

"New elephant reserves have been declared and elephant corridors have also been identified in the past five years to address the problem. Elephants have also been included in appendix 1 of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals to ensure better conservation."

Sanjay Kumar, director-general of forests, said the population and distribution of elephants in the country have been on the rise. They have been migrating from Jharkhand to Chhattisgarh to Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

"New interactions are leading to more conflict. They are migrating to newer areas. We are trying to identify research methodologies to understand how the population can remain stable in new areas," he said.

**New Okhla Industrial Development Authority**  
 Main Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, G.B. Nagar, (U.P.)  
 Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

E-Tenders are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on NOIDA Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com & https://etender.up.nic.in. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

(A)	Sl.No.	Job No./ Work Name	Amount
1.	103/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21.	M/o Park Sector-77 (SH: Open Gym) with Five Year Maintenance.	Cost Rs. 30.83 Lacs
2.	157/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21.	M/o RSD with Two year maintenance, in Shivalik marg road sector-24 to DSC road.	Cost Rs. 35.77 Lacs
3.	152/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21.	M/o Green belt (R/o boundary wall and fencing concertina coil on puter boundary wall near A-15 to A-67, A-67 to C-26 to C-1) sector-100.	Cost Rs. 41.55 Lacs

Which can be uploaded by Date 24/08/2020 upto 5:00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on Date 25/08/2020 at 11:00 AM.

(B)	Sl.No.	Job No./ Work Name	Amount
1.	25/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21.	D/o Park (Sh: P/F Open Gym) Sector-62 C- 58 with Five Year Maintenance.	Cost Rs. 30.91 Lacs
2.	95/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21.	M/o Park Sector-112 (SH: Open Gym) with five year maintenance.	Cost Rs. 30.83 Lacs
3.	97/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21.	M/o Park Open Gym Sector-116 with Five Year Maintenance.	Cost Rs. 30.83 Lacs
4.	98/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21.	M/o Park Open Gym Sector-34 with Five Year Maintenance.	Cost Rs. 30.83 Lacs
5.	101/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21.	M/o Park Sector-51 with two year maintenance.	Cost Rs. 48.38 Lacs
6.	111/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21.	M/o Park (Open Gym with Five year Maintenance) Mahamaya Balika Inter College Sector-44 & P/F of Submersible Pump Boring.	Cost Rs. 39.09 Lacs
7.	53/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21.	Two year M/o Sector-85 (A-1 to A-4, B-24 to 36, C-20 to 26, C-1 to C-12 Centrell verge)	Cost Rs. 35.38 Lacs
8.	21/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2020-21.	M/o Park Sector-93, SK-II (Sh: Open Gym) with five year maintenance.	Cost Rs. 30.98 Lacs

Which can be uploaded by Date 17/08/2020 upto 5:00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on Date 18/08/2020 at 11:00 AM.

Office: Sector-39, NOIDA  
 Director (Hort.) Noida

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



Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu speaks after virtually laying the foundation stone for a housing complex for Rajya Sabha employees in New Delhi on Monday

## Work for installation of smog tower in Delhi has started: Centre to SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre Monday told the Supreme Court that work for installation of smog tower at Anand Vihar in east Delhi has started and soil samples have been taken for examining the structural stability.

Smog tower is a structure designed as large-scale air purifier to reduce air pollution.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told a bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra that an memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been signed for the project of installation of smog tower and IIT Bombay and Tata Projects Limited are in touch with University of Minnesota for transfer of technology.

The bench, also comprising Justices B R Gvai and Krishna Murari, was informed by Mehta that as on August 8, site survey has been done and soil samples have been taken and are being examined.

## Further hearing needed in 2009 contempt case against Bhushan, Tejpal, says SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday said further hearing was required in the 2009 criminal contempt case against activist-lawyer

Prashant Bhushan and journalist Tarun Tejpal to examine whether comments on corruption against judges per se amounted to contempt or not.

A bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra and comprising

Justices B R Gvai and Krishna Murari posted the matter for hearing on August 17.

The top court had in November 2009 issued contempt notice to Bhushan and Tejpal.

**CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS**

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

(A) NAME OF THE WORK: Hiring of (01) no. of Non-A-C Ambulance (Swaraj Mazda/Mahindra Max, Tata Sumo or similar type equipped with Oxygen Cylinder, first aid box, protective gears (PPE) and including fuel, driver with attendant and maintenance and sanitization of the ambulance for use of all kinds of COVID 19 activities in KGH/CLW/Chittaranjan, round the clock 5000 Kms per month, for a period of six months. (a) TENDER NOTICE No. Med-G-Hiring of COVID Ambulance-2020. (b) TENDER NO. Med-G-Hiring of COVID Ambulance-2020. (c) Cost of Tender Form (Document): ₹ 2,000.00 (Rupees Two thousand only). (d) Approx. Value of the Work (Tender Value): ₹ 5,71,638 (Rs. Five Lakh seventy one thousand six hundred thirty eight) only.

SI No.; Item No.; Description of item; Unit; Qty.; Rate; Amount; [1]; [1]; Fixed charge for supply of COVID ambulance on hire basis including maintenance, wages of driver & attendant, oxygen on monthly basis for six months; Month; 06; ₹ 31,773.00; ₹ 1,90,638.00. [2]; 2; Cost per Km running including fuel, lubricants and other consumables for 5000 Kms per month for one nos. of Ambulance for 6 months. =5000x06=30,000 Km; Km; 30000; ₹ 12.70; ₹ 3,81,000.00. Total ₹ 5,71,638.00. (e) Earnest money to be deposited: ₹ 11,400/- (Rupees Eleven thousand four hundred) only. (f) Completion period of the work: 06 months. (g) Validity Period=90 (Ninety) days. (h) Tender Submission Closing Date 07-09-2020 at 13.00 hrs. (i) Complete Details can be seen in the Railways website: www.ireps.gov.in & www.clw.indianrailways.gov.in

Principal Chief Medical Officer P/MC-064 KGH/CLW/Chittaranjan  
 Take us on: https://www.facebook.com/clwrailways

COVID-19 OUTBREAK

BJP leader shot at by terrorists, succumbs in J&K

Abdul Hamid Najar, the Bharatiya Janta Party leader who was critically injured after being shot at by unidentified terrorists on Sunday in Ompora area of central Kashmir's Budgam district, succumbed to his injuries early Monday morning.

Death toll climbs to 49

The death toll in Friday morning's devastating landslide at Rajamala near Munnar in Kerala reached 49 by Monday evening as search and rescue team of the NDRF retrieved six more bodies from the debris in the region.

Swapna Suresh's bail plea rejected

The NIA Court in Kochi on Monday rejected the bail application moved by Swapna Suresh, the kingpin in the Gold Smuggling Scam busted by the Customs.

56 prisoners in Bareilly test +ve

Bareilly: As many as 56 inmates of two prisons in Bareilly district of Uttar Pradesh have tested positive for coronavirus, officials said on Sunday.

IDUKKI LANDSLIDE

Things took an ugly turn when volunteers of Seva Bharati were refused entry to Rajamala for retrieving the dead bodies and help the relations of the victims in performing the last rites.



Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Dy CM Sushil Kumar Modi planting a tree as part of closing ceremony of Mission 2.51 trees on the occasion of Bihar Earth Day in Patna on Sunday.

Kolkata: Fire breaks out at building on Pollock Street

Kolkata: People had a narrow escape when fire broke out at a commercial high-rise in busy Pollock Street area of north central Kolkata.

Sri Lankan Jamaatis trapped in violation of visa rules

Foreign Tablighi Jamaatis caught in several districts of UP and Delhi have been released after fines and short punishments.

As cases spike, Kerala Govt ropes in police to fight pandemic

As the number of Covid-19 patients showing no possibility of coming down, Kerala has sought the assistance of the State's Police force to combat the pandemic fighting mechanism, according to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

114 die, 5,914 test +ve in Tamil Nadu

There were 15 districts other than Chennai, VChengalpet, Kancheepuram and Thiruvallur with high number of Covid patients while others showed less than 100 cases.

Why deprive farmers of PM-Kisan scheme: Bengal Govt to Mamata

Days after alleging that the State Government was withholding information from him on vital issues Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar on Monday shot off a letter to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee requesting her to allow the State farmers to avail of the benefit of pro-farmer Prime Minister Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme which was being blocked by her Government.

DRI, customs seize 191 kg heroin worth ₹1000 cr at JNPT

In perhaps the biggest narcotic hauls in recent years, Mumbai Customs and Department of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) have seized 191 kilograms of heroin worth ₹1,000 crore from a cargo container at Nhava Sheva Port Trust (JNPT) in Navi Mumbai and arrested two customs clearing agents in connection with the seizure.

Army starts enquiry after families allege 'ultras' killed in Shopian were labourers

Jammu: Mystery behind disappearance of three labourers hailing from Rajouri on Monday deepened further after social media reports claimed the three 'suspected terrorists' killed in Amshipora Shopian 'encounter' on 18 July 2020, have been reportedly identified as the missing labourers of Rajouri on basis of photographs shared by the families.

Maha deaths drop to 293, cases dip to 9,181

In a marked drop in the number of Covid-19 infections and fatalities, Maharashtra on Monday witnessed 293 deaths taking the total pandemic toll in the State to 18,050, while a relatively low 9,181 people tested positive for Coronavirus.

SEARCH OF MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one male (depicted in the photo), Namely: Shivjiram, S/o: Suraj Ram, R/o: House of Sanjay Saini, Hajari Park, Holambi Kalan, Delhi Aged: 34 years, has been missing from his house since 08.04.2020 at 06.00 AM.

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED GIRL

General Public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) namely Soniya D/o Kailash R/o H. No. D-82, Gali No. 1, Vijay Colony, Bawana, Delhi Aged- 15 Years has been reported missing/kidnapped since 24.07.2020 at 7:00 PM from the area of P.S. Bawana, Delhi vide DD No. 444/2020, Dated 26.07.2020 U/s 363 has been registered at Police Station Bawana, Delhi.

RAJASTHAN MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD. Notice Inviting E-Bids

NORTHERN RAILWAY Ministry of Railways, Government of India invites applications from eligible persons for the post of MANAGING DIRECTOR (MD), Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS)

## Needed, full-time chief

The Congress needs to conduct inner party elections and get a president though it has saved Rajasthan



If indeed Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi, who met rebel Congress leader Sachin Pilot, have worked out a rapprochement in the troubled Rajasthan Congress, then it is their first decisive move, indicating a generational shift. Their efforts have at least built a tenuous bridge between the old guard and the younger breed. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot climbed down, as he was told sternly that Pilot needs to be reinstated and given space. This is a high stake game for Rahul if he sees himself as reclaiming the Congress fortunes with his peers, who are getting disgruntled, impatient and sometimes even impervious to the need for accommodating experience.

But then he has to play the part proactively and wisely, not from the shadows as mother Sonia Gandhi will continue to remain interim president for a little longer. He has to have a strategy, rather than running a lone warrior race on social media. Sure the seniors have fattened up their turfs and positions while letting the Gandhis take the credit or blame publicly as the case may have been, but in securing their interests, they have respectively developed the party's matrix creditably and have a depth of experience in political manoeuvring. But they are status quoist, preferring continuity into their sunset years in ways that they understand, choosing fiefdoms over the larger national revival of the party. The fact is the Congress has lost the hunger to be a national alternative in the changed political template of the times that is disruptive, dynamic, performance-driven, result-oriented and avowedly authoritarian. The party looks rudderless and hopeless in comparison. The younger breed, Rahul included, now want to leave their mark, and reclaim some respectability for the party and as Jyotiraditya Scindia and Sachin Pilot have shown, can live down their entitlements, work the ground and deliver results. Ambition is not a bad thing and maybe the propeller the Congress needs, provided it creates a *mardarshak*-like structure for the old hawks the way BJP has. Besides, the elders forget that they were mavericks once and should let the fresh winds blow in, failed as they have in arresting the party's erosion.

But as mentioned before, the party first needs a strategy. And must speak in a united voice. To give the elders their due, they are right in suggesting that Rahul stop the personal attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It is understandable why Rahul, the nation's butt of ridicule courtesy the BJP's online army, and the recipient of digs about his family legacy, is tempted to make it personal. But he is ending up making Modi look like a victim of dynastic snobbery, something that cost the Congress the Lok Sabha election last year. Despite India's unwieldy pandemic and the mishandling of the Chinese incursion in Ladakh, Modi's personality cult remains unaffected. Attacking him is proving counter-productive for Rahul. The Congress needs to work on issue-based campaigns at a pan-India level, be it of economic slowdown, joblessness or the youth. Only when issues are made bigger than the personality will the Congress be able to force a serious discourse beyond the muscularity of Modi or the triumphalism of religiosity. Let's face it, Rahul cannot win a personality war but can present a cogent alternative plan that may yet find takers. Instead of interviewing experts and luminaries, he should get their inputs to prepare this agenda. Besides, while team Rahul is brimming with ideas, they are not tested in the crucible of the political laboratory and they would need seniors in scripting party responses rather than running down past UPA Governments. Rahul should at least insist upon a disciplined public posturing. While he did try to appear responsible and principled by withdrawing from public life after the Lok Sabha rout, the fact is this move made him look like an escapist. If the high command thought this would lead to a yearning among partymen to get him back, that's not the case. Perceiving the party as a rudderless ship, many grassroots workers and members have just migrated to other parties, be it the BJP or federal outfits, to barter their worth. If he was really keen on a rebuild, he should have stuck through the worst. Something that sister Priyanka at least attempted in Uttar Pradesh. Most importantly, if he really wants to be a reformist and take everybody along, he should usher in democracy within by calling for the Congress Working Committee elections at the earliest. There should be a permanent president and not a stopgap one as MP Shashi Tharoor has indicated. Rahul's problem is that he knows that the chair is his; every Congressman would acquiesce to Sonia's wishes on this matter, even his peers. That probably fuels his complacency or stubbornness, depending on which side of the prism you want to look from. But the Bihar and the Assembly elections aren't too far away. So the Congress needs campaign planks than ego wars. And Rahul must engage with other federal front leaders on his own steam than leave that to his mother. The Congress has already frittered away too much time and talk. Now it is action or perish. And the *baba log*, too, are greying.

## Atmanirbhar raksha

Shooting from the hip or shooting oneself in the foot? Is a ban on defence items enough to make India self-reliant?



India is one of the world's largest buyers of defence equipment. It is also unique among big nations with large armed forces to have an abysmally small domestic arms industry. The country imports everything — from frontline fighter aircraft to clothing equipment and bulletproof vests worn by frontline infantrymen. It is a trade that has made many people in Delhi very rich and led to a completely corrupt military decision-making process, both from the political front as well as inside the forces. Therefore, should the announcement by the Raksha Mantri, Rajnath Singh, to gradually move a hundred items from the import list to beef up domestic production be seen as a positive? Frankly, yes and also no. Yes because there is a desperate need for India to build up a military-industrial complex of companies, both public and private, that can supply our defence needs in a hurry. To give an example, the speed with which Boeing delivered the last batch of Apache attack and Chinook transport helicopters after the events of June 15 shows just how agile and efficient American military suppliers are. Nobody is saying that India can reach this efficiency, from both a scientific or production standpoint, but the knee-jerk reaction with which our country buys arms from abroad at any sign of trouble has to change. With some notable exceptions such as Larsen & Toubro and various Tata Sons companies, the private sector's involvement in defence production has been abysmal. Mainly because of the Government's reluctance to involve them, thanks to strong Defence Public Sector Unit (DPSU) lobbies among politicians and bureaucrats. Various research institutions, including the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), too, must chip in to develop technologies and boost in-house capabilities. Even in an area where India is fairly self-reliant — building surface warships — we barely produce one large capital ship annually. Yet China is churning out destroyers and frigates by the dozen every couple of years. If we are to bridge this gap, Indian industry must be encouraged.

However, there is a counter-argument. For several items on Singh's list, India simply does not have the capabilities. Consider transport aircraft; Indian companies were unable to upgrade the extensive fleet of Antonov 32 medium aircraft. While the Modi Government ought to be complimented on finishing the long gestation period for the Light Combat Aircraft Tejas, its three-decade development story is a joke. We have not built any commercial or military transport aircraft in our history. And even if the proposed measures allow for joint development and Indian fabrication, pretending that we suddenly have the skills to make planes is outright bizarre. The same applies to state-of-the-art radar and sonar systems. If we are to get the best systems, we will have to import them until we are able to reverse-engineer or collaborate with the likes of France and Israel to develop our own. Yes, domestic manufacturing is a start and will save considerable resources but it should not come in the way of ensuring that India's frontline warriors have access to the best technology.

# Set new energy goals

Perovskite-based solar cells are a good alternative to silicon-based PV cells. But the problem of degradation due to weather conditions needs to be addressed



KK PAUL

Recently, the Prime Minister inaugurated the country's largest photovoltaic (PV) cell-based solar energy plant at Rewa in Madhya Pradesh. While inaugurating this 750 megawatt (MW) plant, he stressed upon the need for *atmanirbharta* (self-reliance). Considering that about 80 per cent of our solar power generation equipment is of Chinese origin, the inauguration of the solar plant was timely. The Prime Minister used the occasion to emphasise this aspect. Said he, "India won't be able to fully use its solar power potential if the country doesn't develop better solar panels, batteries and storage manufacturing capacity." India imported \$2.16 billion worth of solar photovoltaic cells, panels and modules in 2018-19.

India is lucky that sunlight is available in abundance here but the challenge lies in the procurement of the PV cells. This has been one of the major constraining factors in our efforts to realise the full potential of solar energy. According to a report submitted by the parliamentary Standing Committee, in order to achieve the target of 100 GW of solar electricity capacity by 2022, India should have had an installed capacity of 32,000 MW by 2017-18. But as of January 31, 2018, the country only had a capacity of 18,455 MW. As per the standing committee, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has to install the remaining 81,545 MW in just four years — this is over 20,000 MW a year and appears difficult to achieve.

However, despite the constraints, the price of solar energy has come down to ₹2-2.50 per unit from ₹7-8 per unit in 2014. A serious lacuna in this entire exercise of achieving the solar power target continues to be our poor record of indigenous manufacturing of solar panels and our near-complete dependency on Chinese imports.

Today, China is the only country that caters to most of the global PV cell demands. It produces the cheapest solar panels. It is difficult for any country to match such low prices. This has led to a situation where China has a virtual monopoly and this may not be desirable in the long run. Our own imports, mostly from China, accounted for 90 per cent



of 2017 sales, up from 86 per cent in 2014. Thus, it is paradoxical that both our sources of energy, oil as well as solar, are currently heavily dependent on imports.

The Chinese advantage is based on low cost of manufacturing despite the process being highly power consumptive and polluting. In the present scenario, particularly in the wake of the Galwan incident, imports of solar technology from China have been banned as it would not have been logical on our part to continue to nourish their economy.

In the absence of cheap imports, the current situation may, perhaps, appear to be disappointing but there are alternatives which must be fully exploited. First, the solar thermal route for harnessing solar energy has found limited application so far. As of now, there are only six functional solar thermal plants, which amount to just a fraction of our total requirement.

Understandably, this technology has its own advantages but is somewhat more expensive than the PV cell route. This is why it has not gathered much acceptance. More research in this area can ensure that costs are further cut down leading to profitability.

An alternative to silicon-

“**PEROVSKITE IS A CRYSTALLINE FORM OF THE CHEMICAL CALCIUM TITANATE. IT MAY SOUND FORMIDABLE BUT FORTUNATELY, ALL THE RAW MATERIALS USED TO MANUFACTURE IT ARE INDIGENOUSLY AVAILABLE. THE PROCESS, TOO, IS MUCH SIMPLER, LESS POLLUTING AND CONSUMES LESS POWER THAN THE PRODUCTION OF SILICON CHIPS**”

based PV cells, which is the speciality of China, has since been found in the form of Perovskite solar cells. This is also a tried and tested method. According to the work done at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru, the efficiency of the Perovskite cells, which was about three per cent in 2006, showed a marked improvement. It has now been determined to be at about 22 per cent, which makes it quite viable.

Perovskite is a crystalline form of the chemical called calcium titanate. It may sound formidable but fortunately, all the raw materials used to manufacture it are indigenously available. The process, too, is much simpler, less polluting and consumes less power than the production of silicon chips.

Perovskite is the product of limestone, which is abundantly available in the country, and titanium oxide, which is obtained from sands containing ilmenite, an ore of titanium. Ilmenite, too, is available in abundance as we have reserves of several million tonnes of this ore in the sands along the shores of Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

The present usage of titanium oxide is confined to the paints and pigment industry as

well as in the manufacture of cosmetics and sunscreens as it offers good protection against UV rays.

The absence of Chinese products from now onwards needs to be considered as an opportunity for accelerated research so as to put this technology to commercial use at the earliest. Perovskite-based solar cells have performed exceedingly well in controlled conditions but the problem of degradation due to weather conditions needs to be addressed. The silicon-based PV cells are almost weather proof, so the durability of Perovskite has to be brought up to that level.

Perovskite technology has the potential of being a game-changer in our quest for harnessing solar energy with less polluting and low cost solutions. The renewable energy firm, ReNew Power Pvt Ltd, has already announced that it is in discussion with various States to set up a ₹1,500-2,000 crore facility to make solar cells and modules. The need is for close monitoring and allocation of sufficient funds for research. India can't afford to lose the solar race.

(The writer is a former Governor and senior advisor at the Pranab Mukherjee Foundation)

## SOUNDBITE

It is true, how many times did Sushant go to Patna to meet his father? I have sympathy for his father but there are many things that will surface.

Shiv Sena leader  
—Sanjay Raut



You have an audience that is exposed to so much content from across the world, which is why you really have to push the envelope to grab its attention.

Actor  
—Kunal Kapoor



It is a disastrous situation for people living without access to safe water and safely managed sanitation. The chronic underinvestment has left billions vulnerable.

UN-Water Chair  
—Gilbert F Houngbo



Economic slowdown in the country is a humanitarian crisis. The Government's shock and awe approach to the lockdown has caused tremendous pain to people.

Former PM  
—Manmohan Singh



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Humanity exists

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Tragedy in Kozhikode" (August 10). Credit must be given to the local residents, who rushed to the aid of those on-board the ill-fated flight. However, many people forgot to follow COVID-19 protocols, the downpour and even the possible danger of a fire. It must be noted that the airport area has been listed as a pandemic containment zone. Their help in spotting passengers and later disseminating information using social media were outstanding gestures. There were large queues of blood donors at hospitals even at midnight, proving that humanity, humanness and hope are still alive.

M Pradyu  
Kannur

### Avoidable crash

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Tragedy in Kozhikode" (August 10). The Kozhikode plane crash incident is a reminder that the findings of the safety audits were not taken

### Lessons from a series of tragedies

This refers to the editorial, "Tragedy in Kozhikode" (August 10). Tragedy after tragedy seems to be unfolding even as the COVID-19 pandemic shows no signs of slowing down. The hooch tragedy in Punjab, fire accidents in Ahmedabad and Vijayawada, landslides in Idukki and the plane crash in Kozhikode have all occurred in quick succession. The hooch tragedy in Punjab claimed 113 lives and highlighted how bootlegging and consumption of spurious brew continue in times of crisis. The incessant rain caused a landslide in Idukki, Kerala, which flattened a row of 20 houses of tea estate workers. More than 40 people died. The estate workers were not evacuated in time to escape the nature's fury. Every year, the living quarters of these workers become precarious during the rainy season, a fact that underlines the vulnerability of labourers to natural disasters. The workers must be provided with safe accommodation. The Kozhikode plane crash turned the homecoming of Indian repatriates into a tragedy. Poor meteorological conditions, low visibility and the less-than-adequate length of the "table-top" runways are said to have led to the crash. The exact cause will be known in the coming days. Local residents and security personnel braved unfavourable weather conditions to rescue the passengers trapped in the debris. Then, the fire that broke out at an Ahmedabad hos-



pital snuffed out the lives of eight COVID patients. It was attributed to short-circuit in a life-support system. The fire at a hotel-turned-COVID facility in Vijayawada claimed the lives of 11 people. This happened due to the Government's callousness and the management's negligence. The fire tragedies in Ahmedabad and Vijayawada were very much avoidable. All such incidents should be a wake-up call for the Government to ensure that health facilities are well-equipped and fire-proof. Flying protocols, too, need revision. Indian aviation deserves better.

G David Milton  
Maruthancode

seriously. In a similar incident in 2010, a Boeing 737 aircraft had overshot the tabletop runway at the Mangalore airport,

killing 158 passengers and crew. Experts had warned of a repeat but all in vain. The present crash has proved no lessons

were learnt by the authorities. Why was such a big aircraft allowed to operate from a tabletop? Why did the operators

allow water to collect on the runway? Given that the pilot had already aborted an attempt to land sensing the condition, why wasn't the aircraft diverted to a nearby airport? Although a few recommendations of the aviation safety report submitted to the Ministry of Civil Aviation in 2011 were implemented, lapses remain. Instead of jumping to conclusions, we must wait for reports to emerge. Hereon, suggestions of the audit report must be implemented without any delay.

V Nagendra Kumar  
Hyderabad

### Focus on safety

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Tragedy in Kozhikode" (August 10). The Karipur airport is in a hilly area and has a tabletop runway. This has been a matter of concern since long as four major incidents have taken place in the past. Authorities need to focus on improving safety levels.

Aditi  
Via email

Send your feedback to:  
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

**FIRST COLUMN**

# State laws don't hold water

India needs a comprehensive national water law, which should be a collection of rules and principles to address all related issues in the country



**RATNESH KUSHWAHA**

Water is a unique substance as it is one of the few materials on Earth that exists naturally as a solid, liquid and a gas. There is an estimated over one billion cubic kilometre of water on our planet, which covers nearly three-fourth of the Earth's surface. Though this seems an inordinately huge amount, less than one per cent of it is fresh and usable and is found in lakes, ponds, rivers and groundwater. Though it is not possible for life on the planet to exist without it, about 97 per cent of the water covering the Earth's surface is salty ocean and not suitable for drinking without desalination. So, here's how the Earth's freshwater is spread around the globe: A whopping 70 per cent of freshwater is locked in ice caps; less than one per cent of the freshwater is readily accessible; Brazil, Russia, Canada, Indonesia, China and Colombia have 50 per cent of the world's freshwater reserves. Sadly, about one-third of the world's population lives in "water-stressed" countries, defined as a nation's ratio of water consumption to water availability. Countries labelled as moderate to high stress consume 20 per cent more water than their available supply.

India is home to nearly 17 per cent of the world's population and is bestowed with just four per cent of the total water resources. In our country, 50 per cent of the annual rainfall is received in approximately one month, resulting in non-optimal utilisation due to our limited water-harvesting capacity. We optimally utilise only 36 per cent of the total rainfall that translates into about 252 billion cubic metres of water getting harvested against a total rainfall of 690 billion cubic metre. India is still coping with issues like water pollution, water purity and a worsening potability factor. All these may lead to scarcity in the coming years. That, too, in most parts of our country. Despite this, water laws in India are largely a State-based subject. These have been crafted from various formal and informal laws, various kinds of rules and principles which evolved over the years in a parochial and casual manner.

The Indian Constitution has empowered the States to legislate in this area. Therefore, they have exclusive powers regarding framing of rules and guidelines on all water-related issues like irrigation, canals, water management, embankments and so on. Though the Indian Parliament adopted the Water Act in 1974 but the objective of the Act was skewed towards prevention, control of water pollution and the maintenance/restoration of the wholesomeness of water. This implies that it was designed to assess pollution levels and to penalise the polluters. In the present situation, where India's population is ascending at a rapid pace and water resources are limited, various challenges are emerging, like indiscriminate usage of groundwater, encroachment of water bodies and water pollution, to name a few. There are also various related issues like rejuvenation of moribund rivers, interlinking of rivers, riparian rights and negotiations with neighbouring countries on sharing resources which traverse both the nations.

Apart from these challenges, if we analyse water resources from a development perspective, there is a need to do a lot in the field of inland waterways in the country, interlinking of rivers and water management for better irrigation plans or promoting water-based economical projects like fisheries and developing fox nut (*makhana*) clusters.

The existing legal framework concerning water in India is mostly complemented by human rights dimensions. The overall picture is that there is multiplicity of principles and rules in the water sector and a lack of an overall framework. This is largely the legacy of the colonial Government, which was more focussed on irrigation work. As a result of this, basic principles of water laws applied in India are derived from these irrigation Acts, like the Northern India Canal and Drainage Act, 1873. Thereafter, Acts like the Madhya Pradesh Irrigation Act, 1931, the Regulation of Water Act, 1941 and the very recent Bihar Irrigation Act, 1997 came into existence, in which it was provided that all the rights on surface water shall rest with the State Government.

One trend which should be followed and must be highlighted is the gradual formalisation of national water laws by taking into confidence all the stakeholders. This should ultimately and amicably replace the existing local laws, incorporate every part of water resource and its components and address all water-related issue comprehensively. Any law is a collection of rules prescribed under the authority of the State or nation so as to manage, preserve and ensure proper use of our water resources. India needs a comprehensive national water law, which should be a collection of rules and principles to address all kinds of issues which the country is encountering or may encounter in the foreseeable future.

(The writer is an Advocate, Patna High Court and a water activist)

**SYED ABDUL MALIK WAS A POET, WHO WAS INDULGING IN INTELLECTUAL JIHAD IN THE COUNTRY. —BJP LEGISLATOR FROM HOJAI SHILADITYA DEB**

**POINT COUNTERPOINT**



**THE COMMENTS MADE BY DEB ARE POLITICALLY MOTIVATED AND EXPOSE HIS LOW MENTALITY AND LACK OF KNOWLEDGE. —LOP IN ASSAM ASSEMBLY DEBABRATA SAIKIA**

# Bailout or blowout?

When the wheels of the economy on ground zero are stuck and there is little demand for credit, lowering of interest rates will not help in any way



**UTTAM GUPTA**

Following marathon deliberations of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) over three days, the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Governor, Shaktikanta Das, made four important announcements under the central bank's bi-monthly monetary policy review on August 6.

First, Das warned that India's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth is set to contract in 2020-21 but did not give a specific forecast. He also cautioned that "while an early containment of the COVID-19 pandemic may impart an upside to the outlook, a more protracted spread of the pandemic, deviations from the forecast of a normal monsoon and global financial market volatility are key downside risks." Furthermore, the MPC sees "upside risks to food prices and elevated headline inflation during the second quarter of the current financial year (July-September), which would ease in the second half."

Second, "in respect of MSME (micro, small and medium enterprise) borrowers facing stress on account of the economic fallout of the pandemic, lending institutions may restructure the debt under the existing framework, provided the borrower's account was classified as standard with the lender as on March 1, 2020; this restructuring will have to be implemented by March 31, 2021." The banks will have to make an additional provision of five per cent on restructured loans.

Third, large companies will also be eligible for one-time restructuring without declaring it as a non-performing asset (NPA) or requiring a change in the promoter/s. The borrower account has to be standard as on March 1. The decision on the restructuring scheme has to be taken by December 31 and restructuring must be implemented within six months. An additional provision of 10 per cent on the restructured loans should be made. An expert committee under KV Kamath will recommend to the RBI the required financial parameters, along with the sector-specific benchmarks for this special window.

Fourth, the policy repo rate — the interest rate charged by the RBI on loans it gives to banks — remains unchanged at four per cent. The reverse repo rate or the interest rate the banks get on their surplus funds parked with the RBI also remains unchanged at 3.35 per cent. Further, the RBI will continue with the "accommodative" stance of the monetary policy as long as necessary to revive growth and mitigate the impact of COVID-19, while ensuring that inflation remains within the target.

The first announcement is on expected lines even as intermittent lockdowns by States and associated disruptions in both supply and demand have dashed all hopes of a V-shaped recovery in economic growth (as alluded to by the Chief Economic Advisor, KV Subramanian during the initial stages of the pandemic). Several agencies, including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), have projected a significant deceleration in growth.

As regards the second, this is an extension of the existing scheme of one-time restructuring introduced last year. That was applicable to restructuring plans implemented by March 31, (over 5,00,000 MSMEs had benefited from it). Following a commitment given by the Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, in the Budget for 2020-21, the scheme was extended to December 31 this year. For a borrower to be eligible, his/her aggregate exposure, including non fund-based



**“THE RBI MAY HAVE PAUSED NOW BUT BY MAINTAINING AN ACCOMMODATIVE POLICY STANCE, IT HAS KEPT THE DOOR OPEN FOR A RATE CUT IN THE FUTURE. THIS SHOULD BE AVOIDED. INSTEAD, IT NEEDS TO WORK ON OTHER FRONTS SUCH AS CREDIBLE MEASURES TO REDUCE NPAs, GOADING BANKS TO BE PROACTIVE IN LOOKING FOR VIABLE PROJECTS FOR FUNDING (MONEY IS NOT A CONSTRAINT AS THE MEASURES ANNOUNCED BY THE RBI ON MARCH 27/APRIL 17 HAVE MADE AVAILABLE PLENTY OF LIQUIDITY TO THE TUNE OF ₹5,00,000 CRORE). STEP UP INVESTMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT, ESPECIALLY IN INFRASTRUCTURE AND SO ON”**

facilities, of banks and NBFCs (non-banking financial companies) should not be beyond ₹25 crore as on January 1. Further, the borrower's account was in default but was a "standard asset" as on January 1 and continues to be classified as a "standard asset" till the date of implementation of the restructuring (according to an RBI notification in February). In addition, the borrowing entity is GST (Goods and Services Tax) — registered on the date of implementation of the plan except those that are exempt from GST-registration. The RBI has now further extended this to restructuring plans implemented till March 31, 2021 with some relaxation in the conditions.

The exposure limit, including non fund-based facilities of banks and NBFCs to the borrower, should not exceed ₹25 crore as on March 1. Further, the account should be standard as on March 1 (against January 1 earlier).

Via the third announcement, the RBI has extended huge relief to large corporates, too. Unlike the existing arrangement under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), wherein the loan account gets a NPA tag and the promoter stands no chance of retaining the firm, the proposed one-time restructuring treats the account as standard and there is no change in the promoter/s. This special dispensation is meant only for "COVID-19 related stress" and the Kamath committee will have to ensure that the facility is not misused. In other words, all stressed accounts prior to March 1, as well as those which were unaffected during the pandemic, must be excluded.

With the introduction of the above one-time restructuring for MSMEs and corporates, the need for extending the moratorium on servicing of loans (this was initially allowed by the RBI for three months from March 1-May 31 and for a further three months ending August 31) automatically becomes redundant. While the latter was merely a deferment

of the payment liability, the former offers concrete relief by extending the period of repayment, relief in interest and so on.

The Governor sees the scheme as a win-win for both, the lenders and borrowers. According to him, while this will enable the latter to sail through the crisis period without getting permanently impaired, the former's balance sheet will look healthier (as this will put a lid on the NPAs) and they will be able to expand credit for supporting revival of growth. Hopefully, things pan out as per his wish. If not, the banks could be in for bigger trouble even as borrowers come up with more demand for restructuring.

Coming to the fourth announcement, Das has done the right thing by applying the pause button on the repo rate. Ever since he took charge (December 2018), the RBI has handed out a cumulative reduction in repo rate of 2.5 per cent, of which a 1.35 per cent cut was prior to the outbreak of COVID-19. Despite this, during 2019-20, growth in the GDP hit a low of 4.2 per cent.

This was because other factors such as compression in demand (due to massive loss of jobs and decline in incomes) and increasing risk-aversion of banks to lending (during 2019-20, bank credit grew by 6.1 per cent, down from the 13.4 per cent growth during 2018-19) were at work.

Apart from these factors coming in the way of spurring growth, even the cut in the repo rate was not fully transmitted (according to Das, reduction in lending rate was just about 0.6 per cent), thanks to the high cost of the banks' funds (an overwhelming share of these comes from public deposits of varying maturity) on the one hand and high NPAs on the other.

Both these factors make the lending rate downward inflexible. After the COVID-19 crisis, the RBI has reduced the rate by 1.15 per cent (0.75 per cent on March 27 and 0.4 per cent on May 22) thereby bringing the rate down to a

record low of four per cent. And this has come at a time when the intermittent lockdowns are simply not allowing economic activities to get into full swing. When the wheels of the economy on ground zero are stuck and there is little demand for credit, how will lowering of its cost (interest rate) help?

At this juncture, therefore, it makes no sense to keep lowering the policy rate. It sounds like the driver is merely pressing the accelerator while the car is in the neutral gear. He will only end up burning fuel without any outcome. Far from any help in giving a boost to growth (as the real bottlenecks lie elsewhere), this will do collateral damage. For instance, each time the RBI cuts the policy rate, it expects banks to follow suit. This will propel the latter to pay less to depositors on fresh deposits or when the old ones come up for renewal.

The RBI may have paused now but by maintaining an accommodative policy stance, it has kept the door open for a rate cut in the future. This should be avoided. Instead, it needs to work on other fronts such as credible measures to reduce NPAs, goading banks to be proactive in looking for viable projects for funding (money is not a constraint as the measures announced by the RBI on March 27/April 17 have made available plenty of liquidity to the tune of ₹5,00,000 crore), step up investment by the Government, especially in infrastructure and so on.

By propelling demand — both investment and consumption — and helping businesses run, this will also help reduce the cost of "one-time" restructuring and bring about a real improvement in the banks' balance sheet in the near term. Meanwhile, all-out efforts should be made for early resumption of economic activity even while strictly complying with Coronavirus-related protocols and guidelines.

(The writer is a New Delhi-based policy analyst)

# New performance measure metrics needed

With students crossing the virtual threshold, everyone is trying to decode employability skills in educational institutions and workplaces



**SHARAD MEHRA**

Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn." This quote by one of America's founding fathers, Benjamin Franklin, encapsulates the challenges and possible solutions to the new-age education in India and across the globe in today's pandemic-afflicted world. With millions of students crossing the virtual threshold and Work From Home becoming the new normal, everyone is trying to decode employability skills, performance metrics in educational institutions and workplaces. Amid the uneasy and unpredictable change, one thing is certain: The human spirit won't change — and that's our biggest solution. Now let's step into a more famil-

iar past of conventional classrooms. Here, body language, facial expressions, physical projects and practical experiments were integral to learning, besides theory and concepts. Learning outcomes took into account personality traits, cognitive skills, life skills, critical thinking and more, for creative and conventional courses. But the digital world has turned these features into challenges. Or, not.

For instance, for fashion design studies, real-world scenarios and industry-live projects that hinged mainly on sensory and cognitive skills, put a big question mark on virtual teaching of concepts and practical training. The challenge was how to keep students engaged and achieve the desired outcomes? Teaching from books was fine but what about practical learning? The answer to this was, by understanding the process backwards. For example, construction stream students were asked to take apart a stitched garment at home and understand the process, in reverse. They were asked to raise open-ended and close-ended questions and prioritise them. For styling, students used

their mobile phones and narrated stories with the limited resources available while they were at home. In the textile stream, students developed interesting and innovative prints using natural dyes.

Similarly, the University of Petroleum and Energy Studies, Dehradun, decided to take the Coronavirus challenge head-on by developing AeroOpt, an airport management tool to improve efficiency at counters, staff requirements for boarding gates and immigration security with social distancing norms. Both these instances highlight how critical-thinking, innovation, creativity and adaptability were channelled as everyone struggled with the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. And this is exactly what is needed now: A design-thinking approach, with problem-solving skills, critical thinking, risk-management and most importantly adaptability.

With these developments, one aspect is clear: To shape and mentor this kind of an approach, boxed methodologies cannot be a point of reference. Instead, we need to look at

alternative approaches to teaching, experimentation with available resources, providing critical feedback and delivering learning assessment outcomes. This means re-structuring pedagogies and adapting courses to the online mode with necessary tweaks and improvisations. Learning assessment is a fundamental feedback mechanism in education, allowing all stakeholders of the learning process to understand what is being learned and where learning resources need to be focussed. The wheels are moving now. But is India prepared to handle these on a larger scale for the next phase? Yes, because we have tremendous technology expertise and political will to tide through. Besides the Digital India initiative, strong indicators come from the recent move by our Government to encourage more Foreign Direct Investment in education, provide ₹3,000 crore for skill development and recognise foreign online degrees for Indian students. At present, the Centre and States are collaborating with broadcasting services to deliver education through television and radio. But for these media to suc-

ceed, it is important to operationalise talent and skills. These can be done via projects, classroom discussions, encouraging feedback and curiosity. In my estimation, these key metrics will define the future:

**Critical thinking:** This is a key skill that equally defines both educational and professional spheres. With the pandemic-induced restrictions, how do teachers enhance critical thinking? The answer is, by asking for real-time projects drawn from the students' immediate environment and asking for solutions from different perspectives. How can things be made better? Is there a new way of looking at a situation? How will more people benefit from a solution? Is this safe and has every loophole been plugged? These are some indicators for enhancing critical thinking.

**Adaptability and innovation:** In a 2018 Barclays Life Skills Report in the UK, 60 per cent of the employers have clearly stated that adaptability has become more important now than during the previous decade. Therefore, how do you respond to a situation and how quickly do you adapt to change?

Are you able to control your thoughts, emotions and behaviour under pressure or in certain situations? Adaptive students are certain to be a professional success, wherever they go. Some of the world's best innovations have debuted in the worst situations. Are you willing to experiment, take risks and create something new? An innovator will always be valued in every situation.

**Empathy and collaboration:** How do you respond to your peers? Are you supportive, understanding and display compassion? Are you a team player and do you believe in taking individual credit? Do you believe in "We" over "I"? These values are critical to the future. The pandemic has eroded everything that we took for granted in workplaces, businesses, economies and even our education systems. This sudden pause from the physical world is significant to herald change. And remember, as Greek philosopher Socrates said, "The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new." (The writer is CEO Asia Pacific Region, Global University Systems)



**FOREIGN EYE**



**WILDLIFE CAUGHT IN CROSSHAIR**

Wildlife conservation is costly and reliant on philanthropy and Western visitors as well as far-sighted policy-makers. While the environmental benefits of a permanent reduction in long-distance air travel are indisputable, it also threatens the viability of wildlife tourism. While COVID-19 doesn't affect animals and ecosystems in the way it affects humans, it is putting them at risk. (The Guardian editorial)

**Islamabad:** An anti-corruption court in Pakistan on Monday indicted former President Asif Ali Zardari through video link in a graft case where he was accused of influencing authorities to release loans to front companies. As Zardari could not appear in the court due to "illness", the indictment was carried out through video link, which was the first such indictment in the judicial history of the country.

**EXPLOSION FLATTENS BALTIMORE HOMES, 1 DEAD**

**Baltimore:** A major explosion leveled several houses as it tore through a Baltimore neighborhood on Monday, killing at least one person and critically injuring three while at least five others including children were trapped, firefighters said. The Baltimore Sun reported it was a natural gas explosion, citing fire officials, but said the exact cause remained unknown.

**193 PAK PILOTS GET NOTICE OVER 'FAKE' LICENCE**

**Islamabad:** Pakistan's aviation regulator has issued show-cause notices to 193 pilots suspected of having "dubious" flying licence after completing the scrutiny process of 262 pilots in the wake of a major scandal, according to a media report on Monday. The scandal over pilot licences in Pakistan emerged from an investigation into the crash of a Pakistan International Airlines plane on May 22 in Karachi that killed 97 people. The inquiry determined that nearly one-third of Pakistan's pilots cheated on exams but still received licences from the country's Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

**TALIBAN READY FOR PEACE TALKS**

**Kabul:** Afghan peace talks are expected to begin within days after authorities announced Monday they would soon start releasing hundreds of Taliban prisoners accused of brutal attacks including on foreigners. The fate of some 400 Taliban prisoners has been a crucial hurdle in launching much-delayed talks between the Taliban and the Afghan Government, who had committed to completing a prisoner exchange before negotiations could start.

**BELARUS PREZ WINS 6TH TERM, PROTESTS ERUPT**

**Minsk:** Election officials in Belarus said on Monday that President Alexander Lukashenko has won his sixth consecutive term with over 80 per cent of the vote after facing his strongest challenge in 26 years and protests over his cavalier brush-off of the coronavirus, political repression and the country's deteriorating economy. Thousands of people took to the streets in a number of Belarusian cities and towns protesting the early count that indicated Lukashenko's landslide victory.

**IRAN SHUTS NEWSPAPER FOR COVID DEATH REPORT**

**Tehran:** Iran shut down a newspaper after it published remarks by an expert who said the official figures on corona cases and deaths in the country account for only 5% of real toll. Mohammad Reza Sadat, editor-in-chief of *Jahane Sanat*, said authorities closed his newspaper, which began publishing in 2004 and was mainly focused on business news.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Public at large take notice that my client Sh. Sachin Rithalia S/o Late Sh. Dhanarav Rithalia R/o A-161, Todarmal Colony, Najafgarh, New Delhi-43 Hereby Declare that name of the father of My Client had been written Sh. Dhanarav instead of Dhanarav Rithalia in the death certificate therefore Dhanarav Rithalia and Dhanarav were the same person.

Yatender Sharma, Advocate  
Chamber No. 628, 6th floor  
Lawyer's Chamber Block Dwarka District Court, Sec-10 Dwarka, New Delhi-75  
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Pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations & Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, notice is hereby given that the Meeting of Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Monday, 31st August, 2020 at 11.00 AM at the Regd. Office of the Company to consider the Unaudited Quarterly Results for the Period Ended 30th June, 2020.

Further as per the Company's Code of Conduct for Prevention of Insider Trading, the trading window for dealing with securities of the Company will remain close from 30.06.2020 to 48 hours after the declaration of the Financial Results. The said information is also available on Company's Website [www.unitedtextileslimited.com](http://www.unitedtextileslimited.com) & also on the website of Stock Exchanges at [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com).

For United Textiles Limited (Amit Kumar Aggarwal) Director  
Dated 04.08.2020 (DIN 07079171)

# Chinese hackers targeting US Prez poll: NSA

They want Trump to lose re-election attempt: O'Brien

**Washington:** Chinese Government-linked hackers have been targeting US election infrastructure ahead of the 2020 presidential election, White House National Security Adviser Robert O'Brien said on Sunday, indicating a more active level of alleged Chinese interference.

O'Brien's comments appeared to go beyond a statement released on Friday by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence which

said China "has been expanding its influence efforts," and that Russia was already trying to undercut Democratic candidate Joe Biden. But did not specifically accuse Beijing of hacking attempts against U.S. election-related systems.

"They'd like to see the President lose," O'Brien said on CBS' "Face the Nation." "China — like Russia, like Iran — they've engaged in cyberattacks and phishing and that sort of thing with respect to our election infrastructure, with respect to websites and that sort of thing."

China has consistently denied U.S. government claims that it hacks U.S. companies, politicians or government agencies. "The U.S. presidential election is an internal affair, we have no interest in interfering in it," Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said in April.

O'Brien said the United States had seen hackers try to

infiltrate websites belonging to Secretary of State offices around the country, which are responsible for administering elections at the local level, and collecting data on Americans.

"It is a real concern and it's not just Russia," he said. "There will be severe consequences for any country that attempts to interfere in our free and fair elections." The National Security Council did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The ODNI declined to comment or clarify whether O'Brien's comments contradicted their own.

The ODNI previously said that "adversaries" seek to compromise the private communications of American political candidates and penetrate U.S. election systems ahead of November's election. And that China would prefer President Donald Trump does not win reelection. Multiple reviews by US intelligence agencies have concluded that Russia acted to boost Trump's 2016 campaign and undercut his rival Hillary Clinton's chances in that election.

**Agencies**

## BEIRUT BLAST — LEBANON GOVT RESIGNS AMID PUBLIC FURY

**AP ■ BEIRUT**

Lebanon's Government resigned on Monday amid widespread public fury at the country's ruling elite over last week's devastating explosion in Beirut. The move risks opening the way to dragged-out negotiations over a new Cabinet amid urgent calls for reform.

Prime Minister Hassan Diab headed to the presidential palace to submit the Cabinet's group resignation, said Health Minister Hamad Hassan. It follows a weekend of anti-government protests in the wake of the Aug. 4 explosion in Beirut's port that caused widespread destruction, killed at least 160 people and injured about 6,000 others.

## Hong Kong newspaper raided, tycoon detained under new law

**AP ■ HONG KONG**

Hong Kong authorities broadened their enforcement of a new national security law on Monday, arresting media tycoon Jimmy Lai, searching the headquarters of his Next Digital group and carting away boxes of what they said was evidence.

Two days after Chinese and Hong Kong officials shrugged off sanctions imposed on them by the U.S., the moves showed China's determination to enforce the new law and curb dissent in the semi-autonomous city after months of massive pro-democracy demonstrations last year.

Lai's arrest and the search of his Next Digital group

marked the first time the law was used against news media, stoking fears that authorities are suppressing press freedom. Next Digital operates Apple Daily, a feisty pro-democracy tabloid that often condemns China's Communist Party-led government.

Apple Daily's popularity stems from its celebrity news and flamboyant stories, but it is also known for investigative reporting and breaking news coverage. It has frequently urged readers to take part in pro-democracy protests,

## EGYPT MOVES 'DANGEROUS MATERIALS' FROM AIRPORTS

**Cairo:** Egypt's Civil Aviation Ministry said after Lebanon's massive explosion last week it was moving "dangerous materials" held at airports nationwide to more secure locations. The ministry is "taking precautionary measures with regards to dangerous materials, either immediately releasing them or transferring them to safe storage spaces well outside the range of airports and residential areas," it said in a statement Sunday. The statement referred to materials held in "cargo bays and storage warehouses in Cairo's airport and all airports nationwide", without specifying which kind of materials would be moved. **AFP**

## Trump trails Biden in two key battleground States: Opinion poll

**Washington:** Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden is leading President Donald Trump by as much as six percentage points in Wisconsin and Pennsylvania, two battleground states the Republican leader had won in the last election, according to a new opinion poll on Monday. Voters in these two states think the US is doing poorly and that Biden would do a better job than Trump in handling the coronavirus outbreak, the CBS News reported citing the findings of its poll tracker. **PTI**

## PARIS MAKES FACE MASKS MANDATORY US HITS 5 MILLION CORONAVIRUS CASES

**AFP ■ PARIS**

Face masks became compulsory in tourist hotspots in Paris on Monday amid warnings of a resurgence of coronavirus cases, as infections in the world's worst-hit country the United States topped five million.

The requirement came as France along with much of Western Europe sweltered in a heatwave, with temperatures soaring above 35 degrees Celsius (95 degrees Fahrenheit).

The blistering heat sent crowds flocking to beaches at the weekend despite health warnings about the risk of infection.

In Berlin, thousands of children returned to school on Monday after the summer break, sporting masks which are compulsory in common areas like school courtyards. Schools in other German regions also reopened, though with differing rules on masks.

"No child forgot their masks this morning, so we see everything is back to normal," said Domenica Acri, headmistress of the Carl Orff primary school in Berlin.

In Pakistan, all restaurants and parks were allowed to reopen Monday, as well the theatres, cinemas and public transport, after the country saw a drop in new cases for several weeks.

"Anything but second lockdown." People in Paris aged 11 and over are now required to wear the masks in crowded areas and tourists hotspots.

These include the banks of the Seine River and more than

100 streets in the French capital, including tourist destinations like Montmartre, where the Sacre Coeur basilica is located.

Several French towns and cities have already introduced similar measures, as well as parts of Belgium, the Netherlands, Romania and Spain. "All the indicators show that since mid-July the virus is again circulating more actively in the (Paris) region," said a police statement at the weekend.

Paris residents interviewed by AFP generally supported the decision on masks.

"I think it's a very good idea, we should maybe have done it sooner," Bertrand, 28, said in the popular Rue des Martyrs in central Paris.

"Since we don't understand enough about this illness, the best thing is that we protect ourselves."

The masks are "restrictive" but necessary "if we want to avoid a second wave in Paris," said Marion, 24, wearing a bright green mask. "Anything except a second lockdown."

Globally, nearly 20 million cases have been officially registered. The death count is at least 7,31,500 worldwide.

The United States is by far the worst-hit country with nearly 1,63,000 deaths. On Sunday, it reached the extraordinary milestone of five million coronavirus cases, according to according to John Hopkins University.

President Donald Trump's Democratic opponent in the presidential election, Joe Biden, tweeted that five million coronavirus cases was "a number that boggles the mind and breaks the heart."

"Unworkable, weak" relief

The figures came as Trump was accused of flouting the constitution by unilaterally extending a virus relief package. The package — announced by Trump on Saturday after talks between Republican and Democrat lawmakers hit a wall

— was "absurdly unconstitutional," senior Democrat Nancy Pelosi told CNN.

Fellow Democrat and Senate minority leader Chuck Schumer, appearing on ABC, dismissed Trump's unilateral measures as "unworkable, weak and far too narrow."

**Grim milestone for Brazil**

After the US, Brazil has the most cases, and on Saturday it became the second country to pass 1,00,000 fatalities. President Jair Bolsonaro has played down the coronavirus from the beginning, dismissing it as a "little flu," questioning the lockdowns ordered by some state governors and saying their economic impact could be "more deadly than the virus."

Following the news of the latest milestone, Brazil's most widely viewed TV network Globo criticised Bolsonaro's handling of the crisis, asking "Has the president of the republic done his duty?"

## SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED BOY

General public is hereby informed that one boy namely **Virender S/o Sh. Santosh** R/o Vill. Baba ka Vilba, PS Misroliya, Distt. Sidharth Nagar, UP. Age 13 years, Height 4', Complexion black, Built normal, Face round wearing Check Shirt, Black colour pant and Red colour slippers has been missing/kidnapped from Ajmal Khan Road, Near Hanuman Mandir, Karol Bagh, Delhi on 07.05.2015.

In this regard a case FIR No. 394/2015 U/s 363 IPC dated 09.05.2015 has been registered at PS Karol Bagh, Delhi. Any person having any information or clue about this missing/kidnapped boy may kindly inform to the undersigned at the address or telephone nos. given below.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>  
Email: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Fax: 011-24368639  
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641  
DP/254/CD/2020

**SHO**  
PS Karol Bagh, Delhi  
Ph. 011-28726870, 28721115

## Trump's pandemic relief orders are limited in scope

**AP ■ NEW YORK**

President Donald Trump's new executive orders to help Americans struggling under the economic recession are far less sweeping than any pandemic relief bill Congress would pass.

Trump acted Saturday after negotiations for a second pandemic relief bill reached an impasse.

Democrats initially sought a USD 3.4 trillion package, but said they lowered their demand to USD 2 trillion. Republicans had proposed a USD 1 trillion plan.

The are questions about how effective Trump's measures will be.

An order for supplemental unemployment insurance payments relies on state contributions that may not materialise.

## Covid seems to lack seasonal pattern: WHO

**AP ■ LONDON**

The emergencies chief for the World Health Organization (WHO) said Covid-19 doesn't seem to follow the seasonal patterns that some viruses exhibit, making it harder to control.

Unlike other respiratory viruses like influenza that spread mainly in the winter, the coronavirus pandemic is accelerating in the summer. That's

despite earlier predictions from some scientists and politicians it would fade in the heat.

"This virus has demonstrated no seasonal pattern as such," said Dr Michael Ryan at a press briefing on Monday. "What it has clearly demonstrated is that if you take the pressure off the virus, the virus bounces back," he said.

Ryan said the UN Health agency continues to advise countries even where Covid-19 appears to be under control, such as those in Europe, to maintain measures to slow virus spread. He called for countries where transmission remains intense, such as Brazil, to adopt measures so that communities have the necessary support they need to implement strategies like social distancing, wearing masks, and self-isolating if they have symptoms.

KAMA HOLDINGS LIMITED							
CIN : L92199DL2000PLC104779							
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Corporate Office: Block C, Sector 45, Gurgaon-122003, Tel. No : (+91-124) 4354400 • Fax : (+91-124) 4354500							
Email : <a href="mailto:info@kamaholdings.com">info@kamaholdings.com</a> ; website : <a href="http://www.kamaholdings.com">www.kamaholdings.com</a>							
STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED JUNE 30, 2020							
(Rs. in Lakhs)							
Sl. No.	Particulars	STANDALONE			CONSOLIDATED		
		Quarter ended		Year ended	Quarter ended		Year ended
		30-6-2020	30-6-2019	31-03-2020	30-6-2020	30-6-2019	31-03-2020
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	
1	Total Income from Operations	0.08	-	4,206.86	156160.62	178660.93	726947.44
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (including discontinued operations)	(40.94)	(41.88)	4031.79	22595.45	23417.57	91795.82
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (including discontinued operations)*	(40.96)	(41.88)	4037.65	17624.73	17801.74	91338.70
4	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(41.35)	(42.23)	4037.33	22995.51	19397.17	88026.74
5	Paid up Equity Share Capital	645.26	645.26	645.26	645.26	645.26	645.26
6	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) -						
	(a) Basic :	(0.63)	(0.65)	62.57	143.48	157.45	821.74
	(b) Diluted:	(0.63)	(0.65)	62.57	143.48	157.45	821.74

**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 Financials Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites ([www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com)) and the Company's website ([www.kamaholdings.com](http://www.kamaholdings.com)).

For and on behalf of the Board  
**Ekta Maheshwari**  
Whole Time Director, CFO & Company Secretary  
(DIN: 02071432)

Place : Gurugram, Haryana  
Date : 10th August 2020

**Metro Railway, Kolkata**  
Kolkata's Pride

**COMPOSITE WORKS IN METRO RAILWAY FROM NOAPARA TO BARASAT VIA BIMANBANDAR**

Abridged Tender Notice No. Civil-2335-2020 (Open) for Composite work as per two packet system e-tendering: Tender Notice for e-tendering is invited by Chief Engineer/Con, Metro Railway, Kolkata for and on behalf of the President of India for the following work : **Name of Work :** Execution of works for preparation of conceptual designs, tender drawing, architectural drawing, carrying out detailed structural designs, preparation of construction drawings and preparation of specification of items and schedule of quantities with rates etc. for underground construction of Double Line/ Multiple Line and Station Building beyond Bimanbandar Yard to New Barrackpore by Cut and Cover method including topographical survey, confirmatory soil-engineering exploration including design, drawing for sub-way environmental simulation (SES) and Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) analysis and sizing of Tunnel Ventilation System (TVS) and major Environmental Control System (ECS) equipment for underground Metro tunnel of Double line including four (04) metro underground tunnel stations and yard from Christian Burial Ground to New Barrackpore including the approach of New Garia - Airport portion entering Bimanbandar Station with station and trackway fire scenarios in connection with Extension of Metro Railway from Noapara to Barasat via Bimanbandar (Airport). **Tender Value :** ₹ 13,82,27,655.60 (approx.). **Cost of Tender Document :** Nil. **Earnest Money :** ₹ 8,41,200/-. **Completion Period :** 24 (twenty four) months. **Date of Closing :** 10.09.2020 at 12.00 hrs. The tender document and other details can be obtained from the website : [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) The bidding for the tender is to be submitted 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. Pre-bid meeting will be held on 17.08.2020 at 11.30 hrs. through 'Online'. E-mail : [er.kcmisra@gmail.com](mailto:er.kcmisra@gmail.com). **Tender Notice No. : Civil-2335-2020 Date : 04.08.2020**

**FASTER • SAFER • SMOOTHER • CLEANER**

# Covid-19 likely to alter consumer behaviour permanently: Survey

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A survey has said that the Covid-19 pandemic is likely to alter the consumer behaviour permanently and cause lasting structural changes to the consumer goods and retail industries.

The demand for local goods and brands is growing as consumers are hesitant to step out of their safety zones to resume previous consumption patterns, according to Accenture COVID-19 Consumer Pulse Research report.

The survey polled 2,500

consumers in India among 45,000 respondents globally, between March and June, it said.

"The India leg of the survey found that 90 per cent of consumers are making lasting changes to how they live, work and shop, and there is no going back to the pre-pandemic world for consumer brands," the report said.

The survey found that the pandemic is causing more people to shop for groceries online.

The demand for local products, digital commerce and omnichannel services such as home delivery, chat fea-

tures and virtual consultations is surging, and is likely to endure beyond this crisis, it said.

Consumers are now focused on their most basic needs while cutting back on nonessentials, the report said.

"They are more mindful of what they are buying, striving to limit food waste, shopping more cost consciously and are making healthier and environmentally sustainable choices," it said.

As many as 85 per cent of the consumers in India said that they are shopping more health-consciously and are



focusing more on limiting food waste. While, 75 per cent of consumers said they are being cost-conscious when shopping for products and 71 per cent feel that quality, safety and trust are the most considered brand attributes in purchase decisions.

A majority of respondents are now focusing on their personal health, it said.

"Staying-at-home and working from home are becoming the norm. The ways in which people spend their leisure time are changing because of the outbreak and related social distancing mea-

sures, and again, these habits are likely to continue," it said.

Entertainment, learning and DIY (do it yourself) have also seen a rise -- this trend is reflected in the types of apps that consumers are downloading and the devices they are purchasing, related to entertainment, news, health-care and education, the survey said.

Anurag Gupta, Managing Director and Lead - Strategy & Consulting, Accenture in India, said: "The pandemic has taken a toll on brand loyalty and as consumers make more socially and environmentally sus-

tainable and healthy choices, consumer goods companies must tailor their offerings accordingly and refresh their brand promise to meet these new requirements."

Brands will also need to explore ways to rebuild consumer confidence frayed by the pandemic -- proof of good hygiene and safety is becoming a key part of brands' ability to retain shoppers' trust.

"Brands also need to look at ways to tap into the opportunities resulting from the demand for local and the emergence of the home as the new hub," he said.

## Sensex rises for 3rd day, gains 142 pts

### L&T SPURTS OVER 4 PC

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The BSE Sensex notched up gains for the third straight session on Monday, buoyed by engineering, finance and pharma stocks amid positive cues from global markets.

After rallying 390.12 points during the day, the 30-share BSE benchmark pared some gains to end 141.51 points or 0.37 per cent higher at 38,182.08. Similarly, the NSE Nifty climbed 56.10 points or 0.50 per cent to close at 11,270.15. L&T was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, rallying 4.81 per cent, followed by M&M, Sun Pharma, Tech Mahindra, NTPC, SBI, ICICI Bank and Titan.

On the other hand, Reliance Industries, Asian Paints, Maruti, Bajaj Finserv, UltraTech Cement and Bajaj Finance were among the laggards, shedding up to 1.26 per

cent. According to traders, market sentiment was positive amid firm cues from global indices and consistent foreign fund inflows.

Global markets rose following positive factory output data from China, though escalating US-China tensions capped the gains. Bourses in Shanghai and Seoul ended on a positive note, while Hong Kong settled in the red. Markets in Tokyo were closed for a holiday. Stock exchanges in Europe were also trading with gains in early deals. "Today's trade was characterised by heightened activity in defence and pharmaceutical stocks, the former due to the proposed changes being implemented favoring domestic producers and the latter due to earnings..."

"On the broader market too, we witnessed investor interest across stocks in the sugar sector as large integrated sugar complexes have demonstrated success in their distillery operations," said S Ranganathan, Head of Research at LKP Securities.

## Defence stocks in limelight; zoom up to 9 per cent

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Defence stocks on Monday jumped up to 9 per cent after the announcement that India will stop the import of 101 weapons and military platforms like transport aircraft, light combat helicopters under a staggered timeline till 2024, in a mega push to boost domestic production.

Shares of Bharat Electronics Limited zoomed 9.17 per cent, Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd 8.

74 per cent, Astra Microwave Products 5.48 per cent, Bharat Dynamics 4.16 per cent, BEML jumped 3.95 per cent and Apollo Micro Systems 3.63 per cent on the BSE.

"Government's action to boost domestic defence productions helped gains in

defence stocks," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services. In a mega push to boost domestic defence production, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday announced that India will stop the import of 101 weapons and military platforms like transport aircraft, light combat helicopters, conventional submarines, cruise missiles and sonar systems under a staggered timeline till 2024.

Making the announcement on Twitter, the defence minister estimated that the domestic defence industry would receive contracts worth almost ₹4 lakh crore within the next five to seven years as a result of the decision to prune the import list of defence platforms and equipment.

## Sebi amends rules for filling of executive director posts

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi has made changes pertaining to the proportion of executive director posts to be filled up through different modes and composition of selection committee.

Besides, Sebi said an employee, who has put in at least seven years as junior accounts assistant and junior engineer and have requisite qualifications, can be considered for the post of 'Grade A' officer at the regulator.

With regard to the position of executive director (other than law), Sebi said two-thirds of the total posts will be filled up from internal candidates and the remaining one-third to be filled up by deputation or contract basis.

In case of non-availability in any category - internal and deputation or contract - the post may be filled from

other categories, the regulator said in a notification dated August 5.

Earlier, 50 per cent of the total post of executive directors were required to be filled in from internal candidates and the remaining 50 per cent were to be recruited by deputation/ contract and/or direct recruitment.

Besides, the regulator said chairman, two other members of the board and two external experts, to be nominated by the chairman, will constitute the selection committee for executive director position.

In June, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) had invited applications to recruit two executive directors. Currently, Sebi has eight executive directors.

Further, Sebi said, "An employee working as junior secretarial assistant, junior accounts assistant, junior

library assistant or junior engineer, who has completed minimum seven years of service and possesses the requisite qualifications for officer Grade A..., may be considered for switch over to Grade A in the officer cadre against the vacancies".

This will be within the overall 10 per cent vacancies arising in a calendar year or as notified by Competent Authority.

The switch over to grade A officer is subject to such employees qualifying in the departmental test and interviews conducted by the competent authority or by an outside agency engaged by Sebi.

To give effect to these, Sebi has amended employees service regulations. The regulator is in the process of hiring 147 officers in Grade A -- general, legal, information technology, engineering, research and official language streams

## Bank of Baroda posts Q1 net loss of ₹864 crore

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned Bank of Baroda on Monday reported a standalone net loss of ₹864 crore during the quarter ended June of the current fiscal year, due to higher provisions and contingencies.

The bank had posted a net profit of ₹710 crore in the same quarter a year ago. "On account of provisioning on standard accounts of ₹1,811 crore, bank reported a (standalone) net loss of ₹864 crore in Q1 FY21 and consolidated net loss stood at ₹679 crore," Bank of Baroda said in a regulatory filing. Interest income of the lender during the April-June quarter of 2020-21 was down by 2.38 per cent to ₹18,494 crore as against ₹18,944 crore in the year-ago quarter.

## ₹ rises by 3 paise to 74.90 on firm equities

Mumbai: The rupee rose by 3 paise to settle at 74.90 against US dollar on Monday tracking positive domestic equities.

The rupee traded in a narrow range as positive domestic equities and foreign fund inflows supported the rupee while strong US dollar and rise in crude oil prices weighed on the local unit, forex traders said. At the inter-bank forex market, the rupee opened weak at 74.96. It moved to a day's low of 74.96 before settling at 74.90 against the greenback, showing a gain of 3 paise over the previous close. The rupee had settled at 74.93 against US dollar on Friday.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.17 per cent to 93.59.

On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share BSE benchmark Sensex pared some gains to end 141.51 points or 0.37 per cent higher at 38,182.08. The NSE Nifty climbed 56.10 points or 0.50 per cent to close at 11,270.15.

Foreign institutional investors were net buyers in the capital market as they purchased shares worth ₹397.32 crore on Friday, according to provisional exchange data. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, rose 1.10 per cent to USD 44.89 per barrel.

## Gzb Municipal corporation blacklists firm for cheating on contract on LED lights

PNS ■ GHAZIABAD

Sadan Councilor Rajendra Tyagi, leader of the BJP in Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation, has exposed a scam related to a company with evidence in a press conference held here on Monday.

Councilor Tyagi said that the Municipal Corporation had an agreement on January 7, 2016 with M / s White Placard Technologies Private Limited. Under this contract, the company had to replace the old street lights in all the five zonal areas of the corporation and replace them with fifty thousand 214 new LED lights.

Due to non-compliance of the terms of the contract, the municipal administration, corporation executive and corporation board not only blacklisted White Placard Technologies Private Limited, long ago, but a report was filed against it at Sihani Gate police station.

Despite this, the officers of Uttar Pradesh Government paid Rs 8,97,13,602 from the account of the Municipal Corporation. The interesting thing is that Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation has paid to this firm from the funds received from Uttar Pradesh Government.

## GM reviews progress of on-going metro projects



Kolkata: Manoj Joshi, General Manager, Metro Railway on Monday reviewed the progress of works of different on-going Metro projects in the city with the senior officials of Metro Railway and Rail Vikash Nigam Limited (RVNL).

During this meeting, he instructed all to maintain social distancing norms and other protocols at worksites during

this lockdown. Shri Joshi emphasized on timely completion of different projects.

Shri Joshi was also apprised of the treatment facilities being provided to the COVID patients at Tapan Sinha Memorial Hospital. He expressed his satisfaction about the facilities provided.

## CM gifts various development works to Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi district

Raipur : On the occasion of International Day of World's Indigenous People, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel today interacted with the public representatives and beneficiaries of Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi district via video conferencing in a programme organised at his residence office and took information about the demands and grievances of the area. Baghel also immediately sanctioned various development works on the occasion. Baghel said that we had announced formation of Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi on August 15, 2019 and on February 10, 2020, the new district was constituted.

With the formation of the district, the government has been consistently making efforts to ensure all-round development of the district, ensuring availability of basic facilities, and soon all the administrative services will begin in the district. On the occasion, public representatives of the district thanked the Chief Minister for formation of the new district and for inauguration of SDM office in Marwahi.

On public representative's requests, Chief Minister Mr. Bhupesh Baghel announced that Marwahi Gram Panchayat will be upgraded as Nagar Panchayat.

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE						
SR. No.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	PWD B&R, AMBALA	BALANCE WORK FOR UP-GRADATION OF KURUKSHETRA DHAND ROAD KM 0.00 TO 15.00 (MDR 119) - ROAD ID 8036 - UPTO DISTRICT BOUNDARY KURUKSHETRA (RE-INVITED).	06.08.2020 28.08.2020	790.00 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	9729017798 pvd-eeep1- kurukshetra@hry.nic.in
2	PWD B&R GURUGRAM	SPECIAL REPAIR WORK OF CIVIL HOSPITAL RESIDENCE STAFF QUARTER AT SONHIA IN GURUGRAM DISTT. (RE-INVITED)	CLOSING DATE 21.08.2020	46.89 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	01242322424 / pvd-eeep1gurgaon@hry.nic.in
3	PWD B&R, JIND	SPECIAL REPAIR OF 13 NOS. RESIDENCES OF 1130 SFT AREA IN OFFICERS COLONY AT JIND IN JIND DISTT.	CLOSING DATE 31.08.2020	35.34 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	01681-249416 pvd-eeep-jind@hry.nic.in
4	PWD B&R, REWARI	SPECIAL REPAIR OF GOVT. POLYTECHNIC AT LISANA AT REWARI IN REWARI DISTT. (BOYS HOSTEL) + 1 OTHER WORK	11.08.2020 01.09.2020	42.63 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	01274-253703 / pvd-eeep-rewari@hry.nic.in
5	PWD B&R, HISAR	PDG. MGP & ALLIED WORK IN CIVIL HOSPITAL AT BHIWANI + 7 OTHER WORKS	13.08.2020 28.08.2020	3.73 CRORE	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	01662-225651 pvd-eeed-hissar@hry.nic.in
6	IRRIGATION AND WR DEPTT REWARI.	SPECIAL REPAIR / REWINDING OF 1 NO. 325 HP HT BHEL MAKE MOTOR SR. NO. 4000661-02-03 AT PUMP HOUSE JF-1. + 6 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 19.08.2020	EMD 28300	www.etenders.hry.nic.in	xenmech@yahoo.com
7	IRRIGATION & W.R. DEPARTMENT HARYANA PANCHKULA	PURCHASE OF INSTRUMENTS UNDER NHP	10.08.2020 24.08.2020	EMD RS-NIL BID SECURING DECLARATION IS REQUIRED	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	xen.nhp@gmail.com 0172-2560080
8	TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, HARYANA HARYANAROADWAYS, KARNAL	ADVERTISEMENT BOARDS/HOARDING	11.08.2020 24.08.2020	72.00 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	1800-180-2097.
9	DIRECTOR, STATE TRANSPORT, HARYANA, CHANDIGARH	MIXED WASTER PAPER + 3 OTHER WORKS	20.08.2020 27.08.2020	30000/-	https://hartrans.gov.in/	0172-2701188 caohartrans@gmail.com
10	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGG. DIVISION NO. 2, KARNAL	BHADSON - PROVIDING FUNCTIONAL HOUSEHOLD TAP CONNECTION (FHCT) UNDER JAL JEEVAN MISSION. LAYING OF D.I. PIPELINE IN BALANCE STREETS AND PROVIDING FUNCTIONAL HOUSEHOLDS TAP CONNECTION IN VILLAGE BHADSON AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THERETO.	07.08.2020 14.08.2020	10.57 LACS	TENDER NO 2020_HRY_138791_1 + 1 OTHER	0184-2266004/ eepkarnal@gmail.com
11	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGG. DIV. NO.-2, HISAR	CH. TO LAB WORK WQMS "REQUIREMENT OF CHEMICALS AND CRMS (CERTIFIED REFERENCE MATERIALS) REGARDING NABL PROCESS OF DISTRICT WATER TESTING LABORATORY HISAR COMPLETE IN ALL RESPECT"	07.08.2020 14.08.2020	8.25 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
12	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGG. NARWANA	ANNUAL MAINTENANCE SEWERAGE SCHEME NARWANA TOWN, DEPLOYMENT OF 1 NO. SPECIALLY FABRICATED TAILOR-MADE SEWER CLEANING MACHINE FOR CLEANING OF SEWER LINES OF 105051 METER IN NARROW STREETS/ LINES INCLUDING MANHOLES IN NARWANA TOWN AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THERETO. (FOR 7 YEARS)	07.08.2020 17.08.2020	127.67 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	Executive Engineer
13	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGG. DIVISION NO. 1, SIRSA	ANNUAL MAINTENANCE ESTIMATE FOR SEWERAGE SCHEME SIRSA TOWN, DISTT. SIRSA. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF SUPER SUCKER MACHINE COMPLETE SET FOR A PERIOD OF 2 YEARS AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THERETO.	06.08.2020 17.08.2020	62.15 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	94681-90036 ee3sirsas@phedharyana.gov.in
14	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGG. NARWANA	"LAYING, CUTTING, JOINTING & TESTING OF 100 MM I/D DI PIPELINE, 197 NOS. FUNCTIONAL HOUSEHOLD TAP CONNECTIONS, 133 NOS. FERRULE CONNECTIONS, DISMANTLING OF STREETS & CONSTRUCTION OF SLUICE VALVE HOODIES IN VARIOUS STREETS AT VILLAGE TARKHA AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THERETO." + 5 OTHER WORKS	08.08.2020 18.08.2020	90.95 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	eeenarwana@phedharyana.gov.in
15	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGG. NARWANA	LAYING OF BALANCE/ PARALLEL WATER SUPPLY PIPE LINE IN DI PIPE NARWANA TOWN TESHIL NARWANA DISTT. JIND, LAYING OF DI PIPE LINE IN VARIOUS STREETS AT NARWANA TOWN AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THERETO."	07.08.2020 14.08.2020	89 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	Executive Engineer
16	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGG. TOSHAM	A/MTC. OF PUMPING MACHINERY OF 2 NO. CANAL BASED WATER WORKS, 2 NOS BOOSTING STATION AND VARIOUS SHALLOW TUBEWELL INCLUDING STAND BY PUMPING MACHINERY ON THIS 2 NOS CANAL BASED SCHEME UNDER PHESD BAWANI KHERA (CH. TO A/MTC. OF VARIOUS WATER SUPPLY SCHEME UNDER PHESD TOSHAM FOR ONE YEAR) + 4 OTHER WORKS	08.08.2020 17.08.2020	21.26 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	9306500986 eetosham@gmail.com
17	GOVT. POLYTECHNIC, HISAR	JOB WORK	10.08.2020 25.08.2020	300000	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	Principal, Govt. Polytechnic, Hisar

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in RO NO. 82187

**HERO FINCORP LIMITED**  
CIN: U74899DL1991PLC046774

Regd. Office: 34, Community Centre, Basant Lok, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-110057  
Phone: 011-4948 7150, Fax: 011-4948 7197, 011-4948 7198  
Email: litigation@herofincorp.com | Website: www.herofincorp.com

**HERO FinCorp.**

**NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002**

Notice is hereby served on:

- M/s Shree Ambica Iron Industries (Borrower), having its office at 1A, Nanda Mullick Lane, Kolkata, West Bengal-700006. Also at 8/1, Diamond Harbour Road, Alipore, Kolkata, West Bengal-700027. Also at 206, Kailash Patidar, Sanjay Nagar, Misraod, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh-462026.
- Mr. Manoj Chhawchharia (Guarantor), having its office at 8/1, Diamond Harbour Road, Alipore, Kolkata, West Bengal-700027.
- M/s Assam Sali Motors Pvt. Ltd. (Guarantor), having its office at 1A, Nanda Mullick Lane, Kolkata, West Bengal-700006.
- M/s Manoj Enterprises (Guarantor/Mortgagor), having its office at 1A, Nanda Mullick Lane, Kolkata, West Bengal-700006.
- M/s Veda Farm Implements Pvt. Ltd. (Guarantor), having its office at 206, Kailash Patidar, Sanjay Nagar, Misraod, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh-462026.
- Mr. Gaurav Chhawchharia (Guarantor), residing at 8/1, Diamond Harbour Road, Alipore, Kolkata, West Bengal-700027.
- Mrs. Anu Chhawchharia (Guarantor), residing at 8/1, Diamond Harbour Road, Alipore, Kolkata, West Bengal-700027.
- Ms. Harshita Chhawchharia (Guarantor), residing at 8/1, Diamond Harbour Road, Alipore, Kolkata, West Bengal-700027.

The abovementioned Borrowers had entered into a two (02) Master Facilities Agreements, two (02) Supplementary Agreements and two (02) Addendum Agreements all dated 30.11.2018, with M/s. Hero FinCorp Limited (hereinafter referred to as "HFCL"), for availing credit facilities to the tune of Rs.1,75,00,000/- (Rupees One Crore Seventy Five Lakhs Only) and Rs.75,00,000/- (Rupees Seventy Five Lakhs only) from HFCL, by way of Mortgage of following property in favour of HFCL:

**"Plot area measuring 5000 Sq. mtr., Survey No. - Plot No. 70/FBD, situated at Urban Estate, Faridabad."**

The above-mentioned property shall hereinafter referred to as "Secured Asset". The Secured Asset has been mortgaged to HFCL as security so as to secure the due repayment of loan together with the interest and other charges. However, the Borrower defaulted in due repayment of loan alongwith interest and other charges. In this regard, Demand Notice u/s 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as "SARFAESI Act, 2002"), were sent to the last known addresses available of the aforesaid Borrowers with HFCL.

By way of this publication, HFCL hereby once again call upon M/s Shree Ambica Iron Industries (Borrower), Mr. Manoj Chhawchharia (Guarantor), M/s Assam Sali Motors Pvt. Ltd. (Guarantor), M/s Manoj Enterprises (Guarantor/Mortgagor), M/s Veda Farm Implements Pvt. Ltd. (Guarantor), Mr. Gaurav Chhawchharia (Guarantor), Mrs. Anu Chhawchharia (Guarantor) and Ms. Harshita Chhawchharia (Guarantor) to pay the entire outstanding due of Rs.2,27,29,873.74/- (Rupees Two Crores Twenty-Seven Lakhs Twenty-Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy-Three and Seventy-Four Paise Only) due as on 18.06.2020 within 60 days from this Notice, failing which HFCL shall take all necessary actions against the Secured Asset including taking possession and sale of the Secured Asset under SARFAESI Act, 2002.

Further, in pursuance to the provisions of Section 13(13) of SARFAESI Act, 2002, the Borrower is hereby prohibited from selling, transferring or alienating either by way of sale/lease or deal with the Secured Asset, in any manner, whatsoever, in contravention with the provisions of aforesaid Loan Agreements and/or SARFAESI Act, 2002.

The Public at large is also hereby informed that they should not deal, in any manner, whatsoever, with the secured asset as HFCL has the first and exclusive charge over the same.

Sd/  
Authorized Officer  
For Hero FinCorp Limited

Date: 11.08.2020  
Place: West Bengal

# HEALTH

## VitaminQuotient

Researchers have revealed that taking Vitamin D and calcium twice a day may reduce your chances of getting vertigo again — a sudden internal or external spinning sensation, often triggered by moving your head too quickly. Benign paroxysmal positional vertigo happens when a change in head position gives you a sudden spinning sensation. It's one of the most common types of vertigo



## DOCYARD

DR GS LAMBA

Chief of Gastroenterology & Hepatology  
SRI BALAJI ACTION MEDICAL INSTITUTE



## Fight the silent killer

Hepatitis is today's one of the major health concern. According to a study around 290 million people across the world are living with viral Hepatitis unaware. In some cases of Hepatitis symptoms don't occur even for years and in some cases it can even cause liver failure. Liver's proper functioning is necessary for the better health of even other organs in the body.

Hepatitis B is a type of liver infection. If a person is exposed in adulthood, most are able to clear the virus from their bodies without treatment. For other people, acute hepatitis B leads to life-long infection known as chronic hepatitis B which can result into liver failure, liver cancer if not treated on time. Basically, this infection spread from infected blood, unsafe sexual practices and from infected mother to child. Prevention is the key and early treatment is the best way to prevent its complications. Never ignore symptoms like:

- Fever
- Repeated episodes of vomiting
- Fatigue
- Loss of appetite and Jaundice

Hepatitis can be asymptomatic even for decades and can convert into chronic liver failure.

**Hepatitis B and C:** Both Hepatitis B and C are caused majorly by blood contact. In Hepatitis B around 90 per cent cases come out normal while 10 per cent may go on to develop chronic infection. In some of these patients virus remains active causing progressive liver damage and finally resulting in liver cirrhosis, liver failure and liver cancer. While early detection is the key, one major trait of Hepatitis C is that it doesn't show any symptoms even for decades, and when the symptoms appear the liver is already damaged to a great extent.

**While early detection is the key, one major trait of Hepatitis C is that it doesn't show any symptoms even for decades, and when the symptoms appear the liver is already damaged to a great extent. Around 80 per cent cases of Hepatitis C convert into chronic liver disease**

**Hepatitis A and E:** Unlike Hepatitis B and C these are caused by consumption of infected water or food. The infected person develops symptoms like fever, loss of appetite and vomiting followed by jaundice. In majority of people complete recovery would occur without any permanent damage to liver. Treatment is mainly symptomatic.

**Prevention:** Following steps would help in preventing Hepatitis B & C:

- Safe blood transfusion.

Blood should be tested to rule out hepatitis B&C before transfusion.

■ Apart from other life threatening infections intravenous drug abusers are at a very high risk of hepatitis virus infections. Avoid such practices.

■ Tattoo lovers should be aware that reuse of same needle used on other persons can bring the infection. Ask for fresh needles.

■ People taking salon services like manicure, pedicure, shaving etc should be aware that contamination by blood of these instruments carries the risk of hepatitis infection. Blades, nail cutters etc may accidentally cut the skin get soiled with blood. It is not wise to use same tools on other people

■ Avoid unsafe sexual practices.

■ Do not use reusable syringes or needles. Always insist on disposable syringes and needles.

■ Pregnant mothers with hepatitis B infection should seek proper medical advice to prevent transmission of infection to the newborn infant.

■ Get yourself vaccinated against hepatitis B

While Hepatitis A and E can be prevented by:-

■ Maintaining basic hygiene

■ Consumption of properly cooked food, and clean filtered water.

Hepatitis B and C are now very much treatable. Early diagnosis and treatment can save the liver and prevent development of liver failure and liver cancer.

## SUMMERCOOLERS

**RADICCHIO:** Radicchio, also known as red cabbage, is one of the excellent sources of Vitamin K that strengthens the bone and is good for the treatment of Alzheimer's.

The vegetable promotes weight loss due to high fibre content. It makes one feel full and keeps one satiated for longer. Radicchio is also high in antioxidants that boost overall health, wellness and energy. It promotes bile production which improves digestion and reduces cholesterol.

Radicchio contains inulin that naturally helps to regulate blood sugar levels and reduces the risk of strokes and other heart diseases.

As the veggie has high fibre content, it helps in colon cleansing. Also radicchio has been used to fight intestinal worms and parasites to great effect. Polyphenols found in radicchio help neutralise free radicals and give a mental sharpness, keen eyesight and lower incidence of stomach flu.



## BACK YOUR BACK

Over four lakh Indians above the age of 60 years are suffering from the symptoms of degenerative scoliosis and over 12 lakh across age brackets have some sort of spinal stenosis. DR SK RAJAN tells you the signs to look out for

**O**ur lower back (Lumbar spine) consists of five big bones aka vertebrae in the lower part of the spine between the ribs and the pelvis with intervening soft cushion like pads referred to as discs. Each of the bones have a hole in them and these holes align to form a pipe for passage of spinal nerves. Narrowing of this passage is referred to as Lumbar Canal Stenosis (LCS). This stenosis results in compression of the nerves traveling through the lower back into the legs.

While it may affect younger population due to developmental (birth related) causes, it is more often a degenerative (wear and tear) condition that affects people age 50 and older. The discs may become less spongy as you age, resulting in reduced disc height and bulging of the hardened disc into the spinal canal. Currently, it is estimated that over four lakh Indians above the age of 60 years are suffering from its symptoms and over 12-15 lakh across age brackets having some sort of spinal stenosis.

Depending on the severity of the condition, Lumbar spinal stenosis may or may not produce symptoms. While the narrowing of the spinal canal itself does not produce the symptoms but due to the inflammation of the nerves caused by the increased pressure attributes to the cause. Varying from person to person the various symptoms include:

- Pain, weakness, or numbness in the legs, calves, or buttocks
- Pain may radiate to one or both the legs (resembling a painful condition referred to as Sciatica)
- In rare cases, there is loss of motor functioning in the legs, and loss of bowel control.
- Excruciating pain while walking that may subside while bending forward, sitting or lying down.

Degenerative spondylolisthesis and degenerative scoliosis (curvature of the spine) are two conditions associated with lumbar spinal stenosis. Degenerative spondylolisthesis (slippage of one vertebra over another) is caused by arthritis of the facet joints. Most commonly, it involves the L4 slipping over the L5 vertebra. It usually is treated with the same conservative or surgical methods as lumbar spinal stenosis.

Degenerative scoliosis occurs most frequently in the lower back and more commonly affects people age 65 and older. Back pain associated with degenerative scoliosis usually begins gradually and is linked with activity. The curvature of the spine in this form of scoliosis often is relatively minor, so surgery is required when conservative methods fail to alleviate pain associated with the condition.

**Diagnosis**  
Based on the medical history, symptoms, hereditary risk factors, physical examination and diagnostic tests are required to confirm the condition. Radiology tests including X-rays, CT Scan and MRI are helpful in identifying the structure of the vertebrae and outline of the joints. These imaging techniques help the surgeons a detailed view of the spinal canal, its content and the structures around it. 3 D imaging produced through MRI are also helpful in analysing the nerve roots, adjacent areas, any enlargements, degeneration or tumors.

In specific cases a myelogram may be required, which is a special X-ray of the spinal cord that is taken after injecting a contrast material in the surrounding cerebrospinal fluids (CSF). This is helpful in monitoring the pressure on the spinal cord or on the related nerves due to the compression, herniated disc, bone spurs or tumors.

**Degenerative scoliosis occurs most frequently in the lower back and more commonly affects people aged 65 and older. Back pain associated with degenerative scoliosis usually begins gradually and is linked with activity**

While medication and physical therapy remain the first line of treatment module, surgical intervention is only preferred when these fails to provide relief.

**Medications & injections:** Anti-inflammatory medications and analgesics may be helpful in the initial stages to subside pain. But in case the pain is persistent of worsens with time, the doctor may prescribe other medications or injections. Epidural injections also help in reducing pain and swelling, but is only a temporary relief method followed.

**Physical therapy:** this along with prescribed exercises may help stabilise your spine, build your endurance and increase your flexibility. Therapy may help you resume your normal

lifestyle and activities. In those cases where these conservative options fail, surgery may be the only resort. Depending upon age, overall health, associated co-morbidities and pre-existing conditions doctors may consider the type of surgery.

**Surgical treatment**  
There are several different surgical procedures that can be utilized, the choice of which is influenced by the severity of your case. In a small percentage of patients, spinal instability may require that spinal fusion be performed — this decision generally is determined prior to surgery. Spinal fusion is an operation that creates a solid union between two or more vertebrae. This procedure may assist in strengthening and stabilising the spine, and may thereby help to alleviate severe and chronic back pain.

**Decompressive laminectomy:** The most common surgery in the lumbar spine is called decompressive laminectomy, in which the laminae (roof) of the vertebrae are removed to create more space for the nerves. A neurosurgeon may perform a laminectomy with or without fusing vertebrae or removing part of a disc. A spinal fusion with or without spinal instrumentation may be recommended when spondylolisthesis or scoliosis occurs with spinal stenosis. Various devices (such as screws or rods) may be used to enhance fusion and support unstable areas of the spine.

The benefits of surgery should always be weighed carefully against its risks. Although a large percentage of lumbar spinal stenosis patients report significant pain relief after surgery, there is no guarantee that surgery will help every individual.

The writer is Head, Spine Surgery, Agrim institute of Neurosciences, Artemis Hospital, Gurugram

## C PLUS



Taking care of your skin's needs is just as important as your overall health.

AAYUSH NARANG tells you how Vitamin C serum can work wonders and do the job

**T**here's a reason why Vitamin C serums became so popular. It has an incredible benefits for skin health because of potent antioxidants. It can help you in brightening your skin, healing surface damage, boosting circulation, stimulating collagen production, and even search free radicals to stop the onset of fine lines and wrinkles. The best news is that a lot of dermatologists recommend Vitamin C serum for all skin types.

Our skin's natural regeneration process gets aided by Vitamin C, which helps our body to heal damaged skin cells. It is touted as one of the best anti-aging ingredients on the market. As consuming antioxidant-rich foods aids your body in fighting off free radicals, topical antioxidants do an equivalent for your skin by helping to offset daily aggressors like UV damage and exposure to air pollution. Even if you're probably getting Vitamin C in your diet, there's no guarantee that it's going straight to your skin. Using serums and other topical products is the most direct to gain these benefits.

Vitamin C's skin-saving benefits aren't restricted to its antioxidant status. It has many other skin-healing assets that make it praiseworthy. For one, because it's highly acidic, when Vitamin C is used topically our skin starts to heal itself by accelerating the assembly of collagen and elastin. Remember: Collagen and elastin are both present protein fibers that help keep skin plump and firm. So, in helping to market collagen production, topical vitamin C can help prevent premature aging of the skin.

Another cool thing about the ingredient is that it contains a property that inhibits your skin's melanin production, which is what causes skin discoloration like dark spots and hyperpigmentation. With continued topical use, Vitamin C can help prevent dark spots from forming within the first place. It's a greater brightening agent that works to fade brown spots without changing normal skin pigmentation.

A serum is that the preferred sort of Vitamin C. They generally comprise a perfect delivery system and are considered to be used before moisturiser. While Vitamin C used in the morning or evening, most people prefer to apply it during the day as its antioxidant assets act as a guard to bounce pollution and other environmental attackers. In terms of when you should use it in your routine, a three-step system of cleansing, treating, and moisturising. That second step would be Vitamin C application, followed by moisturiser unless you've got oilier skin and like to use a serum on its own.

If you're new to using the ingredient on your skin, start slowly. It's potent stuff, so you only need a few drops for each application. It's best to start out with a low concentration and work your way up as your skin grows more accustomed to the ingredient.

The writer is Sales and Marketing Head, International Business, Rowan Biocuticals

## DadiKaKehna

*Our hair becomes dull and lifeless during monsoon. But there are many ingredients in our kitchen that can help restore the shine and give the bounce. ROSHANI DEVI shares tips that can help*



**R**ain brings its share of woes. More so when it comes to hair care — be it dry and frizzy or oily and sticky. One of the best remedies to take care of frizz is to make a paste by soaking fenugreek seeds overnight in water, add two ripe bananas and one egg white apply it to the hair and keep it for an hour. Wash using a mild shampoo.

Mix yoghurt with a teaspoon of honey. Apply it to the scalp and hair once a week as it takes care of

dullness. One can soak almond paste to be mixed with banana will take care of dryness.

Applying coconut oil 15 minutes before you shampoo helps in pre-conditioning the hair. It makes hair less greasy.

This is the season for amla. Apply amla pulp mixed with lemon juice. Massage this in the hair and leave it overnight. Wash off with shampoo in the morning.

Soak methi seeds in water overnight. Strain the water the next day and use this water to wash your hair. This will take care of the dandruff and dryness.



## TIPTOP

**N**ational Faecal Sludge & Septage Management (NFSSM) Alliance brought together country's leading policy makers and city leaders to deliberate on Opportunities for Co-Treatment of Septage at Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs), through a webinar on July 30, 2020. The discussions focused on recognising the potential for cities and towns to convert existing underutilised sewage treatment plants (STPs) to co-treatment facilities to bring down the contamination of water bodies across the country.

The keynote speaker Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, Director General of National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMC) said: "Fast but unorganised urbanization has put a load on natural resources. The system has not been able to give as much priority to wastewater management, or any other waste disposal, as compared to services such as provision of drinking water and other infrastructure needs."

## SLIMLINE

**A**ntara, a part of the \$3 bln Max Group, has announced remote COVID care packages customised for seniors. The comprehensive and contactless COVID Care at Home packages are designed for seniors with mild symptoms to avoid the hassle of hospitalisation. This announcement follows Antara's recent foray into the 'Assisted Care Services' space with the launch of two new lines of business — 'Care Homes' and 'Care at Home'.

Antara's 15-day Home Isolation Care

Speaking about his experience in Kanpur while working for the Clean Ganga Mission, he highlighted the huge capacity utilisation gap that was observed in the STPs, along with inadequate presence of a sewage network across the city. He further emphasised on the need for co-treatment especially in river cities in order to curb the dumping of septage into river bodies. "There is an essential need to focus on the interests of river cities by merging urban planning with river management," he said.

The NFSSM Alliance, which works closely with Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, comprises of numerous national and international organisations that are actively working for implementation of sustainable sanitation solutions in the country. The Alliance has been instrumental in the passage of India's first National Policy on FSM in 2017 which cascaded to 19+ states in India.

Package aims to help patients with mild symptoms recover at home and offers: Comprehensive remote assessment for holistic care; Essential medical kit for health tracking and self-isolation; Daily vital monitoring by nurses, Regular telephonic doctor consults to track progress; Respiratory rehabilitation by experts to aid recovery; Physiological counselling to manage anxiety; a Nutrition plan to boost immunity as well as preventive counselling for non-affected family members.

## INBRIEF

**T**he times of the Covid pandemic proved the importance of yoga to bring positivity, health and mindfulness to everyday life. Yoga became a friend to the world to help people heal themselves from trauma, anxiety, stress and even improve upon their immunity.

In a bid to provide a healthy life to his followers, Grand Master Akshar expanded his digital presence during the lockdown phase. His Facebook Page became the go-to guide to embrace a healthy lifestyle for more than 20 million online users. Many people across the world leveraged the quarantine phase to adopt healthy habits and fitness routine. In this regard, The Akshar Yoga Facebook page came to the rescue of many by providing the right guidance.

Akshar Yoga Ashram also organised many live sessions to address queries of yoga practitioners, Spiritual seekers and Yoga enthusiasts. The sessions were vibrant and full of valuable knowledge. Thousands of people attended these live programs to have their queries answered about various issues such as health, wellness, stress, anxiety, Diabetes, blood pressure and so much more.

The courses that were conducted included weight loss exercises, yoga for beginners, yoga for therapy, daily yoga classes for overall fitness, stress relief, mental balance and more.

Special Himalayan meditation techniques were revealed by Grand Master Akshar, such as Siddho Hum Dhyana, Aarambh Dhyana, Chandra Graham Meditation and Surya Graham Meditation. He is dedicated towards the welfare of people and is actively involved in spreading awareness on yoga. He has also launched many books of yoga and its benefits across the levels — beginners, advanced, professional.

**Trend**  
*Blazer*

**Kangana slams Ayushmann**

Actor **KANGANA RANAUT** has slammed **Ayushmann Khurrana** for allegedly sympathising with Rhea Chakraborty, who has been accused of abetting actor Sushant Singh Rajput's suicide.

In response to a tweet which alleges that Ayushmann has been supporting Rhea and star kids because he wants to survive in Bollywood and is YRF's talent, Kangana's team wrote, "Chaploos outsiders support mafia only for one reason, their mediocrity. Nobody is threatened by them and they take full advantage of conflicts faced by few like Kangana and SSR by openly denying and mocking them."



**'For online education, you need certain equipment and parents who can teach you at home. If you go to a village or a slum, such facilities are not available there. As a result, you will see a huge inequality and disparity in education. The attempt of every government should be to reduce that inequality.'**

**—Atul Kulkarni**

**AAMIR KHAN** fans will have to wait for yet another year to pass before they can catch their superstar on the screen.



His next release, *Laal Singh Chaddha*, was set for a Christmas release this year, but the film will now arrive on Christmas 2021, owing to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The film is based on the 1994 Tom Hanks blockbuster *Forrest Gump*. Portions of the film has already been shot in Chandigarh and Kolkata before the nationwide lockdown was imposed. It also features Kareena Kapoor Khan and Mona Singh. It is adapted by Atul Kulkarni and directed by Advait Chandan.

**Billie finds social media terrifying**

British actor **BILLIE PIPER** feels social media is terrifying. In an interview, Piper spoke about her fame and how she deals with social media.

"Let's put it this way, I wouldn't have wanted to be a famous pop star now. The social media element is terrifying because it's continuous, it's in your bed, next to your bedside table every night. In my pop career there were moments that were horrible to experience as a teenager, but they came and went. Now it's got worse," she said.



Driving with car windows open could mean more foul air for you

Next time when you roll down the car windows for some fresh air, think again. According to researchers, including one of Indian-origin, car users from the world's least affluent cities are exposed to at least 80 per cent more in-car air pollution because they rely heavily on opening their windows for ventilation.

For the study, published in the journal *Science of the Total Environment*, the research team investigated air pollution exposure levels for commuters in 10 different global cities across the world, including Chennai.

"To be blunt, we need as many cars as possible off the road, or more green vehicles to reduce air pollution exposure," said study researcher Prashant Kumar from the University of Surrey in the UK.

"Air-conditioned cars are unattainable for many poor and vulnerable commuters across the world, but our data is clear and coherent for all 10 participating cities," Kumar added.

According to the World

**Keep the glass shield**



Health Organisation (WHO), air pollution kills an estimated seven million people worldwide every year and nine out of 10 people breathe air with high levels of pollutants.

The research team investigated PM2.5 and PM10 exposure levels inside vehicles during peak hours in the morning and evening, as well as off-peak hours in the middle of the day.

The scientists measured how exposure levels changed when drivers used recirculation systems, fans and simply opened the windows.

The study discovered that drivers in some of the world's poorest cities experienced higher levels of in-car pollution.

Irrespective of the city and car model used, a windows-open setting showed the highest exposure,

followed by fan-on and recirculation.

Pollution exposure for windows-open during off-peak hours was 91 per cent and 40 per cent less than morning and evening peak hours, respectively.

The study also found that the windows-open setting exposed car passengers to hotspots of air pollution for up to a third of the total travel length.

The findings also showed that commuters who turn on the recirculation are exposed to around 80 per cent less harmful particles than those who open their car windows.

Car cabin filters were more effective in removing pollution than fine particles, suggesting that if new cars had more efficient filters, it could reduce the overall exposure of car commuters.

"The study has drawn important conclusions that can help commuters make decisions in their day-to-day lives to protect their health," said study researcher Abdus Salam from the University of Dhaka in Bangladesh.

"Simple choices, like travelling during off-peak hours, can go a long way in reducing their exposure to air pollution," Salam said.

—IANS

**IS IT A NEW BEGINNING?**

With a pandemic at hand, the future of global higher education seems bleak. So what's the way out? Dr MARK C ELLIOTT, Vice Provost for International Affairs at the Harvard University, suggests answers



Trends in higher education have for a long time pointed towards a greater internationalisation of student enrollments, teaching staff, extra-curricular content and research networks. It accelerates the advancement of scholarship in every field and discipline, leading most surveys of higher education to rely on some measure of "globalisation" in determining their rankings.

Today, however, the future of international higher education seems quite bleak. By forcing a halt to nearly all international travel, the pandemic has interrupted the normal movement of people within and between the world's universities, isolating us from one another in unprecedented ways. Even before the emergence of the novel Coronavirus, resurgent nationalism and xenophobia around the world were already leading some to question the value of a globalised system of higher education. Now, the question is — what does the future of internationalisation in higher education look like after the global pandemic? The Association of Indian Universities recently collaborated with the US Embassy in New Delhi to seek the answers through a special lecture series titled — *The Future of Higher Education*.

The main speaker of the webinar, Dr Mark C Elliott, Vice Provost for International Affairs, Harvard University, said that the American diplomacy and Indian higher education, both remain equally committed to the values of spreading knowledge about educational opportunities in the US and in India. And this series is a wonderful evidence of that. "The promulgation of the new National Education Policy 2020 (NEP) promises a new beginning in education at all levels in the country and lay the foundation for a brighter future for all citizens regardless of birth, religion or socio-economic situations. In the higher education sector, the NEP also points to a future in which Indian higher education is more agile and firmly balanced with that of the rest of the world. It's a good thing and comes at a very great time," said he.

Given the present moment, it is appropriate to consider this question — what does COVID-19 change? According to Dr Elliott, the answer to this is either the pandemic changes everything or it changes nothing. He said, "In the short-term, it is clear that the pandemic has indeed brought massive changes in the patterns of international higher education. In the long-term, those patterns will be permanently changed, too. But that's not our answer. What I have learnt is that change typically happens more slowly than we think."

**THERE IS A BIG MARKET FOR EDUCATION IN INDIA. HENCE, FOREIGN UNIVERSITIES ARE SETTING UP CAMPUSES IN THE COUNTRY AND JOINT PROGRAMMES WITH INDIAN INSTITUTIONS ARE ON THE CARDS**

The changes that he has seen at Harvard in the last 20 years or so, more or less during his time at the University, suggest a profound transformation in how they recruit students, faculty, scholars and the research pattern. This transformation is



broadly applicable to all American research universities. It is reasonable to expect that these transformations will soon be coming to India.

"The enormous experiment in online education will leave us all permanently changed. We would be far more willing to participate in long-distance educational ventures. The work we have been doing in this area for the last few years would be seen as preparatory to a more widespread turn to online teaching, education and knowledge transfer. Universities will become more involved in this domain than before," he added.

Excerpts of a conversation between Dr Pankaj Mittal, Secretary General at The Association of Indian Universities, and Dr Elliott:

**Dr Mittal: As the new National Education Policy 2020 allows the top 100 foreign universities to set up campuses in India, does Harvard has any plan of establishing itself here?**

**Dr Elliott:** We have no plans to estab-

lish a campus anywhere in the world. It's a question that many institutions have been asking. We have thought about it and the answer so far is that we don't think this would work as the experiences cannot be replicated. For now, the prevailing opinion is that the students want to come to our institution to study. We believe in being global and local at the same time. We are pretty happy with our connections. But I have no doubt that among the 100 institutions, there will be growing opportunities.

**Dr Mittal: What can be the strategy for India to attract international students?**

**Dr Elliott:** This is one of the greatest challenges. Indian students are among the most talented in the world and Harvard and other American universities would be much stronger with the addition of really talented, creative and hardworking scholars and scientists from India. I know from my visits to many campuses that efforts have been underway in some universities. I hope that the NEP will provide more

room for these universities to grow and to have the kind of autonomy and independence that is vital for success for all institutions of higher education. There is a big market for education in India. Hence, foreign universities are setting up campuses in the country and joint programmes with Indian institutions are on the cards.

**Dr Mittal: Is there any scope of online education for Indian students?**

**Dr Elliott:** Here, I can offer a positive response. It's already in place. The institution has thousands of courses online, that too totally free. There are different ways in which it has been structured. We will be redoubling our efforts in the digital learning space soon.

**Dr Mittal: But the online courses don't provide degrees...**

**Dr Elliott:** Harvard is not a typical American school. We are a pretty conservative institution. We are hesitant for online degrees yet.

**BHUMI STANDS FOR SUSTAINABILITY**



Actor Bhumi Pednekar is an environmentally conscious citizen who has taken up climate conservation as a cause to raise awareness among fellow Indians. Bhumi has launched an initiative called *Climate Warrior* through which she is mobilising people to contribute towards the environment. The actor is battling for sustainability and says it's vital for climate protection.

"I believe in repeating clothes. I don't think that people might see me wearing the same clothes because as an actor you



are told to always wear different and new outfits but, honestly, I don't care. There are so many business which I have come across where people are renting clothes. I love the idea, says Bhumi.

She adds, "Even personally, between me and my sister, our wardrobe is pretty much one. We share clothes. We keep repeating clothes and we have no problem with that. In the last two years, I have consciously started seeing how climate conscious the brand is before I wear them. Today, we have enough options of

such brands."

Bhumi feels the whole world is shifting towards sustainability in a big way. She says, "And, rightly so. If you have noticed, there is large shift in the way brands are now dealing with sustainability. Most of the high fashion, luxury brands are slowly and steady turning towards sustainability. I really hope that the process happens a lot faster. Unfortunately, with recycled and up-cycled fashion, the price difference is a lot and it's not affordable to everybody."

# STILL HUNGRY TO PLAY

## England pacer Anderson ignores retirement whispers, eager to bounce back



James Anderson celebrates the dismissal of Babar Azam during 2nd day of 1st Test AP  
AFP ■ SOUTHAMPTON

James Anderson insisted on Monday he is still "hungry" to play Test cricket after speculation the England great was considering retirement. Anderson recently turned 38, an age where many previous pace bowlers would have long since retired. Given his age, Anderson's meagre match haul of 1/97 during England's three-wicket win in the first Test against Pakistan completed on Saturday inevitably led to speculation about his future. By his own admission, Anderson, England's all-time leading wicket-taker, "did not bowl very well" at his Old

Trafford home ground, where one of the ends is named after him, as England went 1-0 up in a three-match series. But the swing specialist, whose 590 wickets are the most taken by any paceman in Test history, said he should not be written off after one poor game. "I want to play as long as I possibly can," Anderson told reporters during a conference call on Monday. "If I keep bowling the way I did this week, the opportunity to retire will be taken out of my hands. It will be a selection issue," he added ahead of Thursday's second Test at Southampton. "I'm still hungry to play the game. I think the frustration for

me this week was that, after one bad game...the sort of whispers (about retirement) that go around, I don't think that's really fair."

**'EMOTIONAL'**  
Reflecting on his own performance in the first Test, Anderson said: "It's one of those things, everyone has a bad game, every now and then."

"I've not bowled very well and felt out of rhythm. For the first time in probably 10 years I got a little bit emotional on the field, got a bit frustrated, let it get to me a little bit."

"It reminded me of when I first started playing, when you get frustrated and a little bit angry you try to bowl quicker and quicker and it doesn't help. Hopefully, I can show people I've still got what it takes to play Test cricket."

Anderson, a veteran of 154 Tests, added: "I don't think it's the toughest period of my career. I'm sure I'll have another bad game in my career. I just don't want every time I have a bad game for there to be whispers going round that I'm going to pack in."

Anderson is now in sight of becoming the first pace bowler to take 600 Test wickets and overhauling the England Test appearance record of 161 held by retired former captain Alastair Cook, one of his best friends in cricket.

"I want to be bowling well and contributing to England winning games of cricket," said Anderson. "That's been my focus throughout my career and will continue to be my focus. If I get 600 wickets then great; if I don't, then I'm happy with what I've got."

As for surpassing opening batsman Cook's cap record, which would be a remarkable achievement for a pace bowler, Anderson said: "154 does sound like quite a lot of games. But I feel like I've still got quite a few more left in me. If I can go past Cooky it will probably be the one thing I've got up on him."

## Buttler should always be in Eng Test side: Warne

PTI ■ MANCHESTER

Jos Buttler is the "whole package" and that is why the wicketkeeper-batsman should be a regular in England's Test side, feels Australian spin great Shane Warne.

Buttler was under immense scrutiny due to lapses behind the stumps during the first Test against Pakistan last week. He missed two chances against opener Shan Masood on 45, who went on to score 156, helping Pakistan put up 326 on the board in their first innings.

However, the 29-year-old, who had also been struggling with the bat for some time, played a crucial 75-run knock in the second innings and shared a century stand with Chris Woakes to help England win the first Test by three wickets.

"He should always be in the side. Jos is a very good and reliable keeper but, occasionally, you're going to have a few bad days — it wasn't easy out there, either," Warne told *Sky Sports*.

"But Jos should always be in your side because of what he's capable of, with the bat especially. And then his keeping, he's a good leader among the team as well — there's a calmness about him — he's the whole package."

"He's always one of the first pencilled in for me," Warne added.

Buttler changed the complexion of the game with his aggressive batting. He struck seven boundaries and a six in his 101 ball-75, helping England, who were reeling at 117 for five, chase



down the 277 run target.

"What really impressed me with Buttler was the way he went about it, he trusted himself, said 'I'm the man, I'm going to get this done'."

Warne added that Buttler's positive approach helped his non-striker Woakes, who struck a match-winning unbeaten 84 after having averaged only 5.22 in his last six Tests.

"He just played beautifully; and that helped Woakes at the other end, who had been struggling for form, but came in and played extremely well. I'm very happy for Woakes and, in particular, Buttler. It was a fantastic chase, against a quality attack, on a good pitch," he said.

## Pak must move on from Old Trafford defeat: Misbah

**Manchester:** Pakistan cannot dwell on their defeat by England in the first Test at Old Trafford as it would make it tougher for them to respond in the next two matches, coach Misbah-ul-Haq has said. "It was a thrilling Test match and full credit must go to England for the way they fought back, came from behind and took the game away from us," Misbah wrote in his column on the Pakistan Cricket Board's website. "There is disappointment,

of course, but we must not keep that feeling in our minds otherwise it will be difficult to come back... the team believes we can fight back.

"Sometimes luck doesn't favour you, sometimes the opposition plays well — that's the beauty of the game."

Misbah praised opener Shan Masood, who scored 156 in the first innings, as well as pacemen Shaheen Afridi and Naseem Shah who picked up two wickets each.

"It was a brave decision to

bat first against England's bowling attack in those conditions," the 46-year-old said.

"Shan Masood batted really well and... should be given a lot of credit for his innings. He's been working so hard... he's changed a few things in his setup. He's a different batsman."

"The bowling was also excellent. It's a young seam attack, apart from Mohammad Abbas, and both Shaheen Afridi and Naseem Shah did really well." **Agencies**



## BCCI receive Govt approvals for IPL in UAE

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The BCCI has received the central Government's formal approval to conduct this year's Indian Premier League in the UAE, IPL Chairman Brijesh Patel revealed on Monday.

The IPL boss also said that BCCI, in all likelihood, will announce the tournament's new title sponsors by August 18. There will be a seven-day window for interested companies to submit the bid.

The Government had last week given an "in principle" go-ahead to the BCCI to shift the marquee league starting from September 19 to November 10 in three UAE cities — Sharjah, Abu Dhabi and Dubai due to rising cases of Covid-19 in the country.

"Yes, we have received all the written approvals," Patel said when asked whether the permission has come in writing from both the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

When an Indian sports body shifts a domestic tournament abroad, it requires clearance from Home, External and sports ministries respectively.

"Once we had the verbal okay from the Government, we had intimated the Emirates Cricket Board. Now we have the papers also, so franchises can be intimated that everything is in order," a veteran BCCI official said.

Most of the franchises will be flying out after August 20 after two mandatory RT-PCR (Covid-19 tests) conducted within 24 hours from their departure base.

The Chennai Super Kings players and staff, who are leaving on August 22, will have a small camp at the Chepauk on the insistence of skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

The BCCI is also facing problems on the sponsorship front after calling off the title deal with Chinese mobile phone company Vivo for the current year due to massive public outrage over the Sino-India border stand-off.

It was a ₹440 crore deal and as BCCI looks at potential sponsors, Baba Ramdev's Patanjali has shown interest in becoming the new title sponsor.

Patel, however, expressed confidence that a lot of companies are interested in becoming IPL sponsors.

"It is not a setback (Vivo pulling out), there is already a lot of interest (for title rights). Whether an Indian company or from anywhere else, whoever bids the most gets the rights. We will finalise the whole process by August 18," Patel said.



Atletico Madrid players train during team's training session ATM/Twitter

## 2 Atleti players test virus +ve

Correa & Vrsaljko return positive while other remain unaffected as the Spanish giants prepare for Champions League quarters

AFP ■ MADRID

Atletico Madrid breathed a sigh of relief on Monday after further coronavirus tests on their players and staff turned up negative, allowing the team to travel to Portugal on Tuesday for their Champions League quarter-final against Leipzig. Tests at the weekend had revealed two coronavirus cases at the club, which Atletico confirmed on Monday to be players Angel Correa and Sime Vrsaljko.

Both players are asymptomatic and will remain isolated at home while the rest of the squad will return to training in the Spanish capital on Monday afternoon, before flying to Lisbon on Tuesday for Thursday's game against Leipzig.

"The first team and members of the coaching staff underwent new PCR tests yesterday, the result of which has been negative in all of them, after the appearance of two positive cases in the tests carried out on Saturday," Atletico announced on Monday.

"As a result, 21 first-team footballers plus academy players Alex Dos Santos, Manu Sanchez, Riquelme and Toni Moya will travel to the Portuguese capital tomorrow (Tuesday) to gather for the Champions League quarter-final."

The club said the case of Vrsaljko "is considered resolved by the health authorities as he generated antibodies several months ago."

Atletico added that "tests were also performed on relatives living with the two positive

cases, all of which were also negative."

The original plan was for Atletico to travel to Portugal on Monday night, with a session scheduled on Tuesday at Benfica's Seixal training ground.

The timetable has had to be adjusted but the team will stay in the same hotel in Lisbon, where all the Champions League's remaining games are taking place in a compressed format without fans.

Uefa had stated Atletico would have to have a minimum of 13 players available, including one goalkeeper, to fulfill the fixture, amid fears that more positive cases could emerge.

A planned training session on Monday morning had been called off, with all players and staff instructed to stay at home.

**REGULAR TESTING**  
The 'final eight' format begins with Atalanta against Paris Saint-Germain on Wednesday, with the final scheduled for August 23.

Uefa protocol for the tournament states all clubs must undertake testing between 10 and 14 days before their first game in Portugal, as well as another round of tests before leaving their home country.

Final tests are then completed the day before kick-off, which will be replicated for all further fixtures in the competition.

Atletico were keen to reassure Uefa that they have followed a strict protocol since the La Liga season ended on July 19. Weekly tests were carried out by the club on July 26 and August 2.

## Sancho will stay at Dortmund

AP ■ DORTMUND

England winger Jadon Sancho will stay with Borussia Dortmund for the upcoming season amid reported interest from Manchester United, the club sporting director Michael Zorc said on Monday.

Dortmund "plan on having Jadon Sancho in our team this season, the decision is final. I think

that answers all our questions," Zorc said at a training session.

The 20-year-old England international, who has a contract with the German club until 2022, had a stellar season with the Bundesliga runners-up and has been reportedly targeted by several top clubs, including Manchester United after the club qualified for next season's Champions League.

## Athletics can grow further in post Covid world: Coe

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

World Athletics President Sebastian Coe on Monday claimed that more people took to running to stay fit during the coronavirus-enforced lockdown, something his sport can capitalise on once the world is back to being normal.

Coe said athletics can benefit from the new-found habit of more people taking to walking and running and his sport will try to build on it to broaden its base.

"We are uniquely placed

to help local, regional and national health objectives. Research has shown that throughout the lockdown, more people are exercising than before. Some research even say there is 80 per cent increase at the global exercise pattern," he said at an online media seminar organised by Asian Athletics Federation.

"Athletics is the main beneficiary because people are doing exercise through running or walking. That is a very big asset. We will not take it for granted but will try to build on it in the post pandemic peri-

od. We will be allowing more young people access to our sport," he added.

He said that athletics is one of the better-placed sports amid the pandemic in terms of communication and engagement among the officials as well as the athletes.

"As we come out of the pandemic, the world will be a complicated place. I believe our sport is stronger, better connected, communicating better, more creative and more ingenious. We will come out stronger and with more fortitude than ever before."



Collin Morikawa holds the Wanamaker Trophy after winning the PGA Championship golf tournament at TPC Harding Park on Sunday AP

## Mandeep latest hockey player to catch corona



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian hockey team forward Mandeep Singh has tested positive for Covid-19, becoming the sixth national player to contract the dreaded infection, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) said on Monday.

The 25-year-old from Jalandhar is asymptomatic and is being treated along with the other five players by doctors in Bengaluru, where the national camp is due to start on August 20 at the SAI centre.

"Mandeep Singh, a member of the Indian Men's Hockey team, who was given the Covid test (RT PCR) along with 20 other players at the National Camp at SAI's National Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru, has tested Covid positive, but is asymptomatic," the SAI said in a statement.

"He is being administered treatment by doctors, along with the other five players who have tested positive."



Fiona Ferro, right, and Anett Kontaveit pose with the trophy after final WTA/Twitter

## Ferro upsets Kontaveit to win Palermo Open

AFP ■ PALERMO

Unseeded French player Fiona Ferro beat No 4 seed Anett Kontaveit 6-2, 7-5 in the final to win the 31st Palermo Ladies Open, the tournament marking the return of tennis after a five-month shutdown due to coronavirus.

Ferro needed one hour and 43 minutes to seal the straight-sets victory. Her solid serving saw Ferro deliver four aces in the match helped her ease to a 6-2 win in the first set.

However, Kontaveit who had ousted top seed Petra Martic in the semi-finals started to come into her own at the end of the first set.

The gain in momentum

was evident when she broke early to get into a 2-0 lead but Ferro upped her game to break straight back.

The Frenchwoman won three games on the bounce to make it fives apiece before a service winner saw her through.

It was Ferro's second WTA title win as she maintained fine form since the coronavirus lockdown when she had gone unbeaten in two exhibition tournaments before the Palermo Open.

She won the first WTA event after the pandemic dropping just one set.

"This title means a lot, especially after five tough months of practice," Ferro said after the game.

## Willian confirms Chelsea exit

The Brazilian who spent seven years at the club won two Premier League titles, an FA Cup, a League Cup and the Europa League at Stamford Bridge

The 32-year-old Brazil winger has been linked with a move to Arsenal after he failed to agree a new contract with the Blues.

Willian rejected Tottenham Hotspur to join Chelsea from Russian outfit Anzhi Makhachkala for £30 million (\$39 million) in 2013.

He scored 63 goals in 339 appearances and won five trophies, two Premier League titles, an FA Cup, a League Cup and the Europa League.

However, an ankle injury prevented him playing in the FA Cup final loss to Arsenal and Saturday's Champions League last 16 second leg thumping by Bayern Munich.

"The time has now come to move

After five wonderful years my stage at Chelsea FC comes to an end. Thanks a lot to the club's board, to the coaches and teammates I've had, and of course to the fans: thank you for the experience of being a member of your big family. I've been very happy here, you've made me feel like home.

It's been a pleasure and an honour to play for this club and win the Premier League, FA Cup and Europa League titles, as well as competing in one of the world's best football leagues. I made the right choice, I take with me wonderful and unforgettable memories.

I say farewell very pleased with this stage of my career, and I'm also very excited with the next to begin. Thanks and good luck for the future. Come on Blues!!!

I am certainly going to miss my team-mates," he said.

"I will miss all the staff at the club who've always treated me like a son and

I will miss the fans.

"I leave with my head held high, safe in the knowledge that I won things here and always did my best in a Chelsea shirt."

Willian — a member of the Brazil squads at the 2014 and 2018 World Cup finals — said he had never regretted his preferring Chelsea to London rivals Spurs.

"They were seven wonderful years. In August 2013 when I received the offer from Chelsea, I was convinced that this was where I had to play," he said.

"Today I am certain that it was the best of decisions. There were so many happy times, some sad, there were tro-

phies and it was always very intense. "There was also criticism, which is normal, what is important though is that both the affection and criticism drove me to always give my all in every training session, every game, to be constantly improving until my very last minute in a Chelsea shirt."

Willian leaves along with fellow veteran Spain winger Pedro, who is joining AS Roma on a free transfer.

The 33-year-old European championships and World Cup winner also issued a heartfelt farewell message as he brought the curtain down on his half a decade spell at the club.

"After five wonderful years my stage at Chelsea FC comes to an end," he wrote on *Instagram*.

"It's been a pleasure and an honour to play for this club and win the Premier League, FA Cup and Europa League titles, as well as competing in one of the world's best football leagues."

"I made the right choice, I take with me wonderful and unforgettable memories."