

**OPINION 6**  
PLEDGE OF  
INDEPENDENCE

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RBI TO PAY ₹57,128 CRORE  
DIVIDEND TO GOVT

**SPORT 12**  
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# the pioneer

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY

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## Cong wins Raj trust

Gehlot mocks BJP for abortive bid to topple his Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/JAIPUR

The Ashok Gehlot dispensation won the confidence motion by a voice vote in the Rajasthan Assembly on Friday, ending the threat to its existence triggered by a rebellion within the Congress ranks in the State led by his former deputy Sachin Pilot.

The motion of confidence moved by Rajasthan Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shanti Dhariwal was passed by voice vote, an expected win after the return of the 19 disident Congress MLAs led by Pilot to the party-fold.

Replying to the debate on the motion, Gehlot criticised the BJP, accusing it again of trying to bring down his Government. "I will not let the Government topple at any cost even if you make all attempts," he said.

Gehlot said the crisis had come to an end in a beautiful manner and this had hurt the BJP. "What was done in Arunachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Goa, Madhya Pradesh? Elected Governments are being toppled and democracy is under danger," he said, accusing the BJP of targeting the Congress Governments.

Without taking names, he alleged that a Union Minister was involved in the conspiracy to topple his Government, saying this had become clear after some audio clips surfaced.

The indirect reference was to Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, who had earlier rejected the Congress allegation.

Gehlot also questioned



whether agencies like ED, CBI and Income Tax department are not being misused in the country? "When you hold conversation on telephone, don't you say the other person to join you on Facebook and WhatsApp. Is this good thing in a democracy?" the CM said.

Gehlot also took potshots on the role of Governor with whom he and his party had to struggle to call the Special Session as the Raj Bhavan was reluctant.

"The post of the Governor has lost its dignity. Don't provoke me or else I will be forced to share what transpired between the Governor and me. I think the Governor was under pressure. Hundered editorials have been written about the situation in the State after the Governor returned the file on the State Government's wish to convene an Assembly session. The job of the Governor is no more than asking to prove majority in the House," Gehlot said in the Assembly.

Using his speech during

the debate, Pilot said, "I want to tell that whatever I or my companions had to say, we have told the doctor (Congress high command) about our complaints. The MLAs are now all together in the Assembly after receiving the treatment."

Rajasthan BJP chief Satish Poonia said the State Congress Government is suffering from a "political corona", even though it has won the vote of confidence. Poonia remarked that the way Pilot spoke in the Assembly makes it clear that there are still some differences between Gehlot and Pilot.

On Poonia's comments

accused the Gehlot camp of blaming it for the infighting within the Congress.

Targeting the Chief Minister for his comments against his now sacked deputy, Leader of Opposition Gulab Chand Kataria questioned how Pilot became useless after the formation of the Government when he had strengthened the party while in Opposition.

Continued on Page 2

### I am the strongest warrior of Cong, avows Sachin Pilot

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Hitting out at the Opposition over its criticism of the recent political developments in Rajasthan, former Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot on Friday described himself as the "strongest warrior" of the Congress and said he would protect his party at all costs.

Pilot, who has returned to the Congress fold after a month-long rebellion against Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, made the remarks during the debate on a motion of confidence in the Assembly.

During the debate, Deputy Leader of the Opposition Rajendra Rathore mentioned Pilot's name in various matters, including the recent political developments in the State and a Special Operations Group (SOG) notice issued to him.

Continued on Page 2

## Covid 2.5 mn and counting

5.50L cases in past 10 days in India; Health Joint Secy Luv Agarwal tests +ve

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

### Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL

CASES: 25,25,144

DEATHS: 49,134

RECOVERED:

18,05,246

ACTIVE: 6,70,276



Overall, five States with the biggest 24-hour jump in total cases are Maharashtra (12,608), Andhra Pradesh (8,943), Karnataka (7,908), Tamil Nadu (5,890) and Uttar Pradesh (4,512).

Meanwhile, the face of India's Covid-19 fight, Luv Agarwal, joint secretary of the Health Ministry, has also tested coronavirus positive.

"Dear All, just to inform that I have tested positive for Covid-19 and initiating home isolation as per guidelines. Requesting all my friends, colleagues for self monitoring. Contact tracing will be done by health team. Hoping to see everyone soon," he tweeted.

The condition of noted singer Balasubrahmanyam deteriorated and based on the advice of expert medical team attending to him, he has been moved to ICU and he is on life support and his condition remains critical.

According to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, India conducted record 8,48,728 tests for detection of

coronavirus in a day with an aim to achieve a daily target of 10 lakh and recovery rate rose to 71.17 per cent. The fatality rate has declined to 1.95 per cent. Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan claimed the recovery rate of Covid-19 patients in India is the best in the world.

Maharashtra reported 12608 fresh cases and 364 deaths in the last 24 hours, taking the total tally to 5,72,734 including 19,427 deaths. Nagpur district of Maharashtra recorded its highest single-day spike of over 1,000 coronavirus cases in the last 24 hours. Mumbai has reported 979 new infections and 47 deaths, taking the total tally to 1,28,550 and 7,035 deaths so far. The coronavirus case tally in the

STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	5,72,734	19,427	4,01,442
Tamil Nadu	3,26,245	5,514	2,67,015
Andhra Pradesh	2,73,085	2,475	1,80,703
Karnataka	2,11,108	3,718	1,28,182
Delhi	1,50,652	4,178	1,35,108
Uttar Pradesh	1,45,287	2,335	92,526
West Bengal	1,10,358	2,319	81,189
Bihar	98,370	500	65,307
Telangana	88,396	674	64,284
Gujarat	76,569	2,746	59,622
Assam	74,502	175	49,384
Rajasthan	58,692	846	43,897
Odisha	54,630	377	39,206
Haryana	45,614	518	38,348
Madhya Pradesh	43,414	1,081	32,405
Kerala	41,277	140	26,992

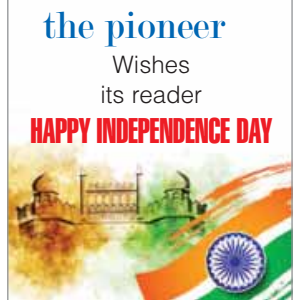
### Amit Shah tests -ve, to stay put in home isolation

**New Delhi:** Home Minister Amit Shah, who was undergoing treatment for coronavirus at a private hospital in Gurugram, has tested negative. Shah, 55, said on the advice of the doctors, he will be in home isolation for the next few days.

"Today, my corona test report has come and it is negative. I thank God and express my heartfelt gratitude to all those who wished for my recovery," he tweeted.

He also thanked the doctors and paramedical staff of Medanta Hospital.

Continued on Page 2



### CAPSULE

#### BIHAR POLL: KEY ROLE FOR FADNAVIS LIKELY

**New Delhi:** The BJP is expected to give former Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis a key role in the Bihar election, due later this year.

#### CONSTABLE KILLED IN MAHA NAXAL ATTACK

**Nagpur/Mumbai:** A constable was killed and his colleague injured in a Naxal attack in Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra on Friday morning, police said.

#### DECOMPOSED BODY OF AIIMS DOC RECOVERED

**New Delhi:** The decomposed body of a 40-year-old AIIMS doctor was found hanging from the ceiling of his rented accommodation in South Delhi's Hauz Khas area on Friday afternoon, police said. Police received information about foul smell emanating from a house in Gautam Nagar.

## J&K Police scoops 2nd highest peacetime gallantry medal

ITBP recommends gallantry medals for 21 jawans who fought PLA troops

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Jammu & Kashmir Police has bagged the Kirti Chakra, the second highest peacetime gallantry medal that comes after the Ashok Chakra on the eve of 74th Independence Day and also earned a Shaurya Chakra, the third highest in precedence in the category. The J&K Police also topped the list of winners of Police Medals for Gallantry (PMG) by bagging 81 medals.

The CRPF follows the J&K Police with 51 medals, mostly for operations conducted in Jammu & Kashmir.

While the Kirti Chakra was awarded posthumously to Head Constable of Jammu & Kashmir Police Abdul Rashid Kalas, the Shaurya Chakra went to Deputy Inspector General of the J&K Police Amit Kumar.

The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) on Friday has



recommended gallantry medals to 21 troops who fought against China's People Liberation Army (PLA) in Eastern Ladakh in May-June, for this year's Independence Day.

The ITBP has accorded 294 commendation rolls and insignias to the paramilitary personnel for "displaying raw courage and bravery during face-offs and skirmishes in Eastern Ladakh in May-June, 2020," on the eve of the national festival.

"The ITBP troops not only effectively used shields to protect themselves but also responded fiercely to PLA advancing troops and brought

the situation under control. With the highest order of professional skills, ITBP troops fought shoulder to shoulder and also brought the injured Indian Army troops to the rear," the ITBP said in a statement highlighting the bravery against the treachery of the PLA troops.

It further said, "Even when the ITBP troops fought the whole night, they received minimum casualties by giving befitting reply to the stone pelters of the PLA. At places, they gave a determined stand-off about 17 to 20 hours throughout the intervening nights."

Continued on Page 2

## SC holds Prashant Bhushan guilty of contempt of court

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday held activist-lawyer Prashant Bhushan guilty of criminal contempt for his two derogatory tweets against the judiciary saying they cannot be said to be a fair criticism of the functioning of the judiciary made in the public interest.

Holding that Bhushan attempted to scandalise the entire institution of the Supreme Court, the SC said: "If such an attack is not dealt with, with requisite degree of firmness, it may affect the national honour."

A bench of Justices Arun Mishra, BR Gavai and Krishna Murari said: "The tweets which are based on the distorted facts, in our considered view, amount to committing criminal contempt. In the result, we hold alleged contemnor No.1 - Mr. Prashant Bhushan guilty of having committed criminal contempt of this court."

The SC however discharged the notice issued to Twitter Inc after accepting its explanation that it is only an intermediary and does not have any control on what the users post on the platform.

Continued on Page 2

## Don't exceed your brief on sealing in Delhi, SC warns monitoring panel

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Encroachment is a matter of concern but the monitoring committee, set up in 2006 to identify unauthorised structures and check misuse of residential properties in Delhi, "cannot exceed its power" and take any action beyond its authorisation, the Supreme Court said on Friday.

A bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra said at no point of time, the SC has empowered the monitoring committee to take action with regard to "residential premises not used for commercial purpose" and it is not authorised to take action concerning residential premises

es situated on private land.

The SC said this in its verdict in which it dealt with the authority of monitoring committee to seal residential premises on private land, when they are not being used for commercial purpose.

It directed the properties, sealed as per the committee's April last year report, be de-sealed and possession be restored to the owners. "Let this order be complied with within three days. However, we clarify that this order does not at all mean to belittle the yeoman service done by the monitoring committee for protection of Delhi," it said.

Continued on Page 2

"IN THESE POLICIES, THE INVESTMENT RISK IN THE INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO IS BORNE BY THE POLICYHOLDER"

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# Govt to honour 7 Covid warriors on I-Day

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party Government in Delhi invited seven corona warriors, who have risked their life for helping Covid infected, to an event to be held at the Delhi Secretariat on the occasion of Independence Day.

The corona warriors, who have served the people during the corona pandemic and worked in the fields of administrative, medical, nursing, police, civil defense, and sanitation, are serving the corona affected people by risking their lives.

Due to their hard work, effort and dedication, timely treatment, food, and other relief materials could be provided to

the affected people and the Delhi model was recognized all over the world.

The Delhi Government has made special invites to these Corona warriors for the Independence Day program, in appreciation of the work of the Corona warriors who have made special contributions during the Corona crisis. The Corona Warriors will represent the people working in their fields during the event to be held tomorrow. They say that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's government has given them a lot of respect by honoring them with the title of Corona Warrior.

Rajeev Singh Parihar, ADM (Central), Central District and was the Nodal officer on

COVID duty.

He said, "The ADM is the CEO of the disaster management authority of a district, and during the Corona lockdown, I was responsible for the movement of migrants to other states through buses and trains. I was also responsible for shifting the migrants into Hunger Relief Centres and I was in charge of supervising the provision of food and all other amenities to migrants staying there. There were many challenges in the task but I am happy that I was a part of the whole operation. It was a team effort and I am happy that our efforts have paid off."

Dr. Hirdesh Kumar is a resident of Dwarka and was posted in Rajiv Gandhi Super

Specialty Hospital (RGSSH) on COVID duty for a duration of 2- days. During his duty, he was made the in-charge for the flu and testing clinic in the RGSSH.

He said, "I was posted at the Rajiv Gandhi Hospital in the capacity of diverted posting. I am a full-time doctor at Acharya Bhikshu Hospital, which is a non-COVID hospital. I was posted at the diagnostics section and I used to examine 60-70 patients daily. I also used to supervise the patients on the basis of whether they need Corona tests or not, and if they needed to be tested for Corona, their tests were conducted on the same day. On receiving their test results the next day, I used to guide and counsel the patients on whether

they should remain isolated at home, in a care centre, or get admitted to a hospital. I also used to brief the patients on how to practice home isolation and how to get other family members tested. I am very happy to be receiving the title of a Corona Warrior. If my work is being recognized, it is a matter of great honor for me."

Sonu Nursing Officer, LNJP Hospital, started his duty as a nursing officer on April 2, in the ward of the LNJP hospital in Delhi.

"The ward initially was full. There were 30-35 new patients every day. As a nursing professional, I know that people in my field have to be very caring towards the patients. I feel proud," he added

## CM to address party volunteers across nation

NEW DELHI: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal will address the party volunteers on the occasion of the Independence Day on Saturday after participating in the function organised on the occasion of Independence Day at the Delhi Secretariat.

Kejriwal will hold this virtual address at 4 pm. "On the occasion of Independence Day, National Convener of AAP Arvind Kejriwal will be addressing all volunteers of AAP across India," the party said in a statement. In the light of Covid-19 lockdown norms that prohibit gatherings, Kejriwal will hoist the tricolour and deliver his speech from the Delhi Secretariat this Independence Day, which will be telecast live via the government's social media handles. **SR**

# DDA launches contactless e-conversion, e-EOT services

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) on Friday launched e-conversion and extension of time for construction in plotted properties' services so that the general public can submit their applications online without visiting DDA offices.

These two new services are under the computerised in-house project 'Interactive Disposal of Land Information System' (IDLI) 'System for plotted properties of Land Disposal Department' of DDA.

The new services were inaugurated by Anurag Jain, Vice Chairman of DDA. While inaugurating the services, DDA vice-chairman appreciated Subu R, Commissioner LD and his team for this initiative. He also distributed certificates to the consultant and the programmer involved

in this project.

In July 2019, DDA had launched e-Mutation (Online Mutation Application System) under "IDLI System" for plotted properties, which is running successfully. "All the three services can be availed through single username & password and no offline application for conversion and EOT (extension of time) of plotted properties will be entertained from September," the civic body said in a statement. "These services will reduce the time for processing of applications and bring in transparency, efficiency and accountability in the public services provided by DDA. Through "e-Conversion" and "e-EOT", it will be easy to apply and monitor the property conversion and extension of time application online from anytime, anywhere," it said.

Jain said, "Our goal is to bring in the PM's idea of ease of living to the general public and a drive towards

Atmanirbhar Bharat" He stressed the need for strengthening the grievance redressal mechanism.

To apply for an online conversion application, an applicant has to register with the DDA public services portal of the land disposal department, it said, adding that the page can be accessed from DDA's website www.dda.org.in under 'Online Public Service' Section. An OTP will be sent on the registered email ID and mobile number of the applicant for login. After that, applicant will fill applicant/s details, relation with allottee, property detail, uploading of scanned copy of requisite documents and making online payment of initial conversion charges/ processing fee.

The civic body further said that a registration ID of "e-Conversion" and "e-EOT" will be sent through an auto generated email for future reference.

# Feedback sought to hone Leadership of Excellence in Education Programme

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In the 5th "Leadership of Excellence in Education Programme" concluded on Friday, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia asked all heads of departments to submit feedback to improve the structure of the programme.

The programme started on July 20 and due to the COVID-19, the programme was conducted through the digital medium. 50 principals of Delhi Government schools took 20 sessions from the senior professors of the IIM Ahmedabad in 11 days.

Ritu, one of the principals who attended the programme said, "I was impressed with the closure of the Change topic. It helped us in understanding the need for meaningful communication. Now we understand the significance of mean-

ingful communication with our students, teachers, and parents."

Another principal Dr Rajeshwari Kapri said, "We were experts in our subjects but after becoming principal in 2009, we were not given any kind of managerial training. If we would have gotten this training then, we would have been able to contribute and deliver much more than we have done. We thank our government for transforming us into visionary leaders."

He said, "Team leaders of our schools are working phenomenally well. We want to give diversified training to all of you. It must have been an enriching experience for everyone. It is good for the HoSs to take the online session themselves instead of just asking their teachers to take such sessions for students."

# Man drowns in Yamuna during idol immersion

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 23-year-old man drowned in the Yamuna river during idol immersion in southeast Delhi's Kalindi Kunj area, police said on Friday.

The deceased has been identified as Amit, a resident of Okhla Phase-II. According to R P Meena, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Southeast district, on receiving information about the incident on Thursday, the police rushed to the Shiv Ghat in Kalindi Kunj.

"Three men were pulled out of the river. The two other men were fine but Amit was unconscious," said the DCP.

# 35 police officials to get medals

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

President's Police Medal for Distinguished Services, Meritorious Services and Gallantry has been awarded to 35 men and officers, on the occasion of Independence Day. Police said that 16 personnel have been awarded Police Medals for Gallantry, three for President's Police Medals for Distinguished Service and 16 for Police Medals for Meritorious Service.

The Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Manishi Chandra, Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Govind Sharma, Inspector Vinay Kumar, Inspector Sanjay Gupta, Inspector Rajesh Kumar, Late Inspector Mohan Chand Sharma (posthumously), Sub-Inspector (SI) Banay Singh and Assistant Sub Inspector (ASI) Shiv Mangal Yadav have been awarded President's Police Medal for Gallantry.

The Special Commissioner of Police (Intelligence) Rajesh Khurana, ASI Mahesh Singh Yadav and ASI Bhupender Singh have been awarded President's Police Medal for Distinguished service, while the DCP Amit Roy, DCP Anil Kumar Lall, DCP Mohammad Irshad Haider, ACP Nirmala Devi, Inspector Narendar Kumar, SI Manju Chauhan, ASI Rakesh Kumar Sharma and Head Constable (HC) Mukesh Kumar are among those who have been awarded Police Medal for Meritorious Service.

DCP Manishi Chandra along with Inspector Ravinder Joshi, Inspector Vinod Kumar Badola and SI Banay Singh on October 24, 2013, at about 10.30 PM, after receiving specific inputs regarding notorious and dreaded gangster



Surinder Malik alias Neetu Dabodha and his associates chased a car in different vehicles.

Inspector Mohan Chand Sharma, who was killed during 'Batla House' encounter in National Capital in 2008, has been awarded a Police gallantry medal posthumously for the seventh time on the occasion of Independence Day. Inspector Sharma was conferred with Ashok Chakra, India's highest peacetime Gallantry award.

After a short follow-up, the then ACP Manishi Chandra while driving the official vehicle, without caring for his life made a dangerous maneuver and intercepted the car. The criminals' car dashed into a police vehicle. Immediately thereafter, all the three occupant criminals got down from their car and tried to flee away in different directions. Gangster Neetu Dabodha, sitting on the front left side fired upon Manishi Chandra, ACP who had a narrow escape. Neetu Dabodha was blocked and challenged. The police team took the criminals head on and a Delhi Police was also killed in the cross firing.



Ministry of Information & Broadcasting  
Government of India



# Independence Day

## Greetings to all fellow citizens



### Jai Hind

“15th August is a day to pay homage to all those greats who worked hard for India’s freedom. Their struggles continue to give strength to millions. Independence Day is an occasion to reaffirm our commitment to build an India that would make our respected freedom fighters proud.”

- Narendra Modi

Independence Day Ceremony at the ramparts of Red Fort to be live telecast by Doordarshan 6:25 a.m. onwards



# Prez Kovind lauds efforts of frontline corona warriors

## Says nation is ‘indebted to doctors, nurses and other health workers’



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

President Ram Nath Kovind on Friday lauded the efforts of healthcare professionals at the frontline in the country’s fight against the coronavirus pandemic and said the nation is “indebted to doctors, nurses and other health workers”. He said the celebrations this year will be restrained without the customary pomp and show owing to the pandemic which has “altered the world we live in.”

Addressing the nation on the eve of the 74th Independence Day, the President termed the Government’s response to the Covid-19 challenge as “super-human”.

Lauding the Centre and State Government for taking steps to contain the transmission of novel coronavirus, Kovind said India’s role in dealing with the pandemic is a lesson for the world.

The President also spoke on the Galwan Valley face-off in which 20 Indian soldiers

were killed fighting the Chinese army in June this year in eastern Ladakh. “Our brave soldiers laid down their lives defending our borders. Those worthy sons of Bharat Mata lived and died for national pride. Their bravery in combat has demonstrated that while we believe in peace, we are also capable of giving a befitting response to any attempt of aggression,” he said.

“Even while the world community needs to fight together against the greatest challenge before humanity, some in our neighbourhood tried to carry out their misadventure of expansion. Our brave soldiers laid down their lives defending our borders. Those worthy sons of Bharat Mata lived and died for national pride. The entire nation salutes the martyrs of Galwan Valley. Every Indian feels grateful to their family members.

“Their bravery in combat has demonstrated that while we believe in peace, we are also capable of giving a befitting response to any attempt of

# Naresh wins police medal for record 7th time for fighting terrorists in J&K

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

CRPF Assistant Commandant Naresh Kumar has scripted history by receiving his 7th Police medal for Gallantry in a short span of four years for his gallant action against the terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir.

“An officer with sharp tactical acumen and indomitable courage, Naresh Kumar has led the CRPF Valley QAT (Quick Action Team) in Srinagar which has a glorious history of continued success marked with numerous Gallantry medals that embellish its valour”, the CRPF said in a statement.

Assistant Commandant Kumar got his first medal in 2017 for an operation which was conducted in Srinagar in 2016. Here, he neutralised two foreign terrorists whereas in 2018, he was awarded with two PMGs for neutralising two Hizbul Mujahideen commanders in an fierce operation which lasted for three days.

This year alone, the Valley QAT has been adorned with

more than 15 Gallantry medals. Furthermore, the erstwhile IG Srinagar, CRPF, Ravideep Singh Sahi and the present valley QAT Commander, Loukrakpam Ibomcha Singh and his team mate Constable Devsant Kumar have been awarded with Police Medal for Gallantry for a courageous operation in Srinagar on October 3, 2017 where two militants were neutralised by the security forces.

For Loukrakpam Ibomcha Singh, this is his 3rd Gallantry Medal and second PMG while Constable Devsant Kumar will be receiving the PMG for the second time.

Yet another story of grit and courage relates to 208 CoBRA where the team of gallant warriors came under a heavy attack from Maoists in jungles of Sukma, Chhattisgarh on March 03/04, 2016, the troops retaliated with bravery and forced the Maoists to give up their nefarious designs, the CRPF said.

In this long lasting encounter nine Maoists were neutralised while five were injured. Three Bravehearts of

208 CoBRA made supreme sacrifice serving the nation. For their indomitable gallantry and courage in the face of danger during the operation, 208 CoBRA has been awarded with eight PMGs with three being awarded posthumously.

CRPF –the largest Central Armed Police Force of the country, has been awarded with as many as 55 Police Medals for Gallantry on the eve of Independence Day, which is the second highest force after the Jammu and Kashmir police that bagged 81 medals.

With this, the total number of gallantry medals won by the deserving Force personnel till now has reached to 2036, the highest among all the CAPFs in the country.

“The narrative behind each of these Gallantry Medals speaks the language of courage, dedication to duty, devotion for the motherland and over and above a steely resolve to deliver, which is the hallmark of Internal Security Warriors,” added the C R P F

# India won’t compromise with its self-esteem, says Rajnath

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the situation on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh remains tense for nearly three months now, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday said India has never attacked anywhere to capture land of others. Reiterating this, he also said India believes in winning hearts and not land. “But it does not mean we will let our self-esteem be hurt,” he said.

Making this assertion during the customary address to the troops on the eve of the Independence Day, he, however, cautioned if attacked India as always will give a befitting reply. He, however, did not name China.

“Whatever we do in national security, we always do it for self-defence, not for attacking others. If enemy

country ever attacked us, like every time we will give a befitting reply,” he said.

His observations came in the backdrop of five rounds of military level and four at the diplomatic level in the past few weeks failing to resolve the stand-offs now on at four friction points. Moreover, China has not withdrawn its troops from these sites despite agreement thereby leading to tension in the area.

In his address, the defence minister assured that the government is doing all that is necessary to keep our forces morale high and fulfill their all operational requirement.

Later in his tweet message, he paid tributes to the soldiers. “On the eve of India’s Independence Day, I salute the indomitable courage of the brave soldiers of our Armed Forces who are self-

lessly serving the nation. Their unmatched courage and patriotism has ensured that our country is safe,” he said.

In another tweet, the minister said the Government is leaving no stone unturned to strengthen the armed forces and ensure the welfare of their families and the ex-servicemen.

Amid the ongoing stand-off, the Defence Ministry has given the armed forces emergency financial powers to procure weapons systems up to Rs 300 crores on an urgent basis without any further clearances to cut short the procurement cycle.

The Services have embarked on major procurements of ammunition, anti-tank missiles, man portable air defences, unmanned aerial vehicles among others.

being the citizen of a free nation.

“August 15 fills us with the excitement of unfurling the tricolour, taking part in celebrations and listening to patriotic songs.

On this day, the youth of India should feel the special pride of being citizens of a free nation. We gratefully remember our freedom fighters and martyrs whose sacrifices have enabled us to live in an independent nation,” the president said.

# Def Min launches portal providing access to defence vendors



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Days after banning import of 101 weapon systems to make the Indian defence industry self-reliant, the Government on Friday signed four contracts as part of Defence India Start Up challenge in the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

On the final day of ‘Atmanirbhar Week’ celebration of the Defence Ministry, he also launched Department of Defence Production (DDP) portal SRUJAN which is a ‘one stop shop online portal that provides access to the vendors to take up items that can be taken up for indigenisation. A number of Expressions of inter-

est/Requests for Proposal were also issued.

Speaking on the occasion, Rajnath said signing of these MoUs and contracts will lead us to self-reliance in the technologies related to defence manufacturing. He called upon the Indian industry partners to show complete commitment and take proactive participation in the pursuit of Indigenisation and self-reliance in the defence sector.

Commending the DDP for creating SRUJAN portal, the minister said this will help Indian industry partners to play active role in the goal of self-reliance in defence sector.

Pursuant to Atmanirbhar Bharat announcement, Department of Defence

Production has developed an indigenization portal, srujan-defence.gov.in, as “opportunities for Make in India in Defence”, which will give information on items that can be taken up for indigenisation by the private sector.

On this portal, DPSUs/OFB/SHQs can display their items which they have been importing or are going to import which the Indian Industry can design, develop and manufacture as per their capability or through joint venture with OEMs. The Indian Industry will be able to show their interest.

There are over 3,000 unique items with a value of over ₹10,000 Crore that are available through the portal.

# Former Maha CM Fadnavis may get key role in Bihar election

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP is expected to give former Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis a key role in the Bihar election, due later this year.

A move is afoot to appoint Fadnavis as election-in-charge of Bihar polls, according to sources.

The former Maharashtra Chief Minister’s role assumes importance in the backdrop of a raging controversy around the death of Sushant Singh Rajput, a young and rising Bollywood actor and a native of Bihar. Sushant’s parents have lodged an FIR in the state in the case.

The BJP has been alleging that the Mumbai police under the Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress coalition was not conducting a fair probe in the circumstances leading to what has initially been termed as “suicide”.

Fadnavis has been in the forefront in attacking Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and his son for the handling of the actor’s case and demanding a CBI probe into his death and “justice” for him.

The issue of the 34-year-old actor’s death triggered charges and counter-charges between the two States with

Maharashtra Shiv Sena leaders accusing the BJP-JD (U) coalition Government in Bihar of politicising the investigation to serve its political ends when assembly polls are round the corner.

The Bihar Government’s eagerness to take up the case of Rajput is seen by many as a move to consolidate “thakur votes” in the state as also a gesture that the Nitish Kumar-led government was standing by its ‘son of the soil’ and his family in distress.

The reports of the appointment of Fadnavis have been growing since he chaired a core committee meeting of the BJP’s Bihar unit party on August 13 and BJP President J P Nadda directing leaders in Bihar unit to brief former Maharashtra Chief Minister on the campaign strategy.

Fadnavis, the first Brahmin CM of Maharashtra who lost his second run in the state as CM, has been living in political shadows in Maharashtra after the ‘Maha vikas Aghadi’ coalition took reins of governance in the State.

The BJP is also expected to benefit from Fadnavis’ Brahmin origins. Brahmins constitute 5 percent of the population in Bihar.

# India exports 23 lakh PPEs to 5 countries

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With export norms relaxed, India managed to export 23 lakh Personnel Protection Equipments to five countries namely the USA, the UK, UAE, Senegal and Slovenia in just a month.

“This has substantially aided India to position itself in the global export market of PPEs,” said a statement from the Union Health Ministry.

PPEs are a crucial medical resource for frontline workers during the pandemic that include body coveralls, N-95 masks, goggles, face shields among others.

According to the Ministry, the ‘Make in India’ spirit embedded in the ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan’ has resulted in providing resilience and self-sufficiency” to the country for various medical equipment including PPEs.

While the Union

Government is supplying PPE kits, N95 masks, ventilators etc., to the State governments and union territories administrations, states are also procuring these items directly.

“Between March and August 2020, they have procured 1.40 crore indigenous PPE from their own budgetary resources. During the same period, the Centre has distributed 1.28 crore PPE to states, UTs and central institutions, free of cost,” said the ministry in a statement.

The Centre has been leading the graded, pre-emptive, proactive and collaborative response and management of COVID-19, along with the states union territories.

As part of its continued efforts towards progressively augmenting and strengthening the medical infrastructure across the country, various policy decisions have been taken on a regular basis.

At the start of the pandemic, there was a global shortage of all kinds of medical equipment including N95 masks, PPE kits, ventilators etc, the ministry underlined.

Most of the products were not being manufactured in the country in the beginning as many of the necessary components were to be procured from other countries. The rising global demand due to the pandemic resulted in their scarce availability in the foreign markets, it stated.

Turning the pandemic into an opportunity to develop its domestic market for production of medical equipment, with the combined efforts of ministries of health, textiles, pharmaceuticals, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Defence Research and Development Organisation and others, India has hugely ramped up its own manufacturing capacity, the ministry said.

# Number of deaths due to smokeless tobacco in India is on rise: Study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The number of deaths due to smokeless tobacco in India is on the rise, accounting for 70 per cent of deaths in the South-East Asia region followed by Pakistan (seven per cent) and Bangladesh which accounts five per cent of the global disease burden due to smokeless tobacco.

Researchers added that deaths due to it globally has

also gone up by a third in seven years to an estimated 350,000 people.

The research, published in the journal BMC Medicine, comes at a time when there are concerns that spitting - a behaviour common among those who chew tobacco - is likely to transmit the Covid-19 virus.

“The study has come at a time when Covid-19 is affecting almost all aspects of our lives. Chewing tobacco increases

es saliva production and leads to compulsive spitting,” said study researcher Kamran Siddiqui from the University of York in the UK.

There are concerns that spitting - a behaviour common among those who chew tobacco - is likely to transmit the virus to others.

“In acknowledgement of this, India, for example, has already taken a positive step by banning spitting in public places to reduce the transmission of COVID-19,” Siddiqui added.

The study estimated that in 2017 alone smokeless tobacco resulted in more than 90,000 deaths due to cancers of the mouth, pharynx and oesophagus and accounted for more than 258,000 deaths from heart disease.

Millions more have their lives shortened by ill-health due to the effects of chewing tobacco-based products, the study reveals.

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE						
SR. No.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT / BMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	PWD B&R AMBALA	SPECIAL REPAIR AND RENOVATION OF OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PROVINCIAL DIVISION NO.1, PWD B&R, BRANCH, AMBALA CANTT IN AMBALA DISTRICT (RE-INVITED)	13.08.2020 27.08.2020	51.42 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	0171-2977224 Pwd-eeepd1-ambala@hry.nic.in
2	PWD B&R KARNAL	PROVIDING ADDITIONAL CCTV CAMERAS IN THE CAMPUS OF JUDICIAL COMPLEX AT PANIPAT 2020_HRY_130016.2+ 4 OTHER WORKS	13.08.2020 24.08.2020	23.34 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	0184-2265696 pwd-eeed-karnal@hry.nic.in
3	PWD B&R FATEHABAD	CONSTRUCTION OF PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRE WITH ACCOMMODATIONS AT HIZRAWAN KALAN IN FATEHABAD DISTRICT. +2 OTHER WORKS	11.08.2020 25.08.2020	340.57 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	90531-14455 01667-220120 pwd-eeepd-fatehabad@hry.nic.in
4	PWD B&R, PANIPAT	CONSTRUCTION OF 2 NOS HOUSES FOR CIVIL JUDGE SENIOR & JUNIOR DIVISION IN SDO CIVIL CUM JUDICIAL COMPLEX AT SAMALKHA IN PANIPAT DISTT (RE-INVITED)	13.08.2020 27.08.2020	250.93 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	0180-2638652
5	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING GOHANA	DNIT FOR PROVIDING FUNCTIONAL HOUSEHOLD TAP CONNECTION WITH DISTRIBUTION PIPELINE IN VILLAGE DHURANA TEHSIL GOHANADISTT. SONIPAT- "PROVIDING FUNCTIONAL HOUSEHOLD TAP CONNECTION WITH LAYING OF DISTRIBUTION PIPELINE IN VILLAGE DHURANA AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THERETO. + 8 OTHER WORKS	13.08.2020 25.08.2020	105.10 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in Tender No. 2019_HRY_139318_1 + 8 other	01263-258417 ee1gohana@gmail.com ee1gohana@phedharyana.gov.in
6	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT NARNAUL	LAYING OF SEWER LINES IN BALANCE APPROVED AREA OF NARNAUL TOWN DISTT. MAHENDERGARH. "PROVIDING & LAYING OF 1000 MM OD HDPE PIPE SEWER BY TRENCHLESS TECHNOLOGY AT REWARI ROAD NARNAUL TOWN AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THERETO"	17.08.2020 28.08.2020	89.42 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01282-260091/ eepnarnaul@gmail.com
7	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT AMBALA	PROVIDING 4 NO. T-WELLS IN PLACE OF FAILED JAL JEEVAN MISSION IN VILL. BANISCHHANO AND SAMANI, DISTT. KURUKSHETRA AND VILL. SHADIPUR SAHIDAN AND SHAMASPUR, DISTT. KURUKSHETRA. ENID AMT. RS. 56600/- + 3 OTHER WORKS	14.08.2020 27.08.2020	100.15 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in TENDER NO 2020_HRY_139439_1	0171-2631402 eemambala@phedharyana.gov.in
8	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGG. DIVISION KARNAL	A/MTC. ESTIMATE FOR WATER SUPPLY SCHEME GHARAUNDA TOWN. "OPERATION & MAINTENANCE OF ALL STRUCTURES/COMPONENTS, PUMP CHAMBER, BOUNDARY WALL, DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM, TUBEWELLS, PUMPING MACHINERY, OHSR, ETC. WATER SUPPLY SCHEME GHARAUNDA TOWN AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THERETO FOR THE PERIOD OF 36 MONTHS". (FROM THE DATE OF COMMENCEMENT)	13.08.2020 27.08.2020	220.07 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in TENDER NO 2020_HRY_139384	0184-2266004/ eepkarnal@gmail.com
9	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT PANCHKULA	CONSTRUCTING RETAINING WALL AND CRATED WIRE STR. NEAR LAND OF SH. KARNAIL SINGH NEAR TANGRI NADI IN VILLAGE NARAINPUR BLOCK, RAIPUR RANI. + 2 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 28.08.2020	29.22 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	0172-2570325 xencnst1@yahoo.com
10	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT KURUKSHETRA	REPAIRING AND STRENGTHENING OF PINDARSI MINOR FROM RD 0 TO 38630.	12.08.2020 20.08.2020	10.26 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	xenwsdvinckra@gmail.com
11	PANCHAYATI RAJ, SONIPAT	REPAIR OF PANCHAYAT SADAN AT VILLAGE MIMARPUR SITE PROPOSED TO BE CHANGED AT VILLAGE KAMI & OTHER 3 NOS. WORKS (RE-INVITING)	10.08.2020 20.08.2020	11.97 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	Executive Engineer
12	PANCHAYATI RAJ, KATHIAL	COMPLETION OF PANCHAYAT GHAR/RGSK	17.08.2020 31.08.2020	3.41 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	01746-234748
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in RO NO. 82273						

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE	
The Deputy Chief Engineer/Survey & Const., Tilak Bridge, Northern Railway, New Delhi, for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e-tender for the following work:	
Mode of Tender	E-Tender (Single Packet)
<b>Tender Notice No.</b>	<b>281-W/S&amp;C/TKJ/FLS/NL/HRI-GHJ-2020 dated: 14.08.2020</b>
<b>Full name of work</b>	Final Location Survey (FLS) for new line between Hardoi-Gursahaiganj via Sandi (59.300 kms). Carrying out detail Engineering survey including Levelling, alignment, soil exploration, preparation of plans, L-sections, GA plans of Bridges etc., bill of quantities and other ancillary activities related in connection with preparation of DPR.
<b>Approx. cost</b>	<b>Rs. 49,29,143/- (Rs. Forty Nine Lakhs Twenty Nine thousand One hundred Forty Three only).</b>
<b>Completion period</b>	<b>06 Months (Six months)</b>
<b>Earnest money amount</b>	<b>Rs. 98,600/- (Rs. Ninety Eight thousand and Six hundred only)</b>
<b>Sale/availability of tender document on Rly. Website</b>	Tender documents will be available on IREPS web site i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> from <b>15.08.2020 to 07.09.2020</b> upto 11.30 hrs.
<b>Last date/Time of upload of tenders</b>	<b>07.09.2020 upto 11.30 hours.</b> tender documents can be uploaded by the tenderer(s) on IREPS web site w.e.f <b>23.08.2020 to 07.09.2020.</b>
<b>Date and time of opening of tender</b>	<b>07.09.2020 at 11.30 hours.</b> (immediately after close of uploading of tender (D2) in the office of <b>Chief Administrative Officer/Const. N.Rty. Kashmir Gate, Delhi-110006.</b> )
This notice is available on <a href="http://www.nr.indian.railways.gov.in">www.nr.indian.railways.gov.in</a> web site and documents on <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> site is available. 1772/2020	
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	

LOST & FOUND

I Raghav Goyal S/o Shri Kaishash Chander Goyal R/o 41, Aradhana Enclave R.K. Puram Sector-13, New Delhi-110066 have lost my 10th CBSE certificate/marksheet of the year 2018 roll no. 8239670 any one found please contact # 9312090774.







# India at 74

The pandemic has given us our transformative moment. Probably to remind us of forgotten ideals that make up our civilisational DNA



On September 5, 2019, 74-year-old Erramatti Mangayamma gave birth to twin girls in Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, becoming the world's oldest mother after being called "barren" her whole life. At 74, Ferdinand Marie de Lesseps made an attempt to construct the Suez Canal. And at 77, John Glenn became the oldest person to go into space. The point of citing these inspirational figures, who were really ordinary men and women till they were challenged, is that no time is too early or too late enough to make a new beginning. And at 74, with perhaps one of the most unimaginable crises in our nation's history — the relentless pandemic, the sliding economy, the collapse of democratic institutions, the chaos of sectarian politics and a conflict-ridden society — India is perhaps at that turning point in its timeline to correct its course and claim a new destiny. Perhaps this churning is necessary to prepare ourselves for a new century instead of relying on templates that we thought were transformative but are now past their prime. Had it not been for the pandemic and the crushing burden it imposed on our social and economic infrastructure, we wouldn't have bothered to look at rebuilding them. There's nothing wrong with globalisation except that when there is resource scarcity in every nation, as a pandemic-induced shutdown snapped mutual dependencies, we ought to be self-sufficient. The massive push to self-produce through *Atmanirbhar Bharat*, decentralising the agricultural economy and empowering rural India may not show results in the short-term. But at least the steps for the next big leap have been laid. China transformed itself in its lowest phase and became the world's largest producer. As a consumption-driven society, we are battling low demand and investment, but given the accelerators and enablers in economic packages, revival is possible. Graded targets for manufacturing at home, incentivisation and hand-holding through the initial break-through stage, standardisation of quality through technical partnerships with global expertise, developing economies of scale and allowing competition only to build better and robust home brands will get us there. Not insularity, but letting the trade winds blow so that we can make our mark on shop shelves around the world beyond the boutique handicrafts or tea. If we can be the world's largest producer of vaccines, we can be the factory floor for other products as well. Statistics speak for themselves. Most global chains and majors have, so far, not robbed domestic brands of their dedicated market but have had to indigenise their product lines instead. Pre-pandemic, India emerged as one of the fastest-growing major economies and post-recovery is projected to become one of the top three biggest economies in about a decade. And if the deep penetration of our digital economy is any indication, then that would be our competitive edge. These are also the days when India has awakened to its potential in the knowledge economy. Taking the COVID-19 management module as an example, just in a four-month period, we have developed our own test kits, exported drugs, ventilators and PPE kits, worked on our own vaccine and built multi-bed treatment facilities through both public spending and private partnerships. Imagine, what an increased health spending and a ground-up public health policy, especially at the primary and secondary levels, can do to ease medical treatment and not make it another nightmare for a nation battling serious disease burdens. For the first time, research and development (R&D) is being prioritised in the National Education Policy (NEP) with dedicated funding, compared to the last few years when money spent on it has been actually dwindling. The NEP's switch in emphasis from herd-oriented learning to an absorptive and application-based one should hopefully groom innovative minds and get us creditable research papers and patents, an area where our centres of excellence are still inadequate. So far, ISRO has been the only name that comes to mind when it comes to innovation, what with its missions to the moon and Mars. But science and technology will be the most meaningful when it impacts the life of the common man, still distressed and poor, and given Indian ingenuity, we could lead a solution-oriented talent pool.

Of course, our democracy has weathered many challenges and unfortunately, it faces its toughest survival test yet. It is no longer a culture but a tool. Politics has overtaken its true purpose, the purveyors of power using it to erode representative institutions and using collective angst and distress to arrogate more power to themselves. Policies are being weaponised for partisan purposes than public good. Though the shared crisis of COVID-19 did bring about some kind of cooperative federalism, we must not forget that happened only with an authoritarian sanction. Meanwhile, majoritarianism has become a mainstream virtue and secularism an ill-conceived vice, conformists of mainline discourse are true patriots while a thinking civil society has become an enemy of the State. The executive has become bigger than either the legislature or the judiciary and watchdog institutions like the media are either willing propagandists or ousted rebels. We are more disunited when we should be united as a pluralistic society. Yet the pandemic that has attacked us at a not too friendly age of 74 has brought out the best of human spirit, courage and compassion in everyday life. Probably to remind us of the ideals that make up our civilisational DNA. And, therefore, we are best placed to resurrect them than writing them off.

## Sputnik V and safety

Is Russia's vaccine truly effective without community trials or is it the beginning of a new commercial and political race?



Russia claims to have beaten the rest of the world and come out with a vaccine for the Coronavirus named 'Sputnik V'. However, even before it hits the markets, it has become mired in controversy, with several countries, and even traditional friend India, expressing some doubts over its efficacy. What has the experts worried is the pace at which Sputnik V has been produced, leaving behind front-runners like Oxford-AstraZeneca, Moderna and Pfizer. They fear that without large scale community trials, Moscow has cut corners and may have put the lives of those inoculated at risk. The Moscow-based Gamaleya Institute, which is making the vaccine, got lightning speed regulatory approvals less than two months after it got into human trials. Compare this to other vaccine candidates in human trials that are not expected to be ready before early next year. However, Russia has claimed that such fast approvals were possible because Sputnik V resembles a vaccine for the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome that had already been tested greatly. This isn't the only controversy surrounding Russia and its bid to win the vaccine race. In July, it was accused of trying to steal vaccine research by the UK's National Cyber Security Centre. But the fact of the matter is that despite all the concerns of health and security experts, Moscow has got orders for one billion doses already from countries desperate to eradicate the pandemic. And even as Russia claims that India is one of the 20 nations to place an order, New Delhi has set up an expert committee headed by NITI Aayog member VK Paul to "consider the logistics and ethical aspects of procuring and administering the COVID-19 vaccine." The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) can ask Russia to conduct late-phase human trials, usually both phase-2 and phase-3, on an Indian population. This is the usual requirement for all vaccines developed outside India.

But there are overlap issues. As over 50 per cent of vaccines are currently manufactured in India, the Pune-based Serum Institute of India has already tied up with other developers. Then, there is the issue of availability and competition with India's own vaccine. According to the Russian Register of Pharmaceuticals website, the vaccine would be in circulation from January 2021 but the Indian vaccine is expected to hit the market before that. So, how the Centre will balance out the country's need for a Corona vaccine with the commercial interests of Indian firms producing it remains to be seen.

# Pledge of independence

On our 74th Independence Day, we have perhaps forgotten that India's strength lies in unity and not conformity. We need to renew our vows



AJOY KUMAR

On August 15, 1947, India and its citizens gained independence with the British rule coming to an end. Loudly and proudly, we pronounced to the world that we, too, were ready to step out from the darkness of colonial rule to a new dawn, ripe with uncertainty but also hope. It is this hope that former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru so eloquently captured in his address to the nation on the eve of India's independence. He opened his speech with, "Long years ago, we made a tryst with destiny..." His immortal words still send a chill down my spine. But too often, we focus only on the first few words. If we read his speech further, Nehruji talked about a pledge that we have renewed by obtaining freedom. A pledge "of dedication to the service of India and her people and to the still larger cause of humanity."

Few exemplified this pledge and dedication to the service of India more than Mohd Usman, also known as *Naushera ka sher* (the Lion of Naushera). At the time of India's independence, Mohd Usman was offered a high position in the Pakistan Army but he refused to join. Instead, he chose to help build a "new India" that had awakened on the fateful night of August 15. Usman bravely defended Naushera, causing a heavy toll on the Pakistani side but was martyred in July 1948 while fighting for his motherland. He was posthumously awarded the Maha Vir Chakra but more importantly, he remained a shining symbol of hope for a secular India. On his death, Khwaja Ahmad Abbas wrote, "...a precious life of imagination and unswerving patriotism has fallen a victim to communal fanaticism. Brigadier Usman's brave example will be an abiding source of inspiration for free India."

Such an example was necessary at a time when tension, fear and suspicion were writ large owing to the spectre of Partition. Not only did Usman dedicate his life to the service of India but also his death. Just as significant and poetic is the fact that six months before Usman was killed in a battle, another famous son of India, Jadunath Singh Rathore, who was under Usman's command, protected a nine-man forward section post, displaying unmatched brav-



ery against thousands of enemy forces. His bravery led to him being posthumously awarded the second-ever Param Vir Chakra. This sacrifice by two of India's brave sons — both were from different faiths but laid down their lives for the Indian dream — in all likelihood terrorised Pakistan more than any weapon could and still does.

So where does India stand today? Seventy two years after the death of these bravehearts, it seems that the fear and suspicion, that loomed large then, looms larger now. We are currently living in times where different sections of society are asked to prove their nationality. Proving one's nationality has been reduced to the idea of being subservient to a ruling class and not creating too much noise. This test is not limited to individuals of different faiths or people who come from different castes; it applies to anyone who does not agree with the view of the Government in power.

There are a number of instances where dissent against the Government and its actions are not only treated with the reckless exercise of power but also through an indiscriminate attack on the individual's patriotism. There are numerous examples that are in the public domain but one does not

“WE ARE CURRENTLY LIVING IN TIMES WHERE DIFFERENT SECTIONS OF SOCIETY ARE ASKED TO PROVE THEIR NATIONALITY. PROVING ONE'S NATIONALITY HAS BEEN REDUCED TO THE IDEA OF BEING SUBSERVIENT TO A RULING CLASS AND NOT CREATING TOO MUCH NOISE. THIS TEST IS NOT LIMITED TO INDIVIDUALS OF DIFFERENT FAITHS OR CASTES. IT IS FOR EVERYONE WHO DISAGREES WITH THE GOVT”

even need to go that far. The author himself has been subjected to vile abuse and was branded "un-Indian" merely because he had written/spoken in favour of what he believed was right for the beloved country. This despite the fact that he served as a public servant and was awarded a medal for bravery by the Government itself. I can only imagine how an everyday citizen is treated when he/she dares to dissent.

A part of the reason why we are in this unfortunate position is that we have forgotten that India's strength lies in unity and not conformity. We are steadily moving towards a time where dissent in a non-violent form and the free flow of ideas is stymied by authoritarian force or by the loudest voice. We have forgotten that our enemies as Indians are not our countrymen, who may follow different faiths or eat different foods, but illiteracy, hunger and corruption.

In his speech, Nehru recognised this when he said, "The service of India means the service of the millions who suffer. It means the ending of poverty and ignorance and disease and inequality of opportunity." His words hold just as true today as it did then. True service to India is not fighting wars that our political masters or news channels manipulate

us into. Instead, it is the fight against poverty, illiteracy and disease that plague millions of Indians.

This is one of the main reasons why I am proud of the work done by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). The party's goal is to remain true to the nationalistic spirit through its work. This is why the Delhi model of governance has received such widespread credit in areas of health, education and transparency. All of this has been achieved by people of all faiths, gender and caste. By treating service to one another as the truest form of patriotism, we are united by purpose and enriched by our non-conformity.

Therefore, as we celebrate the 74th independence day, I would like to urge the citizens to remember the sacrifices of Usman and Jadunath Singh Rathore, who were killed before they could get a chance to see their beloved country turn two and laid down their lives for the Indian dream. A dream where people, divided for centuries by a foreign ruler, could find common meaning and purpose by pledging to live in service to one another and, therefore, in service to the country. A pledge renewed in 1947 demands renewal even more so in 2020.

(The writer is a former IPS officer, a former MP and currently a member of the AAP)

SOUNDBITE

Having completed all talks, we have come to the Assembly today. It may rain fire at this frontline, but we all and I will be the shield, club and spear and will protect.

Congress leader — Sachin Pilot

Unless you are a good actor, you won't survive. As far as the disparity is concerned, it is tougher for outsiders. Star kids have access to information that we don't.

Actor — Vikrant Massey

The world will be laughing and taking full advantage of the United States if Joe Biden ever became President. Our country would collapse.

US President — Donald Trump

If one analyses this (Galwan) incident carefully, it's clear that the onus is not on China. The Indian side crossed the LAC for provocation and attacked the Chinese border troops.

Chinese Ambassador to India — Sun Weidong

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Manage distribution

Sir — An expert group on COVID-19 vaccine administration has advised against States procuring the Russian vaccine. The directive has reportedly come in response to some States showing keen interest in getting the consignment to arrest the pandemic. Any procurement has to be done centrally, so that supplies can be allocated to States in proportion to their needs. Without a data-driven and honest assessment, this could set off needless politicking.

In the case of lockdowns, too, a uniform policy should have been adopted for all States to follow. Had every State followed the same guidelines, the detection of cases and deaths in all the States in terms of percentage would have been more or less the same.

KV Seetharamaiah  
Hassan

### Race to the White House

In the run-up to the November elections, US President Donald Trump is relentlessly whipping up anti-immigrant sentiments. On the other hand, Democratic candidate Joe Biden's choice of Kamala Harris as his vice-presidential mate is a reminder to the incumbent that immigrants cannot be wished away. Though Kamala is part-Indian, part-Jamaican, she is an absolute American, committed to her country and its people. From being San Francisco's District Attorney twice, to being elected California's Attorney General for two terms and being Senator from California since 2017 to finally being a vice-presidential prospect, she has achieved many firsts as a woman of African and Asian pedigree. Irrespective of whether 77-year-old Biden wins or loses, 55-year-old Kamala is the heir apparent for the Democratic party which may be as early as 2024. Her rise is thought-provoking for us not only because of her Indian roots but also because she boycotted the "Howdy-Modi" event in Texas last year. Her views on Article 370 and CAA among others shall put the Government on the backfoot. Here, Biden and the Democratic party's views are no different. The party, perceived to be under the Leftists' and Progressives' control, occasionally indulges in India-bashing and is also seen to be soft on China, unlike Trump. Unless

crafted his re-election narrative around his "winning" approach, based mainly on an economy that was booming when he assumed power. Today, his popularity has come down considerably. According to the latest Gallup poll, Trump's popularity fell below the 40 per cent mark in June, with voters giving him low marks on the Coronavirus pandemic and, notably, the economy. To add salt to his wounds, the selection of Kamala Harris as Joe Biden's running mate has stressed the Trump campaign. Harris is a heartbeat away from the White



it tweaks its stance, a Democratic victory would have a significant bearing on both the Indo-US and Indo-China relationships.

Black voters in the US, courtesy the George Floyd saga, are already polarised against Trump. Kamala's entry will lead to a further hardening of stance. Though Indian Americans traditionally vote for Democrats, yet a shift is happening towards Republicans. The 2.3 million Indian voters can tilt the results either way. How the two political parties, going forward, charm them will be a matter of strategy and shall have long term echoes on who stays on top of the pecking order in the geopolitical space.

SK Prabhakar  
Gurugram

House for the moment and she is likely to be a trumptard in a close contest. She is expected to wean away the Black votes and the Indian diaspora in a bid to trounce Trump.

CK Subramaniam  
Via email

### Temporary relief

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Will the truce hold?" (August 14). It is no secret that the coup in Rajasthan was orchestrated by the BJP. It was just waiting to destabilise the Government. But Sachin Pilot's revolt fizzled out as the Congress took an unusually tough stand. By now Pilot would have also realised the selfishness of the saffron party, who tried to use him as a pawn and played its cards very carefully. As for the Congress, it is time it nominates a president, who can lead the party and act as a bulwark against a rampaging BJP. Most importantly, accommodate the young Turks.

Tharci S Fernando  
Chennai

Send your feedback to: [letterstopioneer@gmail.com](mailto:letterstopioneer@gmail.com)



FIRST COLUMN

# \$5 trillion GDP a distant dream

By all calculations, the COVID-19 impact has pushed India's \$5 trillion goal back by three years



SWARNIL SONI

The Prime Minister has laid down a visionary target of making India a \$5 trillion economy by 2024-25. This has stimulated debate and discussion among economists and policymakers to seek roadmaps to attain this optimistic economic goal. This discussion garners more significance given the current domestic and global economic slowdown coupled with domestic price instability, the US-China trade war and the current pandemic. Amid such global and domestic challenges, two questions arise: Will India become a \$5 trillion economy? What should be done to help India attain its goal?

It is necessary to empirically diagnose India's growth pattern to meet the objective of a \$5 trillion Gross Domestic Product (GDP) from the current level of \$2.9 trillion. The latest estimate of the GDP for 2019-20 and the exchange rate of ₹70.39 per dollar (average exchange rate of 2019-20) yield a \$2.9 trillion GDP that has to touch \$5 in five years. This implies exchange rate adjusted Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of about 13.5 per cent, which is close to the Niti Aayog's projection of 11.5 per cent. However, the \$5 trillion GDP target was originally set during the pre-COVID-19 scenario, which has now made this target impossible to achieve owing to the disastrous consequences of the lockdown on the economy.

Amid the macroeconomic shocks and uncertainties, many national and global institutions and rating agencies have been releasing a revised GDP growth forecast for 2020-21. S&P and Fitch Solutions have projected India's GDP growth rate for 2020-21 as -5 per cent. The World Bank maintained a -3.2 per cent growth outlook. In contrast, Moody's Investors Services and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) posited non-negative growth numbers of zero per cent and two per cent for the current financial year (FY). On May 22, the RBI postulated the GDP growth in the negative territory. It further released a projection of -1.5 per cent growth for 2020-21 in its *Survey of Professional Forecasters* report in June. However, most projections predict above eight per cent growth outlook in the FY 2021-22, owing to the fiscal and monetary stimulus and reforms announced by the Government accompanied by the unravelling of the pent-up aggregate demand in the economy.

However, incorporating the adversity in GDP growth, due to the pandemic, it is best to consider a GDP growth rate of nearly -3.2 per cent for 2020-21 relying on the World Bank's estimate and the RBI's negative territory forecast. This growth number, while being conservative, hovers around the other negative estimates and thus is a tenable representative of all the growth projections made by various multilateral institutions and agencies. It is inevitable that subdued growth for the initial year (2020-21) of the \$5 trillion target trajectory will either devolve the growth pressure to subsequent years or push the target year to a later period.

Realistic estimation for the post-COVID-19 period i.e., from 2021-22 to 2024-25, yields a CAGR of 18.1 per cent, incorporating a -3.2 per cent GDP growth for 2020-21. This estimate indicates that the Indian economy has to grow at an annual rate of 18.1 per cent to attain a GDP target of \$5 trillion by 2024-25, which looks more surreal than real. Plus, each one per cent decrease in the growth rate for the current year yields an additional burden of 0.3 per cent in the CAGR for the subsequent years of the growth trajectory. Given the unrealistic-looking projected growth rate of 18.1 per cent, one needs to look at the alternative to attain the \$5 trillion target which is, naturally, a postponement of the target year.

In the post-COVID-19 period, the economy is expected to recover and revive as argued by multilateral institutions, rating agencies and economists. In fact, economists have even gone ahead and contemplated that the Indian market will emerge stronger than ever post-COVID-19, given the liquidity support and future demand. This revival is attributable to stimulus and reforms announced by the Government for all the productive sectors. However, the effectiveness of these stimuli and reforms would depend on their implementation and thus remains debatable. If not a big bang, a green shoot is expected to knock on the door of the economy in the next FY, replicating a V-shaped recovery to some extent.

Given this, from 2021-22, the economy's productive sectors, i.e. agriculture, industry and services, will follow their respective historical growth trajectories. Thus, it is expected that these productive sectors, post-COVID-19, will grow at the historical average of the previous five years of about 7.5 per cent, 9.0 per cent and 11.4 per cent, respectively. This looks more realistic and acceptable than the 18.1 per cent annual growth rate, derived and discussed earlier. This consideration and associated analysis revealed that the Indian economy will attain only \$3.8 trillion by 2024-25 and reach the \$5 trillion target by 2027-28 with a CAGR of 9.97 per cent. This implies that the COVID-19 impact has pushed India's \$5 trillion dream back by three years.

The ambitious \$5 trillion economic objective intends to provide a stimulus to the economy while raising many pragmatic challenges to achieve it. This objective can be achieved by providing an appropriate fillip to the growth of agriculture, industry and services sectors that are drivers of the Indian economy. However, a data-driven approach reveals that the growth attained by the present GDP patterns is far from the target required to attain the \$5 trillion objective. However, it is possible to attain this target by 2027-28 when there is a recovery in the economy during the post-COVID-19 period coupled with a consistent growth in productive sectors over the years.

Historically, the services and industry sectors show a high correlation with the overall GDP growth rate but they need consistent stimulus for growth. In fact, the productive sectors collectively can deliver viable growth rates that may put the Indian economy into the \$5 trillion club by 2027-28.

Any moderate shock to one sector may be absorbed by the other sector, but a major shock cannot be tackled and can derail the \$5 trillion growth trajectory. Thus, policymakers must focus on all the three sectors equally without focussing on any particular one. Along with the individual growth of a sector, its dynamics with other sectors and its contribution to the economy are equally important. This could be achieved by attracting Foreign Direct Investment and strengthening the Regional Innovation Systems to encourage local firms to network, innovate and globalise.

(The writer is Senior Research Scholar, Department of Management Studies, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore)

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

I HAVE THE GREAT HONOUR TO ANNOUNCE THAT I'VE PICKED KAMALA HARRIS, A FEARLESS FIGHTER FOR THE LITTLE GUY AS MY RUNNING MATE FOR THE ELECTIONS.  
—FORMER US VICE-PRESIDENT  
JOE BIDEN



SHE (KAMALA HARRIS) IS THE MEANEST, THE MOST HORRIBLE, THE MOST DISRESPECTFUL OF ANYBODY IN THE US SENATE.  
—US PRESIDENT  
DONALD TRUMP

# Shun vitriolic leaders

The community should be represented by some liberally-balanced Muslims who know history and at the same time are rooted in their faith. Or else we could be stranded in a wasteland



FIROZ BAKHT AHMED

A lot of water has flowed under the bridge since 1947. The 200 million plus population of Indian Muslims was the one, that at the call of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad from the steps of old Delhi's Jama Masjid, put down its luggage meant for the next Lahore train from the Old Delhi Railway Station. In all probability, theirs was the right decision, in spite of the fact that many of their relatives had decided to leave for their El Dorado — the newly created Pakistan. Even today most of the Indian Muslims living in Old Delhi have their relatives in the country across the border. Religious frenzy has never augured well for any community in India and the world. In the words of eminent Muslim thinker, AG Noorani, the “two-nation theory” was, in effect, an offshoot of the constant friction and confrontation stirred up between the two communities and it was under exceptional circumstances that Jinnah's concept gained popularity among the Muslims. Indeed, the whole country responded to the “two-nation theory.” The greatest religion for both communities became Hindu-Muslim hatred. This mephitic form of politics saw its culmination in 1947 when a wall of hatred rose between the two communities.

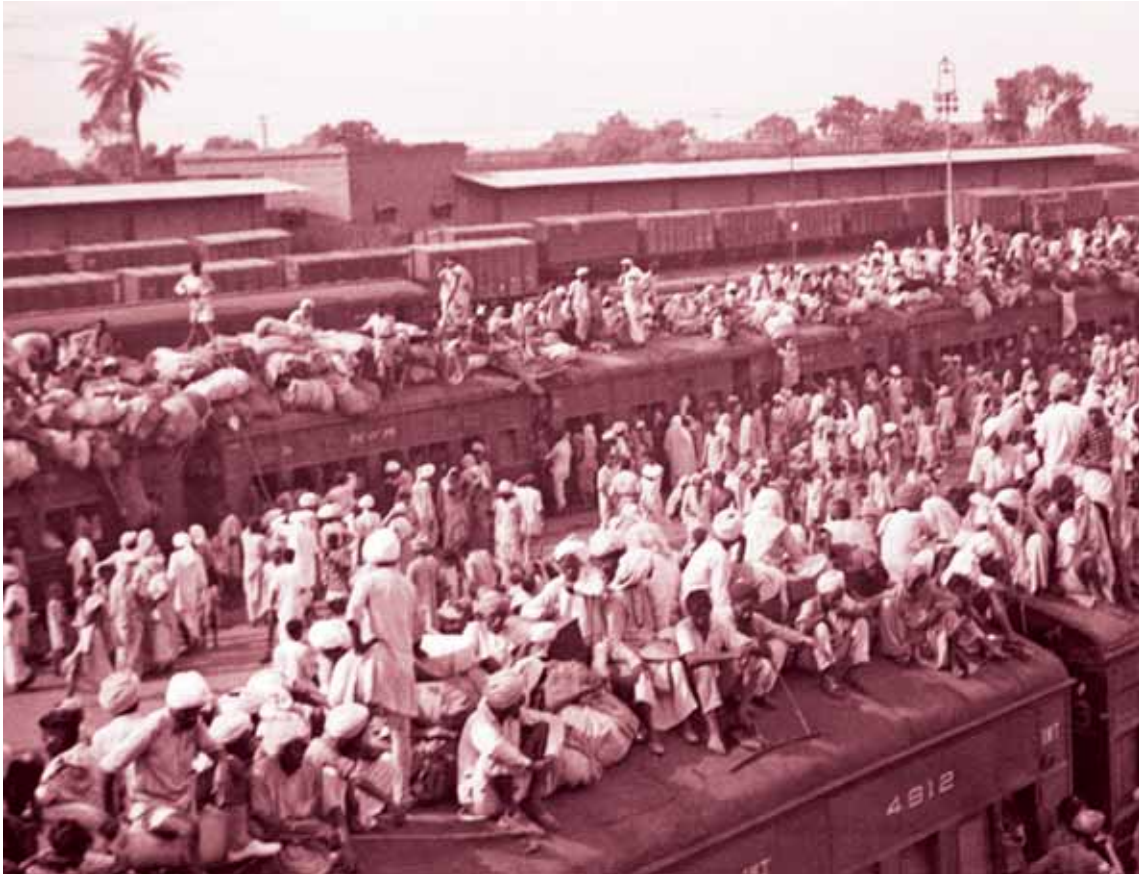
**Partition horrors:** Elders would describe the gory sight of trains full of mauled, murdered, mutilated and dead Hindus chugging into the stations from Pakistan and similar trains from India, full of dead and mutilated Muslims pulling into Pakistan. These were called “blood trains” and all too often they crossed the border in funeral silence. Huts, houses, bungalows and mansions were burnt and robbed on both sides. Women were raped and murdered, children were killed in front of their parents, some women on both sides of the border jumped into wells and rivers while men also killed their wives and daughters to save them from dishonour.

**Jinnah and Nehru both responsible:** Jinnah on the Muslim front and Nehru in opposition to Jinnah, both barristers full of intellectual rivalry to be one up against the other, instead of preserving the sovereignty of India, started dreaming of being the new kings of the nascent kingdoms. Azad was blatantly ignored and sidelined by the Congress because he considered both Nehru and Jinnah as the main villains of the vivisection. He could read well into Nehru's flagrant opportunism and ambition to be the first Prime Minister of the new nation.

Azad was quite aggravated about the Partition and had accused Nehru of being lured into the Partition by Lady Edwina Mountbatten. Even in the play *Maulana Azad*, by noted playwright and scriptwriter, Dr Saeed Alam, Tom Alter, playing the protagonist, was heard stating in chaste Urdu, “*Log keh tey hain, aur theek hi keh tey hongee, ke Jawahar Lal ko batwaare pe raazi karney mein us charming lady ka bahut bada haath tha*.” (People say, and they must be right, that the charming lady played a big role in getting Jawahar Lal to accept the Partition.) Today's Muslim leadership, bereft of thinkers like Maulana Azad and Dr Zakir Hussain, has lost both its voice and utility. During every election, it has been seen that all leaders are power-brokers indulging in pernicious vote-bank manipulation, acquiring State patronage themselves and leaving ordinary Muslims to the mercy of God.

**Muslims misled:** Despite that, Muslims won't fully trust Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who had declared in a meeting with eminent clerics and intellectuals at his residence on June 6, 2015, that he wanted to see in each Muslim's hands the holy *Quran* and a computer. When Home Minister Amit Shah said, “Muslims are like our children. We want to treat

“IT IS TIME THAT MUSLIMS REALISE THAT THE RSS IS A REALITY AND MODI IS A PRIME MINISTER WHO HAS PLEDGED ‘SABKA SATH, SABKA VIKAS, SABKA VISHWAS (COMPASSION FOR ALL, PROGRESS FOR ALL, TRUST FOR ALL).’ IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MUSLIMS TO HOLD HIM TO ACCOUNT AND ENSURE THAT HE REMAINS COMMITTED TO INDIA'S PLURALISTIC LEITMOTIF”



them equally on a par with others,” hardly any member of the community hailed it. This opposing mindset is creating a major problem in better integration with the mainstream. Battered by the populist rhetoric and provocative militancy of its myopic ill-educated clerics and shallow youth, the nation's cultured and high potential minority stands at the crossroads. Owing to their obscurantist approach, they are leading the community back to the dark ages of ignorance, like the ones in Arab countries before the advent of Islam. More often than not, they are interested in feathering their own nests and are indulging in petty-mindedness characterised by an extremely narrow and irresponsible outlook completely out of tune with the existing reality. Such leaders are not seriously interested in dealing with the main problems of the community. Muslim leaders and petty politicians are becoming richer day-by-day while the people they represent are languishing in ghettos.

In this ghettoised situation emerged the churlish political middlemen as interlocutors for communities, picking on sensational issues that would only apparently tighten their stranglehold on the gullible and divert attention from the real bread and butter and educational issues. Shah Bano, Jamia Millia, the AMU's minority character, Taslima Nasreen, Salman Rushdie and so on became issues. However, none of them had any bearing on the real problems of the Muslims. Educational backwardness, women's education, social stagnation, communalisation of the police force and absence from the mainstream were never addressed by the self-appointed interlocutors with the same emphasis as the Babri Masjid issue. It is thanks mainly to this leadership that Muslims remain stranded in a wasteland of missed opportunities even 73 years after Independence.

**Muslims' ghetto mindset, the main problem:** Indian Muslims, who now call themselves “Muslim Indians” deliberately, do agree that Pakistan today has

become hell on Earth. Yet they fail to thank their God and stars that they are far better in India as compared to those in Pakistan in terms of safety and security of life. My Karachi-based cousin has told me that after dusk, all city roads become deserted. I have a few questions to ask my Indian co-religionists. How is it going to benefit them when they abuse the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the BJP and Modi? Will constantly howling for reservations based on religion not discredit them?

Why do the so-called intellectuals and clerics instead of coolly convincing, heckle opponents in TV debates? All this has created a negative perception of Muslims in the country. My concern is that if these questions are not satisfactorily answered, relations between Hindus and Muslims will worsen. So far at least the answers that have come from educated Muslims have been deeply unsatisfactory or incomplete. The community should be represented by some liberally-balanced Muslims, who know history and at the same time are rooted in their faith.

However, the situation with the ghetto mindset of the Muslim community today is rather grim as they remain critical of the system in general and try to run a parallel governance via the AIMPLB (All-India Muslim Personal Law Board), the *Sharia* courts and the so-called rabble-rousing leaders like the Owaisi brothers, Azam Khan and a horde of perennial apologists seen in TV debates. Rather than serving the community and the nation, their vitriolic remarks create a perception of the community that all the Muslims are similar, which is not true. As per my assessment, more than 50 per cent Indian Muslims are with a progressive idea of India. However, they are tight-lipped and don't want to come out openly in support of the present Government for fear of being socially boycotted or stigmatised as RSS stooges and BJP sycophants.

**Prophet's teachings forgotten:** The problem with today's Muslims is that they

don't follow the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in letter and spirit. This actually distances them from Islam as well, because, Islam possesses sufficient elasticity to enable it to adapt itself to the social and political revolution going on around it. The Mohammedan Common Law (today AIMPLB), or *Shariah*, is by no means unchangeable or unalterable. A practical example of it is the ban of triple *talaq*, a part of *Sharia* but not mentioned in the holy *Quran* and absolutely abhorred by the Prophet. The only law unalterable in Islam is essentially the *Quran* and the traditions of the Prophet. The team of Modi, Shah and Ravi Shankar Prasad, the Law Minister, have banned the draconian *Sharia* law besides settling the eons old *mandir-masjid* imbroglio.

But across India, despite the many problems, the community is forging ahead. Large numbers are doing exceedingly well. The 1992 Babri mosque razing led to major churning. The dominant consensus was that it was important to concentrate on education. That process continues. On November 9, 2019, the issue got amicably settled and none of the Muslims, except the AIMPLB or Owaisi brothers, protested.

**Light at the end of the tunnel:** More and more Muslim women, even in smaller towns, are acquiring an education. Although a Muslim political party has come up in Assam, another one in Telangana and two have been formed in Uttar Pradesh, most Muslims swear by secular national parties. It is time that Muslims realise that the RSS is a reality and Modi is a Prime Minister who has pledged “*Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas* (Compassion for all, Progress for all, Trust for all).” It is the responsibility of Muslims to hold him to account and ensure that he remains committed to India's pluralistic leitmotif.

(The author is the chancellor of Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad and the grandnephew of Bharat Ratna Maulana Azad)

# MSMEs need help to keep afloat

Invest in a mechanism to strengthen the longevity muscle of MSMEs as that would help break barriers and capture global markets



DIPANKER MUKHERJEE

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) are the flavour of the season. Promoting inclusive growth by providing employment opportunities in rural areas to women and people belonging to marginalised sections of society, they are the new engines of India's growth story.

Contributing about 29 per cent to India's GDP, the vision is to increase this contribution to about 50 per cent. Collectively employing over 120 million people, second only to the mammoth agriculture sector, the MSME sector contributes over 45 per cent to India's overall exports.

A net gain is also reduction of regional imbalances and a more equitable distribution of national income and

wealth. MSMEs by design have high flexibility and strong ties to customers and suppliers.

The focus on customer needs, detailed knowledge and experience is many times difficult to replicate. Low overheads often aid lower fluctuations in their business cycle. With a very positive climate in the thinking on MSMEs, where policy, polity and production seem to have come together in fitting measure, all seems to be well in this rapidly upcoming 63 million-sector. It is primed to help move the economy towards the \$5 trillion mark.

Some chinks below the surface, however, need attention and merit early correction. The MSME sector operates primarily on a cash basis and has less access to formal sources of credit. The financial stress of operation, which has been curtailed due to the lockdown and the continuing overhead expenses, however small, has created a burden on many of these companies, which are struggling and are on the brink of shutting down or have already shut down.

With the overall slowdown in the economy and the prospect of a tepid

growth in future demand, this sector will be hard hit. For the MSME sector not to become a “me too” sector, asking for complete Government support and the Government in turn nudging the unwilling banking sector to provide credit in a high default risk scenario, the options available are seemingly limited. An enhanced working capital limit and guarantee on loans to small businesses seem to be the way ahead.

The biggest need for working capital — MSME bank loans — is contested by the banks. Processes are lengthy and loan queues are long. The MSMEs can't get loans and hence don't grow and because they don't grow, they don't get loans. It is a classic “catch-22” situation. Ironically, large lending to big corporations continues despite the risk of them becoming insolvent.

The credit gap for MSMEs as estimated by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and Intelcap stands at ₹16.7 lakh crore. Loan approvals, logistics support, technology access and market access work against the MSME growth ambition. Unlike large companies, they do not have the support of a

strong network of people, resources and marketing channels, most of which become easily accessible with scale.

MSMEs are often seen competing with large corporations and this should be avoided through policy measures. Certain products and categories should be prioritised for MSMEs along with pre-defined quality standards. What affects the MSMEs further is that they don't have the experience of learnings from management education to have an appropriate appreciation of the grammar of business. Theirs is a hit and trial growth.

The future of MSMEs depends significantly on big corporations buying from them. They thus link up with big businesses through disadvantaged negotiations of prices and payment terms, forcing them to borrow more and more. Add to that scenario, the difficulties of delayed income tax and Goods and Services Tax (GST) refunds which further prevent growth. Thus, in the payment hierarchy, where MSMEs are last and have little bargaining power, they are forced to continue the relationship which is contingent on them remaining

small. Equally, the MSMEs are unable to apply pressure to reduce dues as they are made to feel that their future business is at stake. Due to the lack of skilled and professional manpower, they are unable to create the required pressure.

Their access to grievance redressal is either not available or has very low resolution levels. Many don't know how to leverage the redressal system. They fear that seeking such remedy would jeopardise their future business as ultimately they have to fall back on the same business houses for repeat business and the same service providers. For the MSMEs, a nose above the water is as good as it gets.

The creation of a favourable ecosystem for MSMEs would thus remain contingent on regulators assisting in clearance of their bills. Pay or be dealt with swiftly or pay up the interest which the MSMEs are paying for no fault of theirs. Investing in a mechanism to build resilience and strengthen the longevity muscle of MSMEs would help break barriers and capture global markets.

(The writer is Co-founder, Handygo Behtar Zindagi)



Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of Electronic Interlocking (EI) System (Kosyan make) at Vampi station in Virar - Surat section made by Muzil Station for 3 years. **Approx. Cost of Work:** Rs.67.68,658/- **Particular office where E-tender open:** Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer(North), 2nd Floor, Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Mumbai Central, Mumbai-400 008 **Earnest Money Deposit:** Rs. 1,35,40,000/- **Time of E-Tender:** Single E-Tender/Time & Date for closure for submission of E-Tender Documents: on 15.00 hrs. on 14.09.2010. **Time & Date for opening of E-Tender:** On 15.00 hrs. on 14.09.2010. The tender can be viewed at web site <http://www.irebs.gov.in>. **ANN-08**  
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# RBI to pay ₹57,128 cr dividend to Govt

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India board on Friday approved a dividend payout of Rs 57,128 crore to the government, a move in line with the Budget expectation but may not help plug a huge revenue hole created by the pandemic and slowing economy.

The surplus transfer of Rs 57,128 crore for the accounting year 2019-20 compared with Rs 1.76 lakh crore transferred last year, which included Rs 1.23 lakh crore as dividend and Rs 52,637 crore excess provisions identified

as per the revised Economic Capital Framework (ECF).

In a statement, the RBI said its central board headed by Governor Shaktikanta Das “reviewed the current economic situation, continued global and domestic challenges and the monetary, regulatory, and other measures taken by RBI to mitigate the economic impact of COVID-19 pandemic.”

“The Board also approved the transfer of Rs 57,128 crore as surplus to the Central Government for the accounting year 2019-20, while deciding to maintain the Contingency Risk

Buffer at 5.5 per cent,” it said.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the budget for 2020-21 had provisioned receipt of Rs 60,000 crore in dividend from the RBI and other banks to bridge the fiscal deficit. But, government officials had expected more from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

The government is facing a larger-than-expected shortfall in revenue as the economy heads for its first full-year contraction since 1979. With the COVID-19 pandemic disrupting businesses, it is widely speculated that tax collections

will miss the target.

At the same time, the government is being forced to spend more to cushion the blow from the pandemic, straining the budget deficit.

The central bank largely earns profit through its trading of currencies and government bonds as well as printing of notes and coins.

Part of these earnings is set aside by the RBI for its operational and contingency needs, while the rest is transferred to the government in the form of dividend.

RBI’s financial year runs

from July-June at present and is scheduled to be harmonised with the government’s April-March fiscal starting FY22. In the current year, the RBI will have a nine-month financial year, ending in March.

The central bank’s payout to the government last year was more due to a one-time transfer on account of the adoption of a new economic capital framework that calls for maintaining the level of the contingency risk buffer, or realised equity, at between 5.5 and 6.5 per cent of RBI’s balance sheet.

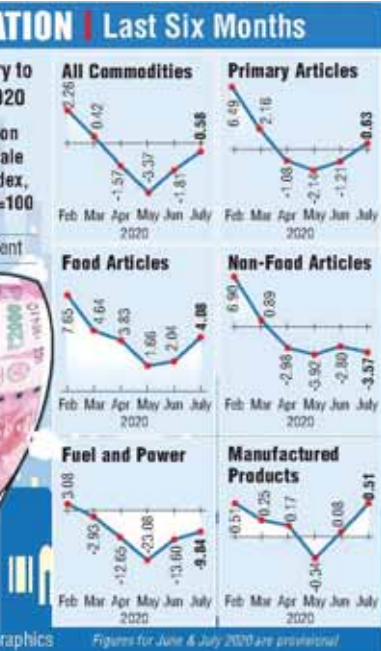
# WPI inflation falls 0.58% in July, food prices spike

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The wholesale price-based inflation stood at (-)0.58 pc in July, remaining in the negative zone for the fourth straight month even as vegetables and other food items turned costlier. WPI inflation in June was (-) 1.81 per cent, while for the month of May and April it was (-) 3.37 per cent and (-) 1.57 per cent respectively.

The annual rate of inflation, based on monthly WPI (Wholesale Price Index), stood at (- 0.58 per cent) (provisional) for the month of July, 2020 as compared to 1.17 per cent during the corresponding month of the previous year,” the commerce and industry ministry said in a statement.

Inflation in food articles was at a four-month high level of 4.08 per cent in July, mainly due to sharp rise in vegetable prices. Inflation in vegetables



stood at 8.20 per cent, against (-) 9.21 per cent in June.

Pulses saw inflation of 10.24 per cent, while for potato it was 69.07 per cent in July. Protein rich items like egg, meat and fish saw hardening of prices with inflation at 5.27 per cent.

However, onion prices soft-

ened and inflation fell 25.56 per cent, while in fruits it was (-) 3.03 per cent. Inflation in fuel and power basket fell 9.84 per cent in July, compared to 13.60 per cent drop in the previous month. Manufactured products, however, witnessed inflation of 0.51 per cent in July, against 0.08 per cent in June.

ICRA Principal Economist Aditi Nayar said the considerable narrowing in the WPI disinflation in July 2020 relative to the previous month, was along expected lines, with a correction in the index levels for crude oil and mineral oils,

further narrowing of the core disinflation and a rise in food inflation. “The surge in tomato prices and moderate rise in potato prices pushed up the vegetable inflation in July 2020, contributing to the uptick in the inflation for primary food articles to a four-month high.

# Markets retreat for 3rd day; bank stocks bleed

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity indices nursed losses for the third straight session on Friday as investors pruned exposure to banking, financial and consumption stocks amid negative global cues.

Weak macroeconomic data and a depreciating rupee further curbed risk appetite, traders said.

Tanking 663 points from the day’s high, the 30-share BSE Sensx settled 433.15 points or 1.13 per cent lower at 37,877.34.

The broader NSE Nifty slumped 122.05 points or 1.08 per cent to close at 11,178.40.

Axis Bank was the top laggard in the Sensex pack, slipping 2.81 per cent, followed by SBI, M&M, Bajaj Finance, ITC, HDFC Bank, HCL Tech and IndusInd Bank.

Only five index constituents ended in the green — Sun Pharma, NTPC, Tata Steel, Titan and Infosys, rising up to 2.04 per cent. During the week, the Sensex declined 163.23 points or 0.42 per cent, while the Nifty fell 35.65 points or 0.31 per cent.

“Indian markets tracked weak global cues in the latter part of the trading day to end with losses. The uncertainty was with regards to the US-China trade meet this weekend and a lack of wholesome pickup in economic activity in many countries, including China.

“The Indian retail inflation numbers that came in above the MPCs” target also put doubt on expected rate cuts by the RBI, which the market was looking forward to. Weak results especially in the Auto sector also contributed to the losses,” said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Retail inflation rose to 6.93 per cent in July, mainly driven by rising prices of food items like vegetables, pulses,

meat and fish, official data released post market hours on Thursday showed.

BSE auto, bankex, finance, oil and gas, FMCG and telecom indices fell up to 2.50 per cent in Friday’s session, while metal, healthcare and consumer durables closed higher.

Broader BSE mid-cap and small-cap indices fell up to 1.02 per cent.

Global equities were under pressure following lacklustre industrial production and retail sales data in China.

Bourses in Hong Kong and Seoul ended in the red, while Shanghai and Tokyo settled with gains.

Stock exchanges in Paris, Frankfurt and London plunged up to 2 per cent in early deals, dragged by travel stocks, after the UK added more European countries to its quarantine list.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 0.65 per cent lower at USD 44.67 per barrel. In the forex market, the rupee settled 6 paise lower at 74.90 against US dollar.

## ₹ settles 6 paise lower at 74.90 against US \$

**Mumbai:** The rupee on Friday slid 6 paise to end at 74.90 against US dollar as data showing slow economic recovery and higher inflation dampened forex market sentiment.

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened at 74.85 and then lost further ground to settle at 74.90, registering a decline of 6 paise over its previous close of 74.84 to the US dollar.

During the session, the rupee witnessed an intra-day high of 74.74 and a low of 74.93 against the greenback.

On weekly basis, the rupee inched up 3 paise against the US dollar. **PTI**

## Bank credit grows 5.51 pc, deposits 11.11 pc: RBI data

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Bank credit and deposits grew 5.51 per cent and 11.11 per cent to Rs 102.65 lakh crore and Rs 141.61 lakh crore, respectively, in the fortnight ended July 31, according to the latest data from the RBI.

In the fortnight ended August 2, 2019, bank credit and deposits were at Rs 97.29 lakh crore and Rs 127.44 lakh crore, respectively.

On a year-on-year (y-o-y) basis, non-food bank credit growth was at 6.7 per cent in June 2020, nearly the same as in May 2020 but lower than the growth of 11.1 per cent in June 2019.

## Gr Noida brings open-ended scheme of residential buildings

**Greater Noida:** On the occasion of Independence Day, the Greater Noida Authority is bringing an open-ended scheme of residential buildings from date, GNIDA CEO Narendra Bhooshan said. Under which you can decorate the dream of dwelling by not applying for the request. It is a special occasion for them that if they are living on rent or are confused with the breathtaking plans of the builders, then the authority is providing them a lot of opportunity to choose the building of their choice in this scheme.



## METRO RLY OBSERVES CLEANLINESS WEEK

**Kolkata:** Metro Railway has undertaken a special cleanliness drive in order to observe Cleanliness Week from 10th August to 16th August, 2020. Metro officers and staff have been participating in this drive in order to make Metro premises more beautiful and clean and augment its aesthetics.

On Friday for the fifth consecutive day, cleanliness drives were organised at North-South and East-West Metro stations in which Metro staff participated in numbers maintaining all COVID-19 protocols.

During this week, special focus is given on collection and disposal of plastic wastes in and around Metro premises.

## Milaap introduces free fundraising

**New Delhi:** For charitable organisations and personal causes during the Covid pandemic, Milaap is introducing a free fundraising platform for the upcoming festive season from the Independence Day.

“We made Milaap free for all relief related fundraisers as a token of gratitude. Therefore, it made perfect sense for extending this 0% fee to all fundraisers,” said Mayukh Choudhury, co-founder and CEO of Milaap.

SUPRA INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES LIMITED				
1212, Hemkund Tower-39, Nehru Place, New Delhi – 110 019				
Phone: 011-41608996, Website: www.supraindustrialresources.in				
Email: supraxchange.com@gmail.com CIN: L65999DL1985PLC019987				
Standalone Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter Ended 30.06.2020				
Rs. In Lakhs (Except EPS)				
S. No	Particulars	Quarter Ending	Previous Quarter Ended	Corresponding three months Ended in the previous year
		30-Jun-20 Unaudited	31-Mar-20 Audited	30-Jun-19 Unaudited
1	Total Income from operations (net)	0.91	0.99	1.09
2	Net Profit/(Loss) from ordinary activities after tax*	(1.28)	(1.87)	(1.86)
3	total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(1.28)	(1.87)	(1.86)
4	Equity Share Capital	25.00	25.00	25.00
5	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve as shown in the Balance Sheet of previous year)	12.26	12.26	18.60
6	Earnings Per Share (from ordinary items) (of Rs.10/- each) (In Rs.) 1. Basic: 2. Diluted :	(0.50)	(2.55)	(0.74)
*The Company does not have any extraordinary item to report for the above period				
Notes:				
1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarter ended 30.06.2020 Financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (LODR) Regulation, 2015. The full financial results is available on the company's Website www.supraindustrialresources.in and on the stock exchange website www.mse.in				
2. The Unaudited standalone financial results of the Company for the quarter ended 30.06.2020 have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting held on 14.08. 2020.				
3. This statement has been prepared in accordance with the companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules 2015 (Ind AS) prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 and other recognised accounting practices and policies to the extend applicable.				
for Supra Industrial Resources Ltd.,				
Rajat Agarwal				
Director				
(DIN 00266205)				
Place: New Delhi				
Date: 14.08.2020				

SUPERIOR FINLEASE LIMITED						
CIN: L74899DL1994PLC061995						
Regd. Off: NS-92, Kharsa No-33/21, Ranaji Enclave, Najafgarh, Near Arjun Park Bus Stand New Delhi -110043						
Email id: superiorfinlease@gmail.com; Website: www.superiorfinlease.com						
Extract of Statement of Un-audited Financial Results for the quarter ended on June 30, 2020						
(Rupees in lacs)						
Sl No.	Particulars	STANDALONE		CONSOLIDATED		
		Quarter ended 30-06-20 Un-audited	Year ended 30-06-19 Audited	Quarter ended 30-06-20 Un-audited	Year ended 31-03-20 Un-audited	Year ended 31-03-20 Audited
1	Total Income from operations	23.10	22.85	102.33	23.10	22.85
2	Net Profit for the period (Before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	15.74	8.16	22.09	15.74	8.16
3	Net Profit for the period Before Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	15.74	8.16	22.09	16.13	8.16
4	Net Profit for the period After Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	15.74	6.04	16.31	16.13	6.04
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit] for the period (after tax) and other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	15.74	4.95	18.91	16.13	4.95
6	Equity Share Capital	300.10	300.10	300.10	300.10	300.10
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserves) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet as shown in the previous year	3.31	(8.67)	(11.27)	3.31	(8.67)
8	Earning Per Share (of Rs.10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)					
	(a) Basic and Diluted EPS	0.52	0.20	0.54	0.54	0.20
	(b) Basic and Diluted EPS (after Extra-ordinary items) (in Rs.)	0.52	0.20	0.54	0.54	0.20
	(c) Basic and Diluted EPS (after Extra-ordinary items) (in Rs.)	0.52	0.20	0.54	0.54	0.20
Note: The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Results are available on the Stock Exchange Website (www.mse.in and www.bseindia.com) and Company's website www.superiorfinlease.com.						
For Superior Finlease Limited-						
Sd/-						
(RAJNEESH KUMAR)						
Director						
DIN: 02463693						
Date : 13.08.2020						
Place : New Delhi						

बिहार  सरकार						
प्राचार्य का कार्यालय, दरभंगा चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, लहेरियासराय						
निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना						
भारतीय चिकित्सा परिषद, नई दिल्ली के माध्यम से, को पूर्ण करने हेतु दरभंगा चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, लहेरियासराय के केन्द्रीय पुस्तकालय एवं विभागीय पुस्तकालय के लिए वित्तीय वर्ष 2020-21 में मेडिकल पुस्तकों नवीनतम एवं मूल संस्करण, विभिन्न विषयों / विशेषताओं के जर्नल (राष्ट्रीय एवं अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय) की आपूर्ति करने हेतु प्रकाशकों, प्राधिकृत वितरकों अथवा अधिकृत विक्रेताओं जो FPBA, नई दिल्ली के माध्यम से शर्तों को पूरा करते हैं एवं जीओ ओओ सीओ के द्वारा पुस्तकों / जर्नलों की आपूर्ति के प्राधिकृत एजेंट हों वे निम्न शर्तों और स्थिति (Terms and Condition) के साथ विज्ञापन के प्रथम प्रकाशन की तिथि से 21 दिनों के अन्दर मुद्रणव्यय लिफाफे में निविदा डाक / स्पीड पोस्ट द्वारा निविदा समर्पित करेंगे। 21 वे दिन अगर किसी प्रकार का अचकाश रहता है या किसी अपरिहार्य कारण से प्राचार्य कार्यालय बंद रहता है तो उससे अगले दिन तक निविदा प्राप्त की जायेगी। निविदा प्राप्य करने की अंतिम तिथि के अगले दिन क्रय समिति के सम्म निविदा खोली जायेगी। जिसमें निविदादाता या उनके प्राधिकृत प्रतिनिधि उपस्थित रह सकते हैं।						
20-मेडिकल पुस्तकों / जर्नलों की सूची केन्द्रीय पुस्तकालय में कार्य दिवस में 10 बजे पूर्वाह्न से 4बजे अपराह्न तक निशुल्क प्राप्त कर सकते हैं या कार्यालय के वेबसाइट- <a href="http://www.darbhanga medical college.com">www.darbhanga medical college.com</a> पर देखी जा सकती है।						
21-वित्तीय निविदा में पुस्तकों / जर्नलों की सूची का मूल्य भारतीय रुपये में GST रहित एवं GST सहित Excel Sheet में CD के साथ संलग्न करना अनिवार्य है।						
22-निविदा हेतु Excel Sheet का प्राप्य।						
Sl.No.	Author	Name of books	Price	Discount	Total	
प्राचार्य						
दरभंगा चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, लहेरियासराय						
PR. No. 004895 (Health) 2020-21						
नोवल कोरोना के संघर्ष में वित्तीय जानकारी एवं सहयोग हेतु  Toll Free No. <b>104</b> पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं।						
खाद्य सामग्री- संबंधी किसी तरह की जानकारी अथवा सुझाव हेतु दूरभाष संख्या 0612-2217636 पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।						

PUBLIC NOTICE	
My Client	Khadak Singh S/o Late Talvir Singh R/o Plot No-T-65, Block-T, Shukar Bazar Road,Uttam Nagar West,N.Delhi-59
has disowned his Son	Kamal Singh & his wife Pawan Pariyar/Neelam, their daughter Nihanka from his movable and immovable Property of my client, due to misbehaviour, disobedient & harmful towards my client. My Client has also severed all his relations with them. If anybody deals with them in any manner he or she all do so at his/her own risk. My Client shall not be responsible for the same in any manner.
	Ramesh Anand (Advocate), Ch-68 Tis Hazari

PRAKASH WOOLEN & SYNTHETIC MILLS LIMITED	
CIN - L17291UP1979PLC004804	
Regd. Office: 18th Km Stone, Delhi Moradabad Road NH-24,Village Amhera, Distt. J. P. Nagar, UP- 244102	
Website: www.prakashwoolen.com	
Email: info@prakashwoolen.com	

NOTICE	
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligation And Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Friday, 21st August, 2020 to consider and take on record the Un-Audited Financial Results for the quarter ended on 30th June, 2020 among other things.	
A copy of the said Notice and the Financial Results shall also be available at the Company's website at <a href="http://www.prakashwoolen.com">www.prakashwoolen.com</a> and on Stock Exchange Website at <a href="http://www.bseindia.com">www.bseindia.com</a>	
For Prakash Woolen & Synthetic Mills Limited	Sd/-
	VIJAY KUMAR GUPTA
	WHOLETIME DIRECTOR & CFO
Place: Village Amhera (Amroha)	
Date : 14.08.2020	DIN: 00335325

REGENT ENTERPRISES LTD	
Registered Office : E-205 (LGP), Greater Kailash-II, New Delhi-110 048	
Phone:011-29213191	
Email:info@regententerprises.in	
CIN:L15500DL1994PLC153183	
Website:www.regententerprises.in	
NOTICE	

Pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, Notice is hereby given that the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held at 14/17, Naya Garh, Ghaziabad- 201001 on Monday, the 24th day of August, 2020 at 4.00 pm, inter alia, to consider, approve Un-audited Financial Results of the Company for the quarter ended on 30th June, 2020.

Pursuant to this,





**ISHAAN KHATTER**

I am exhilarated to be a part of *Pippa*, a film of such magnitude and importance. It is directed by Raja Krishna Menon. Getting to play the suave and spirited tank commander Brigadier Balram Singh Mehta is a true privilege. I'm looking forward to the exciting experience of the film.



**CHUNKY PANDAY**

When I came into films in the late 80s and early 90s, it was all about these heroes doing the right things. The hero couldn't dream of doing anything negative, but then came SRK and he did films like *Darr*, *Baazigar* and now slowly, I have seen that even Akshay (Kumar) is doing it. Ranveer (Singh) has done it so convincingly in *Padmaavat*.



**NAMIT DAS**

I feel it is extremely important to make these big challenges of human existence a conversation in the public domain. What better way to spread awareness about them than through music? 'We are one' irrespective of caste, culture, religion, creed and colour. As humans, we need to do better and empathise with each other.



**SUKHWINDER SINGH**

The title track of the film, *Mere Desh Ki Dharti* is special for more than one reasons. The lyrics are beautiful yet powerful. The music stays with you. It's really an honour to be a part of such a spectacular song. What's most exciting is that it's releasing on Independence Day, the most befitting tribute to our country, our motherland.



**VIKRANT MASSEY**

The script of *14 Phere* hit me hard. The ideology of the film and the thought behind the story is something that has been with me, individually. It is a beautiful story that speaks of things relevant in today's times. I am looking forward to working with Kriti (Kharbanda).

INDEPENDENCE DAY SPECIAL 60 MINUTES

SHADES OF INDIA

As India marks its 74th Independence Day, National Geographic celebrates the pride of the nation by releasing never-seen-before images through an aerial lens



Representation of a meteorite entering earth's atmosphere.

India is known for its rich cultural heritage and history. From archaeological wonders like Taj Mahal to majestic palaces and forts, all narrate the testimony of our nation's regal lineage. As India marks its 74th Independence Day, National Geographic celebrates the pride of the nation by releasing never-seen-before images of the country through an aerial lens. These images have been shot as part of its forthcoming two-part series titled *India From Above*. Narrated by Dev Patel, the film highlights different aspects of our country

from geological wonders, marvels of human engineering to some of the big festivals. Shot across one year spanning the length and breadth of the country using advanced 4k aerial filming technology, the series is a fitting tribute to our vibrant nation. From covering the largest democratic exercise in human history to ensuring ancient technique and skills are preserved for future generations, the film reveals how India is embracing its path to forge its future.  
*(The second part of the series premieres today at 10 pm on National Geographic.)*



Ghanshyam Singh, Deputy Commandant of the Border Security Force, leads the Camel Contingent at a rehearsal. By Abhik Wadhwa



A sea of blue solar panels. By Abhik Wadhwa



The shifting sand dunes of the Thar at the India-Pakistan border in Rajasthan. By Raunak Sharma



Our drone glides past one of the fourteen gopurams as it captures the intricate carvings of the Meenakshi Amman Temple. By Raunak Sharma



The terrain of Ladakh as dusk approaches. By Abhik Wadhwa



A celebration of colour as the festivities for Holi kick off at the temple premises in Nandgaon. By Abhik Wadhwa



An aerial view of pilgrims taking a holy dip at the confluence of rivers Ganga, Yamuna and the invisible Saraswati at the Kumbh Mela. By Gaurav Agarwal



The Chand Baori, a stepwell that is approximately thousand years old. One that served as the primary source of water for countless villagers. By Raunak Sharma



One of the many waterfalls in the wettest place in the world, cascading down the Khasi Hills. By Abhik Wadhwa



The Vizhinjam village. By Anurag Jetly



India's second lunar exploration kicks off as the GSLV Mark III leaves its launchpad. By Jagya Naik M



CONVERSATION 60 MINUTES

# 'A LOVE LETTER TO HUMAN RACE'

Presenter BRIAN COX says that the series, *Human Universe*, explores the answers to the greatest questions ever asked about the existence of planets, alien life and the human brain. By TEAM VIVA

It is a story of humanity, told through the greatest questions ever asked. 'Where are we in the Universe?' 'What is the destiny of our planet?' 'How did the human brain arise and why did we develop consciousness?' 'Will our search for alien life be successful, or Earth is the only planet with life? Are we alone?'

Answering these questions, the series, *Human Universe* offers a new perspective on human life, combining dramatic photography with innovative CGI all set in spectacular locations across the world as it explores the ultimate wonder of the universe — us.

Excerpts of a conversation with presenter Brian Cox:

## ❖ How would you sum up the series?

*Human Universe* is a love letter to the human race. It sounds like a very simple definition of a series but it didn't begin that simply. It started out as a cosmology series, an astronomy series, asking questions about how we came here, questions about the evolution of the human race, the origin of the Universe itself. Well, what we realised during the shoot was that, it was, it really became a series about our values.

Modern science has taught us that we are very rare as well as insignificant, and so the trick in the series was to put those two things together — what does it mean to be rare, and then, the consequence of an almost unbelievable series of accidents, but also insignif-

icant. How do you marry these things?

The answers were — our rarity gives us value and also, because our existence seems to be completely meaningless, we're equally insignificant. We didn't have to be here. Hence, I think we have a responsibility to look after ourselves, to protect ourselves, to find out about the Universe, and to do science.

In this way, if you put all these thoughts together, ultimately, you get a love letter.

## ❖ What's special about the series?

I think of all the series I've made, this one is my favourite. I have a soft spot for the 'Wonders of the Solar System' because it's the first big thing that I did. And this one I think, for me, addresses the biggest questions. Undoubtedly, we're asking questions about, at one level, our existence, how did we come to be here, not only us as human beings, given the origin of life on Earth, but also the Universe itself. And the fact that modern, 21st century science is beginning to address these questions is remarkable.



At another level, it's also hinting at deeper questions like how to value ourselves and science, proceed for the future, and respect the acquisition of knowledge. This has been made most explicit in the fifth programme, which is polemic. Many would have seen it in the past through series like *Cosmos*, *The Ascent of Man*, and some of James Burke's works. They have polemical elements.

I think this series is a bit old-fashioned, but in a good way. It has a collective opinion, which is delivered as mine but was actually generated throughout the series, through the collaboration with the crew and the directors, and everybody who worked on the series. I think that is what gives it some added depth and resonance.

## ❖ What was your most memorable experience during the shoot?

The strangest experience I've ever had filming anything was the Soyuz capsule return into Kazakhstan. The reason is that the

snow there was quite heavy and our vehicles were very under-powered. Essentially, we had the wrong vehicles, so we couldn't get there and got stuck. It was a disaster because it's the centre part of the series — return of the Soyuz capsule into Kazakhstan — and we were faced with a situation where we couldn't film it because we couldn't reach there.

A film crew working for the Russian Army said to us, 'We can fit two of you in our vehicle. If you jump on these two snowmobiles and chase us and see if you can find us out there in the Kazakh wilderness.' So, I and Paul O'Callahan, the cameraman, jumped onto the snowmobiles, left everybody else and went off with the Russian Army, with no communication with our team.

No one spoke English, apart from one of the Russian cameramen. We stayed the night, partly in a Kazakh farmer's hut, who, as far as I could see, brought us horse and jam to eat, which was actually very good. And we finally filmed the return of the Soyuz capsule. It was a remarkable experience. You will see it at the end of episode 1, *Ape Man Space Man*, in one of the most iconic scenes of the series, that only two of us actually shot it.

(The series airs from August 17 to August 21 at 8 pm on Sony BBC Earth.)

# Humans behind the cartoon

Actors WILL SMITH, NAOMI SCOTT and MENA MASSOUD offer a peek inside their characters in *Aladdin*, their families' reaction and some behind the scenes. By TEAM VIVA

*Aladdin*, a live action musical fantasy film is the reimagining of the 1992 animated classic from Walt Disney Pictures. The plot follows Aladdin (played by Mena Massoud), a street urchin, as he falls in love with Princess Jasmine (played by Naomi Scott), befriends a wish-granting Genie (played by Will Smith), and battles the wicked Jafar (played by Marwan Kenzari). Excerpts:

## ❖ What was your reaction when you found out that you are going to play the most iconic character in the history of cinema?

**Naomi Scott:** I was excited initially but was scared later with the thought of humanising an animated character that's iconic. You are going off animation which means there are definitely certain things that are the foundation of the character, humanising that person is exciting because then you could make her into a woman who is into so many different things. She is one of my favourite Disney princesses for real.

**Mena Massoud:** I didn't have the time to think about it. I got the project on a Wednesday and had to fly out on a Friday for six months. So I had a day and half to pack all my stuff because of Will's (Smith) schedule. It was a good thought because I didn't have the time to dwell on it, it was a blessing in disguise.

## ❖ Who in your family was the most excited when they found out about your role?

**Mena:** I came home after wrapping up a film and woke up my parents at 3 am. I have never seen my dad more excited. He jumped out of the bed and gave me a hug. My mom was half asleep and half crying. She was like 'really?'

**Naomi:** I think everyone may have told a few people what was going on at the time but my favourite reaction was of my friend Adrian who literally just went 'girl bye' and then hung up in there, it was good 15 minutes before he rang me



back. The other one was my friend Shelly who burst out crying and my brother, who cared I was in the film because of Will. He is not that keen about what I do apart from the fact that I am in a film with Will. He is his biggest fan in the world.

**Will Smith:** For me, the major thing was how huge and perfect the character Robin Williams had already played in the film. And I have been in these situations before where you have roles with people you have nostalgic emotional connection. I love Williams and what he did with the genie. One question I always ask myself with those kinds of roles is, is there any meat left on the bone? can you do a service to the love and nostalgia that is connected to it while at the same time bring something new to the next generation? When I played genie, it was absolutely terrifying but post that I have never felt it in a strange way because the character becomes ingrained in people's hearts and

minds in a way that it's a family member. I watched the film about 10 times, it had live action and distinct characters. I thought I would modernise the genie where I could pay homage to Robin and honour the widely respected depiction while at the same time bring something new.

## ❖ What was the most memorable day of shooting on the set?

**Naomi:** I would say shooting 'Speechless' because it was a very emotional day. I felt like I had to give myself some space getting to the zone because I was singing the first half live which is difficult, I was being moved around so you try to control your voice and then go into the song. I just had to give everything. That song is really important to that character because it is that point where she is being herself and is constantly being shut down and people can relate to that.

## ❖ Tell us about the line "My sultan, Jafar is not who he says he is!"

**Mena:** So you have heard the story. It was a really intense moment in a very dramatic scene. I had a few long days and I came in and completely fumbled the line. Will didn't let it go. I said something like 'hem whom nom seem him is.' It did come out like that and then we just couldn't stop laughing. Will actually got it made into a T-shirt wrapped up gift. I still wear it, it's part of my pyjamas. I can't wear it out though otherwise people would be like 'What is that?'

## ❖ What film would you like to be in if you had the choice? What if Aladdin was in it?

**Mena:** Maybe *Inglorious Basterds* of Quentin Tarantino — that is one of my favourite films of all time. The character work in that is amazing so I would love to do that. If Aladdin was in it, that would be a little weird, we would have to mature it up a little bit.

(The film airs today at 3 pm on Star Movies as a part of the 'Independence Day: Special Edition' pack.)

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE**  
The Sr. Divisional Engineer-III, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work.  

1	Name of work	Annual Zone work for PE 30.06.2021 for repair to service building and station building in the section of JE/Yamuna Bridge & SSB in the section of SSE/WDL/Line under ADEN/DLI.
2	Approx. cost of work	Rs. 49,41,448.72 (Rupees Forty Nine Lakh Forty One Thousand Four Hundred Forty Eight and Paise Seventy Two only)
3	Earnest Money to be deposited	Rs. 98,800/- (Rupees Ninety Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Only)
4	Cost of tender document	Rs. 3540/-
5	Date & Time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender	11.09.2020 @ 15:00 Hrs.
6	Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

- The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in the e-tender system.
- For all terms and conditions please refer tender document.
- No manual offers are acceptable.
- Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only.

No. 128-W/280/e Tender Notice/NIT/16/2020-21/W-3 Dated : 14.08.2020

1762/2020

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**Tender Notice**  
The Dy. Chief Engineer/Const., Northern Railway, Shakurbasti, Delhi for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tender under Two Packet System for the under noted work:-  

Name of work and location	Construction of Administrative block, Store, Shed, Boundary wall and other allied works in c/w Outpit facility at Sarai Rohilla & Up gradation of sick-line maintenance facilities at TKD.
Completion period of the work	12 MONTHS
Approx. cost of the work	Rs.110.49 LAKH
Earnest Money amount (to be deposited Online)	Rs.705250/-
Sale/availability of tender document on Railway Web site	Tender documents will be available on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 03.09.2020 to 17.09.2020 upto 11.30 hrs.
Last date/Time of upload of tenders	17.09.2020 upto 11.30 hrs Tender documents can be uploaded by the tenderer on IREPS web site w.e.f. 03.09.2020 to 17.09.2020
Date & Time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender	17.09.2020 at 11.30 hours (Immediately after closed of uploading of tender (D2). In case of two packet system. Financial bid of the eligible tenderer would be opened subsequently on the date and time to be notified later on.
Opening of tender	17.09.2020 at 11.30 hours (Immediately after closed of uploading of tender)

Tender Notice No.369-ACS-C-SSB Dated : 11.08.2020

1760/2020

**Serving Customers With A Smile**

**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED**  

		General Public is hereby informed that a lady namely <b>Jyoti</b> with son <b>Aman W/o Som Dutt</b> , R/o H. No. 486 Baba Haridass Colony, Tikri Border, Delhi have been missing/ kidnapped since 06.07.2020. In this regard a <b>DD No. 41-A</b> dated <b>07.07.2020</b> has been registered at PS Mundka, Delhi. The description of missing/ kidnapped lady & son are as under: <b>Name :</b> Jyoti, <b>Husband's Name :</b> Som Dutt, <b>Age:</b> 26 years, <b>Height:</b> 5'3". <b>Face :</b> Long, <b>Complexion :</b> Wheatish, <b>Wearing:</b> Blue colour Suit-Salwar and chappale in feet. <b>Name :</b> Aman, <b>Parentage:</b> Som Dutt, <b>Age:</b> 5 years, <b>Height:</b> 4'. <b>Face :</b> Round, <b>Complexion :</b> Wheatish, <b>Wearing:</b> Black T-Shirt-White Nikkar and Sandal in feet. If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned at following phone number.  Website : http://cbi.nic.in e-mail : c/c@cbi.gov.in Fax : 011-24368639 Ph. : 011-24368638, 24368641
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**SHO**  
**P.S., Mundka, Delhi**  
**DP/288/OD/2020**      **Ph. : 8586932309, 7065036126**

**Metro Railway, Kolkata**  
**Kolkata's Pride**  
**e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE NO. 07/20-21 Date : 13.08.2020**  
**Principal Chief Materials Manager, Metro Railway, Kolkata, 33/1, J. L. Nehru Road, Kolkata - 700071** for and on behalf of The President of India invites e-Tender for following items already uploaded in website **www.ireps.gov.in**. Tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full details/description/ drawing/specification of the tenders and submit their bids online.  

Tender No.	Brief Description	Quantity	Tender closing date & time
02205049D	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Multi-energy X-Ray Baggage Scanner Machine	24 Nos.	25.08.2020, 14.00 Hrs.
01191937C	End Shield (PINION END) for TRACTION Motor Type 3701 BX	24 Nos.	03.09.2020, 14.00 Hrs.
	GEAR Case Assembly as per BHEL Drawing no. 04461699035 for Traction Motor	16 Nos.	
	Set of Bearing Assembly Kit for traction Motor Type no. TM3701 BX	7 Sets.	

**Principal CMM, Metro Railway/Kolkata**  
**FASTER    SAFER    SMOOTHER    CLEANER**

**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED**  

	General Public is hereby informed that one girl <b>Namely: Parul</b> , D/o: <b>Rajsh</b> , R/o: L-128, Mohammadpur, Majari, Karala, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped since <b>07.08.2020</b> from the area of P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi. In this regard a case vide <b>FIR No. 293/20 U/s 363 IPC dated 08.08.2020</b> has been registered at P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi. The description of the missing girl are as under: <b>Age:</b> 17 years, <b>Sex:</b> Female, <b>Height:</b> 5'1", <b>Face:</b> Round, <b>Complexion:</b> Fair, <b>Hair:</b> Boy cutt style, <b>Wearing:</b> Blue colour T-shirt, black colour trouser and blue colour shoes in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this girl kindly inform to the following.  <b>Website:</b> http://cbi.nic.in <b>E-mail Id - c/c@cbi.gov.in</b> <b>Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641</b> <b>SHO</b> <b>P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi</b> <b>DP/297/RD/2020</b> <b>Ph.: 011-25951486, 8750870324</b>
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**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED**  

	General public is hereby informed that a boy namely <b>Mohit S/o: Ram Avatar</b> , R/o: H-3, Gali No. 5, Kunwar Singh Nagar, Delhi missing/kidnapped since <b>30.06.2020</b> from the area of P.S. Ranhola, Delhi. In this regard <b>DD No. 37-A</b> dated <b>04.07.2020</b> has been registered at P.S. Ranhola, Delhi. The description of missing/kidnapped boy is as under: <b>Name: Mohit, Age: 19 Years, Height: 5'8", Face: Long, Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: Blue T-Shirt, Blue Lower and Blue shoes in feet.</b> If anyone have any information about this missing/ kidnapped boy please inform P.S. Ranhola, Delhi.  <b>Web:</b> http://cbi.nic.in, <b>Email:</b> c/c@cbi.gov.in <b>Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639</b> <b>SHO</b> <b>Police Station, Ranhola, Delhi</b> <b>DP/293/OD/2020</b> <b>Ph: 011-28363001, 28363002, 28363003</b>
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**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**  

	General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male namely <b>Unknown</b> , S/o: <b>Unknown</b> , R/o: <b>Unknown</b> , was found on <b>09.07.2020</b> at Jaal of Haiderpur Water Treatment Plant, Delhi. In this regard <b>DD No. 83</b> dated <b>12.08.2020</b> has been lodged at Police Station, K.N. Katju Marg, Delhi. Dead Body has been preserved at Dr. BSA Hospital Mortuary, Rohini, Delhi. Identification of unidentified dead body of male is as under: <b>Name: Unknown, Age: 35-40 Years (Approx), Height: 5'7", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Oval, Built: Medium, Hair: Highly Decomposed, Wearing: Grey color Shirt and Black color Trouser.</b> If anyone have any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be inform undersigned.  <b>SHO</b> <b>Police Station, K.N. Katju Marg, Delhi</b> <b>DP/305/RD/2020</b> <b>Ph.: 011-27571162, 8750870327</b>
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**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED**  

	General public is hereby informed that a girl namely <b>Disha D/o: Mahender Singh</b> , R/o: <b>RZK-2/141, Nihal Vihar, Delhi</b> missing/ kidnapped since <b>21.07.2020</b> from the area of P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi. In this regard <b>FIR No. 773/20</b> dated <b>25.07.2020</b> U/s 363 IPC has been registered at P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi. The description of missing/kidnapped girl is as under: <b>Name: Disha, Age: 17 Years, Height: 4'4", Face: Round, Complexion: Shallow, ID Mark: A cut mark on left eye brow, Wearing: Sky Blue Kurta, Black Pajami and Grey jutti in feet.</b> If anyone have any information about this missing/kidnapped girl please inform P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi.  <b>Web:</b> http://cbi.nic.in, <b>Email:</b> c/c@cbi.gov.in <b>Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639</b> <b>SHO</b> <b>Police Station, Nihal Vihar, Delhi</b> <b>DP/307/OD/2020</b> <b>Ph: 011-25946700, 25946710</b>
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**SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED**  

	General Public is hereby informed that a new born baby boy namely <b>Amarjeet S/o Sh Ram Baran</b> , R/o Godam No.31, Kirbi Place, Dhoobi Ghat, New Delhi has been kidnapped since 29.03.2019. from his house. In this regard a <b>FIR No. 103/19 dated 29.03.2019</b> u/s 363 IPC has been registered at PS, Delhi Cantt, New Delhi. The description of kidnapped boy is as under : <b>Name : Amarjeet, Father's Name : Sh. Ram Baran, Age : 17 days, Height : 1", Face : Round, Sex : male, Complexion : Shallow, Hair: Normal, Wearing : Pink colour Shirt &amp; Pants.</b> If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned at following phone numbers.  <b>Website :</b> http://cbi.nic.in <b>e-mail :</b> c/c@cbi.gov.in <b>Fax :</b> 011-24368639 <b>Ph. : 011-24368638, 24368641</b> <b>SHO</b> <b>P.S., Delhi Cantt, New Delhi</b> <b>DP/220/SW/2020</b> <b>Ph. : 011-25693161, 8700811134</b>
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**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**  

General public is hereby informed that one male was found dead on 30.07.2020 in the area of PS Burari, Delhi. In this regard a <b>DD No. 49A u/s 174 CrPc, Dated 30.07.2020</b> has been lodged at P.S. Burari, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved in mortuary of Subzi Mandi, Delhi for 72 hrs for identification. The description of the dead body is given as under: <b>Name:</b> Babulal, <b>S/o:</b> Unknown, <b>R/o:</b> Unknown, <b>Age:</b> approx. 43-44 years, <b>Height:</b> 5'7" Feet, <b>Face:</b> Long, <b>Complexion:</b> Wheatish, <b>Built:</b> Medium, <b>Hair:</b> Black, <b>Beard:</b> Small, <b>Eye:</b> Black and White, <b>Wearing:</b> Red Colour Shirt, White Colour Baniyan, Black Colour Trouser and Bare Footed. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the information about the dead male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one is having any information about this dead male please inform the undersigned.  <b>SHO</b> <b>P.S. Burari, Delhi</b> <b>DP/458/N/2020</b> <b>Ph.: 011-27616844, 27616845</b>	
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**SEARCH OF MISSING/KIDNAPPED**  

General public is hereby informed that one boy (depicted in the photo), <b>Namely: Mukesh @ Aditay</b> , S/o: <b>Ajay @ Vinod</b> , R/o: 5352, Basti Harphool Singh, Sadar Bazar, Delhi, <b>Aged:</b> 10 years, has been missing/ kidnapped from the area of PS Sadar Bazar, Delhi since 15.03.2013. In this regard a case vide <b>FIR No. 74/13 u/s 363 IPC, Dated 26.04.2013</b> , has been registered at <b>P.S. Sadar Bazar, Delhi</b> , His physical description is as under: <b>Height:</b> 3'9" Feet, <b>Complexion:</b> Shallow, <b>Face:</b> Long, <b>Built:</b> Thin, <b>Clothing:</b> Blue colour shirt and Blue colour jeans. Any person is having any information/clue about this missing/ kidnapped boy, may inform SHO, Sadar Bazar, Delhi at E-mail: <b>c/c@cbi.gov.nic.in</b> or website : <b>http://cbi.nic.in</b> Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641  <b>SHO</b> <b>P.S. Sadar Bazar, Delhi</b> <b>DP/438/N/2020.</b> <b>Ph.: 011-23512411</b>	
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**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**  

	General public is hereby informed that one male, namely unknown. R/o Vegabond Patel Road, near wine shop Karampura Terminal Moti Nagar, Delhi. Age: about 52 years, height 5'4", complexion shallow, built thin, face oval, Identification: old enjury mark forehead wearing yellow colour shirt blue colour pant and bare footed was found dead at in front of ABG Hospital footpath on 04.08.2020. In this regard a <b>DD No. 79-A Dt. 04.08.2020</b> has been lodged at <b>PS Moti Nager, Delhi</b> . Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this deceased may kindly inform to the following.  <b>S.H.O.,</b> <b>PS Moti Nagar, Delhi</b> <b>Ph.: 011-25101150, 8750871125</b>
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DP/173/WD/2020



SINGLES

**EX-CHELSEA PLAYER WILLIAM JOINS ARSENAL**  
**LONDON:** Arsenal have signed Brazil midfielder William on a three-year deal after the 32-year-old's contract with Chelsea expired. The 32-year-old forward is an experienced player and has made more than 600 club appearances. "I believe he's a player that can really make a difference for us," Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta told the *Arsenal.com*.

**KOLKATA TO HOST 2020/21 I-LEAGUE SEASON**  
**NEW DELHI:** All matches of this season's I-League and second division league qualifiers will be held in Kolkata with strict health and safety measures in place to deal with the Covid-19 threat, the AIFF said on Friday. The country's second tier club competition, is likely to kick off in November while the second division qualifiers is tentatively scheduled for the third week of next month.

**DEFENDING CHAMP BIANCA OUT OF US OPEN**  
**NEW YORK:** Reigning US Open women's champion Bianca Andreescu on Thursday said that she will not defend her title, saying the coronavirus pandemic has contributed to an inability to prepare for the event. The 20-year-old who defeated Serena in last year's final, said she wants to concentrate on being at her best when she does return to competition. Her decision means that this year's event will be without both of its 2019 champions.

**HALEP REACHES PRAGUE OPEN SEMIFINAL**  
**PRAGUE:** Top seed Simona Halep cruised to the WTA Prague Open semi-finals after seeing off Poland's qualifier Magdalena Frech in two sets on Friday. The reigning Wimbledon champion needed only 59 minutes to beat the 22-year-old Pole 6-2, 6-0 in what was her first convincing win at tournament following two tight three-setters.

**SERENA BEATS VENUS IN SISTERS' CLASH**  
**LONDON:** Twenty-three-time Grand Slam champion Serena Williams overcame a stern test from elder sister Venus to make it to the quarter-finals at the inaugural Top Seed Open. Serena, No 1 seed, defeated Venus 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 in a thrilling match that lasted for two hours and 19 minutes on Thursday played at the Centre Court. It was Serena's 19th win over the five-time Wimbledon champion in their 31 encounters.

**SIKKI, KIRAN UNDERGO TESTS AGAIN**  
**NEW DELHI:** Doubles badminton player N Sikki Reddy and physiotherapist Kiran Challagundla on Friday underwent Covid-19 tests for a second time, a day after testing positive for the virus. "Sikki and Kiran decided to get themselves tested again in Continental hospital in Hyderabad today. The results are expected tomorrow. They did it in their personal capacity, just to rule out any discrepancy," said a source close to the development.

**WRESTLING NATIONAL CAMPS FROM SEPT 1**  
**NEW DELHI:** The Wrestling Federation of India will hold the national camp for Olympic weight category wrestlers from September 1, top Indian wrestlers Bajrang Punia and Pooja Dhanda confirmed on Friday. The training camp for women wrestlers is slated to begin in Lucknow, while the one for male wrestlers will start in Sonapat. **Agencies**

AFP ■ LISBON

Leipzig stunned Atletico Madrid 2-1 on Thursday to reach the Champions League semi-finals for the first time as Tyler Adams' 88th-minute winner earned them a showdown with Paris Saint-Germain.

Atletico looked to have secured extra-time at the Estadio Jose Alvalade when Joao Felix won and then scored a penalty to cancel out Dani Olmo's headed opener early in the second half.

But Adams proved an unlikely hero for Leipzig, coming off the bench to snatch victory in Lisbon after his fired effort took a cruel deflection of Stefan Savic and flew in.

The win marks a historic night for Leipzig, who were only formed 11 years ago and played their first-ever season in Germany's top flight in 2016.

Progress to the last four also puts another feather in the cap of their coach Julian Nagelsmann, whose stock will rise even further after ousting Diego Simeone, one of this competition's most gnarly tacticians.



RB Leipzig players celebrate after winning their Champions League quarterfinal match against Atletico Madrid. AP

MADE IN US

Super-sub Tyler Adams' maiden Leipzig strike helps Nagelsmann's side knock-out Atletico to reach CL semis

"I'm perhaps one of the happiest coaches in the world," Nagelsmann said. "We were the better team, the result is totally OK. The second goal is a bit lucky but we found the space behind the defensive line. I think we were the better team today."

Their challenge is now to defeat PSG on Tuesday, the French champions who have only played three

matches in almost half a year and needed a late escape to see off Atalanta on Tuesday.

"It's normal that when you get to the next round, you want more," Nagelsmann said. "Tonight we're happy. Tomorrow we'll start looking at Paris. That will be another difficult game but we'll have a plan."

For Atletico and Simeone, this was an oppor-

tunity spurned to go far in Europe at the end of what has been a disappointing season in Spain.

After Real Madrid's loss against Manchester City, only Barcelona are left to fly the Spanish flag in this tournament and they face a formidable challenge against Bayern Munich on Friday.

Questions will be asked again about the future of

"When I came on I wanted to bring energy and help the team in any way possible. Getting your first goal is a little bit unexpected for me. I'm not a typical goal scorer but I'm happy I could help the team"

— TYLER ADAMS

"I'm convinced that we gave everything we had. But it wasn't enough. We have to raise our heads and try again next season"

— DIEGO SIMEONE

"Tonight we're happy, tomorrow we'll start looking at (PSI). That will be another difficult game, but we'll have a plan"

— JULIAN NAGELSMANN

Simeone, who has struggled to recreate an Atletico side capable of challenging for major honours.

His notoriously defensive approach, which saw off holders Liverpool in the last 16, looked outdated here against the slick, quick and free-flowing style of their opponents.

"It hurts a lot," said Atletico's Saul Niguez. "They had superiority in many areas on the pitch, inside, outside. Many times we were not even close to stopping them."

Aussies confirm white-ball Eng tour

**SYDNEY:** Australia's limited-overs tour of England will go ahead this month at bio-secure venues, officials said on Friday, after its players were given Government clearance to travel.

The confirmation ensures Australians will pad up for their first internationals in nearly six months, with Glenn Maxwell, Nathan Lyon and Marcus Stoinis recalled to the squad, while Usman Khawaja and Travis Head missed out.

Australia was originally scheduled to play three one-day and three T20 matches against England in July, but the trip was postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Detailed biosecurity plans have now been agreed to ensure it can go ahead, including Government exemptions, which are required for Australians to leave the country. The team has also agreed to self-quarantine for 14 days on their return.

They depart from Perth on August 23 en route to Derby ahead of four practice matches — three T20s and a one-dayer — before three T20s and three one-day internationals in Southampton and Old Trafford, which have hotels on site.



New South Wales based Australia players Steve Smith and David Warner attend training session at ANZ stadium. ICC

Australia named a 21-man squad with Maxwell, Lyon and Stoinis among notable inclusions, along with three debutants — Josh Philippe, Daniel Sams and Riley Meredith.

**T20 & ODI squad:** Aaron Finch (capt), Sean Abbott, Ashton Agar, Alex Carey, Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood, Marnus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Mitchell Marsh, Glenn Maxwell, Riley Meredith, Josh Philippe, Daniel Sams, Kane Richardson, Steven Smith, Mitchell Starc, Marcus Stoinis, Andrew Tye, Matthew Wade, David Warner, Adam Zampa

Rizwan's 60 lead Pak fightback

AP ■ SOUTHAMPTON

Mohammad Rizwan scored a gritty, unbeaten half-century to guide Pakistan past 200 against an increasingly frustrated England before bad light at the Rose Bowl brought an early end to the second day of the second Test on Friday.

The teams went off the field before tea because of the gloom, with Pakistan on 215-8, and reappeared for only another nine balls, during which Stuart Broad took his third wicket of the innings and the tourists moved to 223-9. The umpires took another meter reading and took the players off again - for good this time.

Rizwan will return on Saturday on 60, the wicketkeeper's second-highest Test score, alongside Naseem



Stuart Broad celebrates the dismissal of Mohammad Abbas during the 2nd day. AP

Shah (1).

England looked all set on wrapping up the Pakistan innings, which resumed on Friday on 126-5, after star batsman Babar Azam (47) edged

behind a brilliant ball from Broad that seamed and squared up Babar.

That made the score 158-6 and two more wickets fell for 18 runs, with Yasir Shah (5) flashing at a delivery from Jimmy Anderson and edging to give wicketkeeper Jos Buttler another catch. Shaheen Afridi (0) was run out by Dom Sibley at the non-striker's end after a mix-up.

England's seam bowling unraveled in the final half-hour before the enforced tea, with the field set by captain Joe Root perhaps too negative under threatening skies and with two lower-order batsmen in the middle. On occasions, there were five or six out near the boundary as Root spread the field.

Anderson has the best bowling figures, with 3-48. Broad had 3-56.

Dhoni, other CSK players reach Chennai for camp

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Enigmatic former India skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni and some of his Chennai Super Kings teammates arrived here on Friday for a short training camp ahead of the IPL in UAE, where the World Cup-winning star will make his eagerly-awaited return to competitive cricket after a prolonged sabbatical.

Apart from Dhoni, others who have reached the city for the week-long camp beginning on Saturday at the M A Chidambaram stadium are Suresh Raina, Deepak Chahar, Piyush Chawla and Kedar Jadhav.

"Thirteen or 14 of the 16 Indian players will be part of the camp, including MS. Since they



CSK skipper MS Dhoni arrives at Chennai Airport to participate in a week training session ahead of IPL T20 in Chennai. PTI

hours before leaving for the UAE on August 21. They will start training from tomorrow," a CSK official told PTI.

All the players, except all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja, are expected to participate in the camp.

A CSK official said Jadeja would be missing training owing to personal reasons and would join the squad before its departure the tournament venue.

All the players would be subjected to two tests here and only if they return negative for coronavirus, they would be allowed to fly to Dubai, the official added.

The franchise has picked eight net bowlers from Tamil Nadu and they will also travel with the side to the UAE.

15 August, 2020

On the Occasion of  
**INDEPENDENCE DAY**  
*Heartiest Greetings*  
to the People of Haryana

“On this auspicious day, let's revive the memories of the valiant martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the Nation. Taking inspiration from them, let's all contribute to create a self-reliant India following the ideas of harmony, brotherhood & equality.”

**- Manohar Lal, Chief Minister, Haryana**

Information, Public Relations & Languages Department, Haryana | www.prharyana.gov.in | @Cmohry | @DiprHaryana