POLITICS OF

DEFECTION

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SARA PENS A





WORLD 8

SURPRISED THAT BIDEN PICKED

'DISRESPECTFUL' KAMALA: TRUMP

Dance of death & destruction in Bengaluru

Irked at FB post by Cong MLA's relative, mob runs riots, torch police station, MLA's house; 3 killed, SDPI leader among 110 held

Three people were killed after police opened fire to quell a mob that went on a rampage in a locality Bengaluru rirked over a Facebook post put out by a Congress MLA's relative, with the Government terming the violence as a "well-planned act."

"Three people have died

"Three people have died (in police firing)," Bengaluru Police Commissioner Kamal Pant told PTI.

Pant told PTI.

Further, 110 people have been arrested in connection with the rioting at Pulakeshi Nagar here. Scores, including around 50 policemen, were injured in the violence that erupted on Tuesday night and continued till the wee hours of Wednesday, amparently trig-

continued till the wee hours of Wednesday, apparently triggered by the online post.
SDPI leader Muzamil
Pasha has been arrested by
Bengaluru Police for his role in
the mob violence.
Curfew has been imposed
in the affected areas in and
around the affected areas, DJ
Halli and KG Halli.

Pulakeshi Nagar MLA Akhanda Srinivasa Murthys



ACTIONS-REACTIONS

■ About 50 cop injured in attack

■ The manner in which the riots were perpetrated shows that it was a well planned act and was intended to spread to other parts of the city. These are traitors, said Revenue Minister Ashoka

■ The Government has decided to recover losses caused to public property from the rioters

Naveen, a nephew of the MLA, who allegedly put out the social media post, has been arrested

residence and a police station at DJ Halli were among those targeted by the angry mob. The house of the MLA, who was

house of the MILA, who was not at home at the time, was set on fire by the rioters. "The manner in which the riots were perpetrated shows that it was a well planned act and was intended to spread to other parts of the city. These are traitors," Revenue Minister Ashoka told reporters after meeting Congress MLA in his office at Vidhana Soudha.

The Minister said the

MLA's house was completely damaged, belongings, including Sarees and jewells, were looted and the rest, including vehicles, were set on fire "It is clear from the intensity of vandalism that have a comporator or anti-social elements from within the state and outside were involved," Ashoka said.

side were involved," Ashoka said.
Tourism Minister CT Ravi said, "It is clear and evident that yesterday's violent attack was carried out by a Muslim mob in a pre-planned manner." Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai said six companies of the Central Reserve Police Force are being dispatched to the violence-hit areas of Bengaliuri.

Bengaluru.
Three companies from
Hyderabad and three from
Chennai will be deployed in
DG Halli and KG Halli police station limits, he told reporters at Udupi before leaving for Bengaluru. He said the situation is now

under control and additional police forces are deployed in

the area. Rapid action force and the "Garuda" force are also being deployed, the Minister added.

Meanwhile, the State
Government on Wednesday
announced that a district magstrate would conduct an
enquiry into the violence.
The Government also
decided to recover losses
caused to public property during the violence from the rioters.

. RIP MP Shobha Karandlaie BJP MP Shobha Karandlaje who visited Pulikeshinagar, in a tweet said, "PFI-SDPI con-spired this violence, they tar-geted only Hindu houses & burnt public properties. I strongly condemn this behaviour of a communal ele-

@CMofKarnataka to take stringent actions against the culprits."

ts. Pant said Naveen, said to Pant said Naveen, said to be a nephew of the legislator, who allegedly put out the social media post has been arrested. Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa said the "attack on the residence of the MLA, the

police station and rioting are condemnable.

India among 20 nations for Sputnik V

coronavirus disease in the world.

A Russian website dedicated to the "worlds" first registered Covid-19 vaccine" has claimed that India along with 20 other countries have shown interest in getting the vaccine. "At least 20 countries had expressed interest in obtaining the Sputnik V, including UAE, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Philippines, Brazil, Mexico and India," the statement said.

Dismissing experts concern over rapid approval of the coronavirus vaccine, Russia on Wednesday announced that the first batch of the Russian vaccine against coronavirus is expected to be released within two weeks. Russia also said it already received foreign requests for 1 billion doses.

"Within two weeks, twisting the vaccine will be released," Russian Health Minister Mikhall Murashko announced on Wednesday Murashko sid that vaccination.

announced on Wednesday. Murashko said that vaccination against coronavirus will be

16.92.157



India, Brazil, Mexico, Saudi Arabia and the United Arabia Emirates (UAE) are among the 20 countries from Asia, Latin America and West Asia which have shown interest in Russian vaccine "Sputilik". CASES: 23,94,738 DEATHS: 47,130 RECOVERED: ACTIVE: 6,54,977

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rerybody, e workers. eing devel- va Center	\

including health-care workers. The vaccine that is being developed by Gamaleya Center enjoys the support of the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF).

RDIF plans to conduct Phase 3 clinical trials in different countries, including Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Brazil, India and the Philippines, and start mass production in other countries in partnership with local sovereign wealth funds, including India, South Korea and Brazil, Saudi Arabia.

Andhra Pradesh 2.54.146 2.296 1.61.425 Delhi 1,48,504 4,153 1.33.405 2,230 2,203 Littar Pradesh 1 36 238 84.661 West Bengal Bihar 90.553 474 60.068 Telangana 84,544 74,390 Gujarat 2,713 57.493 69 000 161 45 074 41,648 Odisha 50.672 358 36,479

No improvement in Pranab's condition

The condition of former Pranab Mukherjee continues to be critical and he remains on ventilator support, the Army's Research and Referral hospital said on Wednesday. He was

Delhi cantonment on August 10 and was operated for removal of a clot in the

The 84-year-old had also tested positive for Covid-19 prior to the surgery on Monday.

IAF wants negative scene from Kargil Girl deleted

Writes to Central Board of Film Certification

PNS NEW DELHI

Taking exception to its alleged "negative portrayal" in the film Gunjan Saxena: The Kargil Girl made by Dharma Productions owned by Karan Johar, the Indian Air Force (IAF) has written to the Central Board of Film Certification in this regard

this regard.

The IAF in its letter has complained that as per initial understanding the production house had agreed to depict the IAF authentically and make all efforts to ensure that the film

efforts to ensure that the film helps to inspire the next gen-eration of IAF officers. However, the trailer of the movie showed that certain scenes and dialogues were found to portray the IAF in an "undue negative light," the let-ter said.

undue negative light, the let-ter said.

It also said in the aim to glorify the screen character of Ex-Flt Lt Gunjan Saxena, M/s Dharma Productions present-ed some situations that are mis-leading and portray an inap-propriate work culture espe-



cially against women in the IAF.

The story of the movie is based on the first Indian Air Force woman pilot who was part of the 1999 Kargil war. Gunjan was the first woman helicopter pilot to fly in a combat zone and was involved in the evacuation of injured soldiers. She was awarded the gallantry Shaurya Vir Award for displaying courage during the war.

The IAF in its letter said

war.

The IAF in its letter said the Service has always ensured an equal opportunity to both male and female personnel and the organisation is gender neutral. The IAF has also neutral. The IAF has also annexed the summary of the scenes and dialogues of the script, which are considered objectionable due to the pre-sentation of incorrect gender

bias with the letter.

It also said Dharma Productions was informed about the objectionable portion of the movie and was advised to delete/modify the same. However, the production house has not deleted the scenes but it proposed a media plan in the run-up to the release and inserted a disclaimer in the movie.

movie.
The IAF stated that it feels

The IAF stated that it feels that are media plan and dis-claimer would not be adequate to prevent the presentation of incorrect facts about the IAF.

"In view of the above, the issue of grant of NOC for the release of the movie will be considered after deleting or suitably modifying the scenes in order to cater to the observations mentioned," the IAF stated.

vations mentioned," the IAF stated.
Incidentally, about a fortnight back, the Defence Ministry had written to the CBF, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeITY) and Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, to advise production houses to obtain No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Defence Ministry before the telecast of my film, documentary or web series on military.

Joe Biden names Indian-origin

CAPSULE

CONG LEADER RAJIV TYAGI DIES OF HEART ATTACK New Delhi: Congress leader and spokesperson Rajiv Tyagi passed away on Wednesday after

suffering a heart attack.

UNION MINISTER NAIK TESTS COVID POSITIVE New Delhi: Union Minister Shripad Y Naik on Wednesday said he has tested positive for

coronavirus infection and has opted for home isolation. The Minister of State for AYUSH and Defence said he opted for self-Detence said he opted for self-isolation as he is asymptomatic and added his vitals are within normal limits.

COP ON DUTY DIES AS BUILDING ROOF CAVES IN

BUILDING HUD - CAVES IN New Delhi: A 49-year-old Assistant Sub-Inspector of Delhi Police died and his colleague was injured when the roof of a building in north Delhi where they gone as part of a tenant verification drive collapsed, officials said on Wednesday.

1,113 COVID-19 CASES,14 DEATHS IN DELHI ON WED New Delhi Delhi recorded 1,113 fresh coronavirus cases taking the caseload to over 1.48 lakh, while the death toll has risen to 4,153, authorities said on 4,153, authorities said on Wednesday. According to a Delhi Government health bulletin, 18,894 samples were tested for COVID-19 in the last 24 hours, of which 6,472 were RT-PCR

Forgive, forget, move on: Gehlot to MLAs on rebels going off hook

Rajasthan CM savs resentment among lovals is natural

PNS JAISALMER/JAIPUR

PMS **JAISALMERU/AIPUR**

Forgive, forget and move on,"
this is how Rajasthan Chief
Minister Ashok Gehlot on
Wednesday tried to pacify his
MLAs, some of whom are
upset over the return of rebel
legislators to the party-fold
without facing any action.
Talking to reporters in
Jaisalmer, Gehlot said he had
urged the MLAs to bear with
the development, while
acknowledging that it was "natural" for them to be upset.
"It is natural for them to be
upset. The way this episode
happened, they had to stay in
hottels," he said on Wednesday,
in an apparent reference to the
previous evenings' Congress
Legislature Party meeting in
Jaisalmer.
"I have exhorted them that

umer. "I have exhorted them that in the interest of the country, State, people of the State and for saving democracy, sometimes

we have to bear this," he said.

"Forget and forgive and move on in the interest of the country, the State, the people of the State and democracy, Democracy in under threat. This was a fight to save democracy, in which our MLAS gave their support," he said.

MLAs stayed together for such a long time, which is a big thing in listeff and had never happened in the history of the country.

pened in the country.

The CM said all MLAs, including those who have "returned" now, will work together to fulfil the commit-ments made to the people of the Cetate

the State.

The MLAs in the Gehlot

The MLAs in the Gehlot camp were on Wednesday flown back to Jaipur from Jaisalmer, where they were together at another hotel. They were taken straight from the airport to the Fairmont hotel on the outskirts of the city, where they had stayed before being moved to Jaisalmer. The MLAs — most-hyfrom the Congress and some allies — are expected to remain

there till the Assembly meets on August 14. The Congress crisis in Rajasthan ended with the inter-

Rajasthan ended with the inter-vention of the top leadership of Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra who met rebel leader Pilot earlier this week Pilot had openly rebelled against Gehlot last month along with 18 other Congress MLAs. He was then sacked as Deputy Chief Minister and the party's Rajasthan chief. At earlier Congress

At earlier Congress Legislature Party meetings, the Loyalist MLAs had called for disciplinary action against the dissidents who defied party whips by demanding a change in the leadership in the State. In Jaipur, as the loyalist MLAs headed to the Fairmont hotel, Transport Minister Pratap Singh Khachariyawas confirmed that they are not happy with the turn of events. "Yes, several MLAs said they are upset and saying this is their right," he said, while reminding that a decision has already been taken by the party high command. earlier Congress

Covid-19 kills five. 438 fresh cases detected in C'garh

STAFF REPORTER = RAIPUR

Five deaths of Covid-19 pos Five deaths of Covid-19 pos-fitive patients were reported from across Chhattisgarh even as 438 fresh cases were detect-ed on Wednesday. Also, 269 Covid-19 patients were discharged from hospitals upon their recovery, officials said.

said.

A 51-year-old man from Urla in Raipur was admitted in AIIMS Raipur on August 10. He had diabetes, high blood pressure and other complications. He was detected Covid positive and died on Tuesday, the officials said.

and died on Tuesday, the offi-cials said.

A 50-year-old man from Bhilai with breathing trouble was admitted in a private hospital and then referred to AIIMS Raipur on August 7. He tested Covid positive and died on Wednesday.

A 65-year-old man from Mahavir Chowk locality in Raipur was admitted in AIIMS Raipur with fever and breathing

trouble on August 8. He too test

trouble on August 8. He too test-ed Covid positive and died on Wednesday, the officials said. A 45-year-old woman from Devendra Nagar in Raipur was admitted in AlIMS Raipur with breathing trouble. She had pneumonia and gastroenteritis and was found Covid positive. She also died on Wednesday. A 59-year-old man from Bhilai was admitted with breath-ing problem in Sector-9 hospi-tal Bhilai. Later he was found Covid positive and shifted to Dr BR Ambedkar Memorial Hospital in Raipur.

BR Ambedkar Memorial Hospital in Raipur. He died on Tuesday, the officials said. With these deaths, the total fatality among Covid positive patients has climbed to 109 in

patients has climbed to 109 in Chhattisgarh. So far, 13,498 persons have been found Covid positive in the state, of which 9,508 were discharged on their recovery, while currently there are 3,881 active Covid cases in Chhattisgarh.

Kamala Harris as running mate **Surprised that**

Biden picked 'disrespectful' Kamala: Trump

In a major breankthrough for Indian-Americans in US politics, Joe Biden has picked Senator Kamala Devi Harris as Senator Kamaia Devi Harris as his running mate to woo the Black voters and the influential Indian diaspora who could play a key role in his bid to defeat Donald Trump in the presidential election.

presidential election.

Reacting to the nomination of Harris, President Trump said he was "a little surprised that he (Biden) picked her.. She was very disrespectful to Joe Biden and it's hard to pick somebody that's that disrespectful."

By naming the 55-year-old lawyer and moderate Democratic politician from California as his vice-presi-



dential candidate in the November 3 election, Biden made history by selecting the first Black woman to compete on a major party's presidential ticket.

ticket. Harris, whose father is from Jamaica and mother an Indian, is currently the Senator from California.

The 77-year-old former vice-president, made the announcement in a text message to his supporters on Tuesday, ending days of suspense. It came about a week ahead of his virtual Democratic National. Convention that National Convention that would formally nominate

Biden as the party's candidate for the presidential election, challenging incumbent President Trump, a Republican. "Joe Biden here. I've cho-sen Kamala Harris as my run-ning mate.

Together, with you, we're going to beat Trump. Add your name to welcome her to the team," Biden said in his mes-

sage. Biden said Harris will be Biden said Harris will be the best partner for him to finally get the country back on track. He described her as "a fearless fighter" and "one of the country's finest public ser-vants".



Plans afoot to rope in hotels for Covid patients in Chandigarh

With the hospitals in Chandigarh over-whelmed by patients as Covid-19 cases are rapidly increasing in the city, the UT Administration is roping in three CITCO hotels, James Hotel in Sector 17 and community centres for mild to produce the product of the CITCO hotels, ames moderate positive patients. munity centres for mild to moderate positive patients. Apart from this, the Administration has also sent a request to the Centre to pro-cure more ventilators. Till Wednesday evening, the city had reported a total of 1751 positive cases including 700 active cases. Manoj Parida, Adviser to UT Administrator told The

Pioneer, "Keeping in view the surge in COVID-19 cases, the Administration bear surge in COVID-19 cases, the Administration has geared up to rope in three CITCO hotels, James Hotel and community centres as COVID care centres for mild to moderate positive patients. Earlier also, hotels

patients. Earlier also, hotels were listed as quarantine centres in the city.

"In our COVID-19 contingency plan, James Plaza with 270 beds was included as COVID-care centre for continuous control of the control of t COVID-care centre for con-firmed asymptomatic and mild cases and it will be utilized accordingly. CITCO hotels and James Hotel will be provided on a payment basis to those



patients who can afford. As far as community centres are con cerned, we will utilize the com surrounded by residential areas as COVID care centres con-

as COVID care centres con-sidering the concerns raised by residents earlier," he said. It is planned that each COVID care centre will have at least one Ayush doctor and one allopathic doctor 24X7 in three

allopathic doctor 24A/ In unex-shifts.

Parida further said, "The COVID-19 dedicated NHE, PGIMER is nearing full capac-ity as the critical care beds are also occupied by patients from other states. The Sector 48 Hospital can accommodate 100 critical patients and we are making arrangements for more making arrangements for more facilities in existing healthcare

centres for critical care." The NHE, PGIMER is a 200-bed-ded treatment facility for crit-ical COVID patients. The patients admitted in NHE belong to Chandigarh, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal and Uttar Pradesh.

More than 150 COVID-19

Pradesh.
More than 150 COVID-19
positive patients were undergoing treatment at NHE,
PGIMER till the evening. The
ICU beds are already occupied
in the PGIMER. Apart from
this, COVID patients were
admitted in Sood
Dharamshala, Dhanwantari
Hospital, GMCH-32 and
Sector 48 Hospital.

On the requirement of
ventilators in the city, Parida
said, we have requested the
Health Ministry to procure
more ventilators. The city with
a population of over 12 lakh has
around 250 ventilators. Of
these, some are reserved for
COVID patients while others
are kept for critically-ill
patients.

Notably, Chandigarh Mp

Notably, Chandigarh Mp

Notably, Chandigarh Mp

patients.
Notably, Chandigarh MP
Kirron Kher had on
Wednesday expressed concern
over the surge of COVID cases
and burden on existing health-The Administration's con-tingency plan has listed out a protocol to be followed for asymptomatic, mild cases and severe positive cases, quaran-tine centres, logistic support for patients, dedicated COVID-Hospital, dedicated Health cen-tre for moderate cases, COVID care centre, testing facilities and burden on existing nearth-care infrastructure in the city. In a Tweet tagging PMO, Home Minister Amit Shah, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan, Punjab Governor and UT Administrator VP Singh

Bandore, BJP president JP Nadda, Kirron Kher had said, "#ItelpMyCity PGI & other hospitals are under immense pressure. If medical facilities are not allowed in various parts of the city there will be fatalities due to #nobeds. I urge the Administration to take necessary action (sic)."

Estimating Chandigarh's population as 12 lakh and a peak of COVID-19 pandemic in the future, a COVID-19 contingency plan estimating preparations for management of about 3600 active cases of virus on the worst day of virus on the worst day of the spread by UT Administration.

With continuous surge in the cases, the Administration is now estimating the city to

81 FRESH CASES IN CHANDIGARH

The union territory of Chandigarh continued to witness a surge in COVID-19 cases with 81 fresh infections reported on Wednesday. The total tally of positive cases crossed 1700-mark and stood at 1751 till the evening. There were 700 active cases in the city. In the month of August till now, the city has reported 700 positive cases with the highest single-day spike of 89 cases reported on August 9.

"34 years old male, resident of Sector 21 who had committed suicide at home by hanging himself on August 19 was tested COVID-19 positive post death," stated Chandigarh Health Department's evening

was tested COVID-19 positive post death; stated Chandigarh Health Department's evening bulletin. "He was sampled after his demise for COVID-19 at GMSH-16. He was reported positive on August 11," the bulletin stated.

The positive cases were reported from Sector 7, 10, 12, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, 27, 23, 28, 30, 35, 32, 37, 43, 44, 45, 47, 49, Dadumajra, Hallomajra, Ramdarbar, Dham, PGIMER, Manimajra, Aman, PGIMER, Manimajra, Manul jagran and Raipur Khurd. Four healthcare workers and a student from

39 deaths, high of 1,020 fresh cases in punjab

With 39 more succumbing to the deadly contagion on Wednesday, Punjab has registered the highest single-day spike, pushing the state's death toll to 675. The state also added 1,020 fresh cases in the past 24 hours, taking the state's COVID-19 tally to 26,909.

As many as 29 police personnel — including 11 from Sangrur, eight from Ludhiana, four from Gurdaspur, three from Kapurthala, two from Fazilka, and one from

Bathinda; besides 32 prisoners from Barnala have been tested positive.

positive.

As all 22 districts have reported fresh cases with three districts reporting cases in three-digit figure, 12 districts have reported deaths.

tested positive included an employee in BSNL Manimajra, Manimajra, Mauil Jagran and Raipur Khurd-Four healthcare workers and a student from PGIMER, six healthcare work-ers and a student from GMCH-32 were tested positive for COVID-19. Among others

Ludhiana with 13 deaths registered the highest figure, with Hoshiarpur reporting six deaths, four in Patiala, three each in Jalandhar and Amritsar, two each in Gurdaspur, Mohali, and Pathankot, and one each in Barnala, Bathinda, Fatehgarh Sahib, and Sangrur. In just 12 days of August, the state has registered 10,790 cases (about 40 percent of the state's total 26909), and 289 deaths (43 percent of the total deaths (43 percent of the total

deaths (43 percent of the total casualties). In fact, the state has

casualties). In fact, the state has added over 7,000 fresh coronavirus cases to its tally in a week since August 6.

Among the districts, Ludhiana continued to register the highest number of cases. On Wednesday, the district reported 229 cases, followed by 130 in Jalandhar, 104

tested positive patients, according to the bulletin.

The recovery rate of COVID-19 patients was 58 percent in the city. With eight patients recovering from COVID-19 on Wednesday, the

Amritsar, 70 in Patiala, 62 in Barnala, 39 in Gurdaspur, 36 in Faridkot, 34 in Kapurthala, 29 in Ferozepur, 27 in Pathankot, 24 in Ropar, 23 in Hoshiarpur, 20 each in Sangrur and Bathinda, 19 in Moga, 18 in Fatehgarh Sahib, 13 each in Fazilka and SBS Nagar (Nawanshahr), nine each in Muktsar and Tarn Taran, and three in Mansa. A total of 422 coronavirus patients were discharged after recovering from the infection, taking the total number of recoveries to 17,212 at the rate of 63.96 percent. The state still has 9,022 active cases — accounting for 33.53 percent of the total cases — of which 10 patients are critical and on ventilator support while 142 are on oxygen support.

samples of city residents have been tested till date for COVID-19. The city has so far reported 26 COVID-19 related fatalities.

797 more Covid -19 cases in Haryana, total cases cross 44k

PMS CHANDIGARH

Haryana's Covid-19 infection tally on Wednesday shot up to 44,024 with 797 more people testing positive for the virus, while the death toll rose to 503 with three more fatalities, according to an official bulletin.

On the day, 612 patients of the disease were discharged from different hospitals of the State. With 113 fresh cases, Faridabads Covid-19 tally now stood at 10,517, highest in the State, followed by Gurugram at 9952 with 98 new cases on the day.

Out of three, two fatalities were reported from Faridabad while one from Gurugram. The number of active cases increased to 6827, as per bulletin. The districts that reported fresh cases included Sirsa (100), Rewari (57), Sonipat (31), Ambala (65), Ambala (65), Ambala (65), among others. With recovery of 612 new patients, a total of 36,694 have been discharged from different

patients, a total of 36,694 nave been discharged from different hospitals of the State so far. The maximum number of 162 patients recovered from Faridabad district on Wednesday.

Punjab Health Minister bans transfers, leave until Sep 30

Chandigarh: In view of rising cases of coronavirus in Punjab, the state Health and Family Welfare Minister Balbir Singh Sidhu on Wednesday issued orders for complete ban on departmental transfers and leave till September 30, 2020, with immediate effect.

Sidhu said that the decision has been taken keeping in view the present situation of Covid-nas been taken keeping in view the present situation of Covid-nas been conserved that all officers, medical or paramedical staff have to be remained present at their stations to deal with fight against corona in a more efficient manner. No leave will be given

case of maternity leave and

the cases, the Administration is now estimating the city to reach 2500 positive cases in the next fortnight and putting in place arrangements consider-

place arrangements consider-ing the same. 700 cases have been reported in the month of August so far. The Administration's con-

Haryana Govt sets target of ₹10k crore investment and employment opportunity for 1 L youth: Dushyant

case of maternity leave and child care leave due to urgent reasons to any officer or employee during this period and leave will be given only in case of maternity leave and child care leave due to urgent reasons. Sidhu said that apart from the regular officers or employees, this order would be applicable to all the employees working on contract or outsourcing basis in various wings or institutions of Health and Family Welfare Dept. PNS BURNAUGHAP!

Haryana Deputy Chief Minister Househald and the Government of about Rs 10,000 croen is seven "Special Economic temptores in seven as et a target of investment of about Rs 10,000 croen is seven "Special Economic temptores in seven "Special Economic temptores in



During the discussions, representatives of the mentioned companies evinced great interest, he added. Dushyant said that the environment for setting up industries in Haryana with foreign investment is conducive. In terms of Ease of Doing Business, Haryana ranks first in North India and third in the country and Haryana Government aims to take

Govt launches 'Punjab Smart Connect Scheme'

GIVEN TO STUDENTS

Taking a major digital leap forward, Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh and his Cabinet colleagues on Wednesday handed over smart phones to Class XII students in the state-wide launch of Congress Government's Rs 92 crore 'Punjab Smart Connect Scheme'.

The Chief Minister per-ally handed over smart The Chief Minister personally handed over smart phones to six Class XII students in a symbolic gesture at a simple event at Punjab Civil Secretariat, while simultaneous distribution of phones was done at 26 places by various ministers, MLAs, and others across the State to kickstart the scheme.

scheme.
Each Minister personally handed over 20 phones each in various districts to mark the

another major poll promise of the Congress Government in the State.

The scheme, for which Rs 100 crore was allocated in the State budget for 2017-18, is benefitting a total of 1,74,015 Class XII Students of govern-ment schools in the first phase, to be completed by November 2020.

Of these, 87,395 are hove

Of these, 87,395 are boys and 86,620 girls, with majority in the OBC and SC, ST categories — thus bridging a major divide that was obstructing these students from affordable access to online or digital education. The bulk of the students – 1,11,857, are from rural areas, and the remaining in urban government schools. Capt Amarinder, who launched the scheme on the auspicious occasion of Janmashtami and International Youth Day through video con-

Youth Day through video con-ferencing at the Secretariat, said that people believe in the promises listed in the election manifesto and it was, thus, his duty to ensure the implemen tation of each one of them.

"When the Congress listed smart phones as a poll promise, it was to provide global connectivity and empower the poor youth who could not afford them," said Capt Amarinder, adding that in the

Amarinder, adding that in the present pandemic situation, these phones had assumed a bigger importance as they had become a necessity for education continuity.

"It is the money of the people of Punjab which the Government is spending on advancement of the youth," he said, adding that the phones were planned to be distributed in Mersh but the presence of the property of the presence of the property of the presence of the prese Of these, 87,395 are boys

in March but the process got delayed due to the COVID crisis. The Chief Minister said that he wanted Punjab's students to be abreast with the latest technology which they can use effectively for their educa-

use effectively for their educa-tion, which leverages technol-ogy in a big way today. "Gone are the days of chalks and boards," he said, adding that the Government schools, which had seen a

past couple of years, needed to be supported through technological initiatives by the State Government.

The smart phone being distributed under the scheme was a good functional phone, which also looks smart, he said, adding that it will become a major tool for the education of the students. Capt Amarinder congratulated the students on this occasion and also greeted them on the occasion of the International Youth Day and Janmashtami.

Pointing out that the Smart Connect scheme was in line with the Chief Minister's vision, as manifest in the party's poll

with the Chief Minister's vision, as manifest in the party's poll manifesto, Education Minister Vijay Inder Singla said that it would help government school students download course material and old papers etc to prepare for their Board exams. Industry Minister Sunder Sham Arora said that his department, which was entrusted with the task of purchase, had bought one of the best smart phones in the market. "The scheme would prove

Opposition's criticism on this count.

Punjab Congress president Sunil Jakhar said that the scheme would break the barriers of poverty, with even SC/ST and OBC students getting access to online education. The smart phones had become a necessity in these pandemic times, he said, adding that making youngsters tech-savvy was also a major step towards

to be a boon to the needy students, in particular, in government schools which are at a disadvantage vis-à-vis private schools in terms of access to technology, especially amidh the COVID pandemic, which has necessitated a shift to noline education," he said.

Youth Affairs Minister Rana Gurmeet Singh Sodhi said that affer farm loam waiver and seamless procurement, among other things, the Chief Minister had now fulfilled another major promise of the State Government. "The government thas done this despite he acute financial crisis in the state," he said, ridiculing the Opposition's criticism on this count.

Punjab Congress president Briender (abillon said that the fulfillment betate," he said, ridiculing the proposition's criticism on this count.

Punjab Congress president Minister had the state for the past had promised complise, and the distribution will be indevented the prevailing economic crisis in beta delivering on what he says-a characteristic which distinuisms.

Going forward, the fundative particular, in the state, and the distribution will be understand the state, and the distribution will be understand the prevailing economic crisis in beta the state, when the state, and the distribution will be understand the state of the past had promised company to the past had promised company to the past had promised, and promised, as had the BIP-led povernment at the Centre, he power and subtractive the prevailing economic crisis in the prevai

CAPT VERSUS BAJWA:

Air grievances at party forum only: Cong to Punjab leaders

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

A mid the ongoing ego tusslab between Punjab Chief
Minister Capt Amarinder
Singh and Congress' Rajva
Sabha MP Partap Singh Bajwa,
the Congress party has asked
to Read the Congress can
the "party forum only".

"Everyone who has grievances against anybody should
speak to party leaders and
raise the issue in party forums. Speaking to the press is not
acceptable," said the Congress'
in-charge of Punjab party
affairs Asha Kumari.

Notably, Bajwa has all
along been attacking his own
party's government in Punjab
over the several issues, with latest being the recent hooch.

est being the recent hooch tragedy, which claimed more than 100 lives.He, along with another Rajya Sabha MP Shamsher Singh Dullo, had

ED probe into the incidents. He has also sought the removal of Capt Amarinder as the Punjab CM.Punjab Congress chief Sunil Jakhar has already written to the party leadership and sought Bajwa's removal. It has been learnt that the matter has been referred to the disciplinary committee headed by forbeen learnt that the matter has been referred to the disciplinary committee headed by former Defence Minister AK Antony. What further fueled their war of words is the Punjab Government's recent decision to withdraw Bajwas state police security, which the MP has alleged is out of vendetta.

"Security is given to a person for protection of his life and should not be a tool to browheat into submission. In any case, this trick will not work with me", he had stated.

Since 2013, the differences between Bajwa and Capt Amarinder exist when he replaced Patiala Royal after two consecutive losses in the polls.

WORLD ELEPHANT DAY: Hry Wildlife seeks help of social media for public awareness

Due to ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the Due to ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the Department of Forest and Wildlife in Haryana took help of social media to spread public awareness about the plight of elephants, share knowledge and positive solutions for the better care and management of captive and wild elephants, to mark the World Elephant Day on Wednesday, Panchkula Divisional Forest officer (Wildlife) Shyam Sunder Sharma said.

Talking to The Pioneer

(Wildliff) Snyam Sunder Fahrma said.

Talking to The Pioneer over the phone, he said "It is very important to raise aware-ness among general masses, particularly students, about the problems faced by pachyderms in the Country and the World," The DFO (Wildlife) office said that as per the direction of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, there has been a ban on public gathering

to contain the outbreak of Covid-19. In view of this, the department of wildlife has not organised any public awareness on 'World' of the contained on 'World' on organised any public awareness programme on 'World Elephant Day' but officials were engaged in spreading awareness about positive solu-tions for the better care and management of captive and wild elephants through social media.

management of captive and wild elephants through social media.

Along with this, wildlife officials were imparted training about improvements in the welfare of wild animals and prevention on illegal poaching and trade in ivory, conserving elephant habitats, providing better treatment for captive elephants and reintroducing captive elephants into sancturaies among others. "Last year, a public awareness programme was held on cruelty against elephants to mark the World Elephant bay." About 60 students of Navodaya Vidhyalaya, Yamunanagar had participated

in the programme and pledged never to take joy rides on elephants. The students had placards with various serious messages about the immediate threats to elephants. The programme also included a painting, and slogan competition, and a quiz on the theme of elephant conservation in India; he added.

Sharma said that the State

hann conservance in India, Sharma said that the State wildlife department has four rescued female elephants, namely Chanchal, Junglee, Laxmi, and Lilly. These elephants were rescued from persons who had illegally possessed them. Chanchal and Laxmi were rescued from Karnal while Lilly from Sirsa and Junglee from Kuruskhetra. In 2018, Delhi Forests and Wildlife department rescued an

wild elephants" is changing the number of "migrant wild each year A couple of dephants the period that a special part and been frequently visiting the Kalesar National Park, spread Park and Tiger Reserve spread Park and Tiger Reserve spread the property of the period park and Tiger Reserve spread the property of the

Himachal Pradesh. The Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary was declared a National Park in declared a Nation... December, 2003. The DFO further said that the elephant is loved, revered

and respected by people across India, yet the future of the species is threatened by the secalation of poaching, habitat loss, human-elephant conflict and mistreatment of elephants in captivity. "Working towards better protection for wild ele-phants, improving enforce-ment policies to prevent the illegal poaching and trade of vory, and conserving elephant habitats, are imperative for

pilegal poaching and trade of invory, and conserving elephant habitats, are imperative for awing the elephant. The aim of the day is to sensitise people about better treatment of captive elephants and against the illegal poaching and trade of the jumbos for ivory, he added. Another Wildlife department officer said, "World Elephant Day which was observed for the first time on August 12, 2012, is an annual global event celebrated across the world, dedicated to the preservation and protection of elephants. On August 12, 2016, India formally adopted

the "World Elephant Day" to help conserve and protect ele-phants in the country and improve their welfare."

phants in the country and improve their welfare."
He said that the Indian elephant has been a victim of severe habitat loss, cruelty in private custody and poaching for its tusks. It is important that it's habitat is secured to minimize its conflict with people. "Strict enforcement of laws to stop poaching as well as coop-"Strict enforcement of laws to stop poaching as well as cooperation with other countries is sought to reduce the demand for ivory in national and international markets. Elephant conservation in India needs support of all stakeholders. The elephant has been accorded the highest possible protection under the Indian wildlife law through its listing under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 of India. This means that hunting/trading this species can attract rigorous imprisonment of up to seven years and fine."

Brown sugar valued at ₹1.46 cr seized

Police in Chhattisgarh's Mahasamund district on Wednesday claimed to have busted an inter-state drug peddling racket and seized from a man brown sugar valued at ₹1.46 crore. An automatic pistol and two magazines were seized from the accused, Shankarlal Vaishan of Jodhpur in Rajasthan, police said. Vaishan was arrested

rajastnan, police said.
Vaishan was arrested
near the river turning on the
Raipur-Mahasamund road on
a tip off with the contraband
(brown sugar), Mahasamund
Superintendent of Police
Prafull Thakur said.



Police had received infor-mation that a man was trying to find buyers for brown sugar and carrying a large amount on a two-wheeler. He was heading toward Mahasamund, the officer said

Mahasamund, the officer said.

Accordingly, a police team nabbed him. An automatic pistol of 7.6 mm, 2 magazines, two live bullets and 730 grams of brown sugar were seized from his possession. The market value of seized brown sugars it 71.46 crore, the police said.

Vaishanv was said to be running an inter-state drug racket with his friends. He used to live at Kansiram Nagar, Telibandha Raipur.

Booklet on how to be safe from wild elephants

STAFF REPORTER RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Minister of Forest, Housing and Environment Mohammed Akbar on Wednesday released a booklet, 'Guidelines for Safety from Wild Elephants', in a bid to educate the people on how to avoid human-animal conflict

a bid to educate the people on how to avoid human-animal conflict.

The booklet in Hindi has been published jointly by the Forest Department and Vasundhara Prakriti sanrakshan Samiti. The event took place at the Minister's official residence here.

Addressing the event, the Minister said the booklet, with pictures, will be effective in minimizing the human-elephant conflict -- and also protect the animals, human-protect manimals, human-protect manimals, human, property and crops.

According to an official statement, the guidelines emphasize that elephants are a peaceful, social and intelligent



animal. By understanding their behavior and habits, the human-elephant conflict can be brought down. The booklet says that information about elephants'

The booklet says that information about elephants' presence in an area should be provided to the Forest Departmental. In case of broken power cables or swinging low lying wires, the Forest and Electricity

departments

immediately intimated.
Principal Chief
Conservator of Forest Rakesh
Chaturvedi and other officials

Chaturvedi and other officials were present.

The booklet comes just when Chhattisgarh has witnessed a string of deaths of elephants due to various reasons. The elephants have also killed unsuspecting villagers.

Covid-19 positive commits suicide at AIIMS Raipur



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

A 65-year old COVID-19 patient undergoing treatment at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) allegedly committed suicide by jumping off the second floor of the building in Chhattiggarb's capital Raipur, police said on Wednesday.

The incident took place in the C Block of the institute on the chief of The Capital Raipur, police said on Wednesday.

night of Tuesday and Wednesday, said Bharat Bareth, the Station House Officer of Amanka police

AIIMS on August 7. On finding some behavioural abnormalities. the patient was sent for psychiatric

consultancy, he said.
The patient allegedly jumped from the window of a bathroom on the second floor of the building. He was rushed to the Emergency ward where he succumbed to his injuries at around 2 am, the officer said.
No suicide note has been recovered. A probe is underway to ascertain the reason behind the incident

incident.

Last week, a Covid-19 patient had allegedly hanged himself inside a toilet at a Covid care centre in Janjgir-Champa district.

Raman Singh's wife tests Covid +ve | Four Naxalites

Veena Singh, wife of former Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Dr Raman Singh, on Wednesday tested positive for Covid-19 and was admitted in a hospital, triggering concerns from Gowern Fondusuiya Uikey, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and leaders across the political spectrum.

BJP national Vice President Raman Singh tweeted in the evening that his wife has tested corona positive.

evening that his wire has tested corona positive.

"My other family members will go for isolation and conduct test for Covid-19," he tweeted. He urged all those who were in touch with his family members to go for isolation and undergo the test as well

In a tweet, Chief Minister Baghel wished Veena Singh early

मेरी धर्मपत्री श्रीमती बीजा सिंह की कोविड-19 की रिपोर्ट पॉज़िटिव आई है।उन्हें डॉक्टर्स की सताह पर हॉस्पिटल में भर्ती कर रहे हैं। साथ ही मैं व मेरे परिवार के अन्य सदस्य भी आइसोलेशन में रहकर जांच कराएंगे। आपसे भी अनुरोध है जो भी हमारे संपर्क में आया हो वो भी आइसोतेट रहकर जांच कराएं।

Shapesh Baghel ()

पूर्व मुख्यमंत्री डॉ रमन सिंह जी की धर्मपत्नी श्रीमती वीणा सिंह जी के सीच स्वस्थ होने की कामना करता हूं।

spoke to Raman Singh to know the health of Veena Singh and the treatment being extended to her. He also interacted with private hospital Director Dr Sandeep

Dave regarding Veena Singh. Governor Anusuiya Uikey also expressed concern over the health of Veena Singh and wished her early recovery.

killed in C'garh

Four Naxalites were killed in a gun battle with security forces in Chhattagarh's Sukma district on Wednesday morning, police said.

The clash took place in a forest in the Jagargunda police station area around 9.30 am when joint teams of security forces were on an anti-Naxalite operation, Inspector General of Police (Bastar Range) Sundarraj P said.

Acting on inputs about the

Sundarraj P said.
Acting on inputs about the
presence of Maoists in the interior
areas of Jagargunda, security
forces, including the District
Reserve Guard (DRG), Central
Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and its elite unit Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA), went

patrolling teams was in the forest near Phulampa village, located over 450 km from Raipur, an exchange of fire broke out between the two sides, the official said

Phulampar village, located over

Fruiampar village, to cated over 450 km from Raipur, an exchange of fire broke out between the two sides, the official said. After the guns fell silent, bod-ies of four male Naxalites were found at the spot along with a .303 rifle, a huge cache of country-made weapons and explosive material, he said. A search operation was underway in the area.

Two children, Pritha and Rudra, are dressed as 'Radha' and 'Krishna' on the occasion of Krishna Janmashtami in the capital Raipur as part of religious events held on Wednesday. Pioneer Photo

Health Dept issues appointment list of 70 specialist doctors

RAIPUR: Chhattisgarh's Health and Family Welfare Department has issued the appointment orders of 70 specialist doctors and 6 MBBS doctors for differdoctors and 6 MBBS doctors for different government hospitals across the state. The order from Rajendra Singh Gaur, Additional Secretary in the department, on Tuesday states that the appointment has been made for all Medical Colleges attached hospitals, DKS Super Speciality Hospital in Raipur, various district hospitals and mother-child hospitals in the state. The appointment has been made from the new batch of specialist doctors who appeared for final year examination held in June 2020 for Post-Graduation MD, MS and Diploma programme.

for Post-Graduation MD, MS and Diploma programme. In addition, six graduate doctors (MMBS) have also been posted in differ-ent district hospitals. Health and Family Welfare Minister T.S. Singh Deo said the department will now get a new bigger team to fight Covid-19 in the state.

Monsoon session curtailed because Govt is scared: BJP

STAFF REPORTER

 $B_{\text{session}}^{\text{y limiting the Monor of}}$ Chhattisgarh assembly for four days, the BJP said on Wednesday that the govern-ment feels threatened over its failures and so wanted to

its failures and so wanted to avoid a "meaningful discussion" in the House.

BJP MLA and spokesperson Shivratan Sharma said in a statement that the state government is trying to cover units discastous parform.

ernment is trying to cover up its disastrous perform-ance in all sectors. With guilt feeling after the release of a sur-vey which shows the nose-diving appeal of the government, fear has

Criminals must fear you, Sahu tells police



gripped those in authority and the ruling Congress party, Sharma said. Sharma said the state is reeling under financial crises due to loans and the state schemes have failed. state schemes have failed.
Quarantine centres and
Covid hospitals are
reporting unnatural
deaths. The test results are
pending even after the
death of suspected
Covid-19 patients.

The situation has Ine situation has reached such a state that the cremation of deceased Covid positive patients is not conducted even after two-three days.

Sharma also objected the conduction of the conducted state of the c

Sharma also objected to the ban on the media from reporting the session. He demanded that the government should make alternative arrangements for media reporting of the assembly.

Sudha Mishra donates ₹10L to Regional Cancer Centre

STAFF REPORTER

Sudha Mishra, on the occa-sion of her 77th birthday, donated ₹10 lakh to the Regional Cancer Centre based at Raipur's Dr Bhirma-Ambedkar Medical College Hospital, the biggest in Chhattiscapi

Hospital, the biggest in Chhattisgarh.

The Director, Regional Cancer Centre, and Radiotherapy Department Director Professor and Head of Department Dr Vivek Choudhary collected the donation from her Katora Talab based residence.

Cancer department ience. oncology department Ashutosh



also present.
Sudha Mishra said that
her donation is in memory of
her late husband
Chandrakant Mishra for the
welfare of the cancer patients.
She pointed out that her
husband died due to cancer.
She also stated that in her
will, she has made provision
for social donation.
As a mark of respect for
Sudha Mishra, Dr Vivek felicitated her with a shawl, shree-

Sudna Mishra, Dr Vivek Felic-itated her with a shawl, shree-fal and Citation of Thanks. Lions Club facilitated the event during which Club President Dr Viplav Dutta and Secretary Dr Arvind Neral were present.

STAFF REPORTER

The police should work in I such a way that criminals should fear them while the common man must give them due respect, Chhattisgarh Home and Public Works Department Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu said on Wednesday. Sahu was holding a review meeting of the newly

Minister directed the police officials to remain alert, adding that

crimes can be resolved if timely action by police is ensured

constituted district Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi police per-sonnel at the office of the Collector.

An official statement said the Minister directed the police officials to remain alert, adding that crimes can be resolved if timely action by police is ensured.

This will further help to enforce respect among the people for police. The police should respect and be sympa-

thetic towards the common man, he added.

man, he added.

Sahu added that now police have a key additional role to play during the Covid-19 pandemic. He said the government is making all efforts to increase the number of staff at police stations. He told the police to strictly enforce the traffic rules to reduce the number of road accidents.

Kota MLA Dr Rem Jogi was also present at the meeting.

2 desi LCH deployed | Covid-19 infection in Leh to guard LAC

PNS NEW DELHI

In an effort to further strengthen operational readiness at the volatile Line of Actual Control(LAC)in Ladakh, two indigenously designed and produced light combat helicopter (LCH)are mow deployed in Leh. They will back up the IAF efforts to secure the border and plug gaps if any at high altitude. The helicopters manufactured by the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited(HAL) are there to be pushed into service to support the IAF at any spot at the border at short notice, HAL officials said on Wednesday.

HAL officials said on Wednesday.
"It is the lightest attack heli-copter in the world designed and developed by the HAL to meet the specific and unique requirements of Indian Armed requirements of Indian Armeu
Forces reflecting the crucial
role of HAL in Atma Nirbhar
Bharat," said R Madhavan,
Chief Managing Director, HAL
Last week, Vice Chief of
IAF, Air Marshal Harjit Singh
Arora took part in one such

IAE, Air Marshal Harjit Singh Arora took part in one such operation in Ladakh along with HAL test pilot, Wing Commander Subash P John (Retired) by taking-off from high altitude location to a for-ward area for a simulated attack on a high-altitude target. This was followed by a landing at one of the most treacherous helipads in the region. The LCH successfully demonstrated its quick deploy-ment prowess to forward loca-tions in extreme temperatures,



the HAL said.

The IAF and Army together need around 160 ICHs and the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has approved an initial batch of 15 ICHs. The IAF has since issued the Request for Proposal (RFP) for 15 Limited Series Production (LSP) helicopters(10 for IAF and five for Army) and the HAL has submitted its response.

response.
Technical evaluation and the price negotiations have been concluded and the order is expected shortly, the HAL said adding as a proactive measure it has launched production of LSPs in anticipation of orders

said adding as a proactive mea-sure it has launched production of LSPs in anticipation of orders at its Bengaltur facility.
The indigenously manufactured helicopter is a potent weapon platform with state-of-the-art systems and highly accurate weapons capable of hitting any type of target by day or night.
Other features of the LCH include its ability to operate in the complete 'Area of Responsibility' (AOR) and alti-tudes and has the ability to carry adequate weapon load at high altitudes under varied conditions.

The latest deployment comes in the backdrop of the five newly arrived Rafale fight-er jets now undertaking prac-tice sorties in Himachal Pradesh's mountainous terrain. The state shares LAC with China

China.

After the familiarisation sorties in the rugged mountain terrain of Himachal Pradesh, the Rafales are likely to conduct practice flights in Ladakh in the coming weeks, sources said. The Rafales came to India from France on July 29 and are now undergoing paces in Indian conditions. The jets are stationed at the Ambala air base. Given the ongoing tension at the LAC with more than three-month old stand-offs and the Chinese increasing its military strength there, the IAF has also taken measures like deploying most of its frontline fighter jets at the forward bases all along the 4,000 km long LAC. They include SU-30s, Jaguars and MIG-29s.

The newly inducted Apache attack helicopters along with Chinook heavy lift transport helicopters are also flying regular sorties near the LAC in Ladakh. After the familiarisation

cases in paramilitary forces touch 17K mark

RAKESH K SINGH III NEW DELHI

Two of the biggest paramili-tary forces—CRPF and BSF A tary forces—CRPF and BSF have surpassed the 5,000 mark in terms of Covid infection with both recording around 5,500 cases each. The two forces have recorded 42 deaths due to the

pandemic. Total Covid infection for the five paramilitary forces—CRPF, BSF, CISF, ITBP and SSB— have touched the 17,000 mark excluding the tally of infected personnel from the National Security Guards (NSG) and National Disaster Response Force Guards (NSG) and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), both of which are deputationist forces drawing personnel from the paramilitary ranks. As per the last count earlier this month, the NSG had reported around 500 cases of Covid infection besides about 100 in the NSG.

The combined death toll of the five paramilitary forces is 64 and 7,287 patients in the five forces continue to be active out of a tally of 16,961 Covid-19 infections. The combined death toll of the five paramilitary forces

of a tally of 16,961 Covid-19 infections. The combined death toll of the five paramilitary forces is 64 and 7,204 patients in the five forces continue to be active. The five paramilitary forces was added over 4,000 new cases of infection in their ranks in the last 10 days.

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has recorded a tally of 5,467 cases of which 2,846 are active, which is the highest number of infected personnel in

number of infected personnel in a paramilitary force. As many as

2,597 patients had recovered and 24 personnel succumbed to the infection in the CRPF. The casualty figures of the CRPF is also highest among the para-military forces.

also highest among the paramilitary forces.

The Border Security Force
(BSF) has reported 5,404 cases of
Covid-19 in its ranks till date
including 1,912 active patients
and 3,474 personnel who have
recovered from the viral infection besides 18 deaths.

The Central Industrial
Security Force (CISF) has reported 2,763 cases of Covid-19 infection Cost of the 1,763 cases of Covid-19 infec-

Security Force (CISF) has reported to the Color of the 2,763 cases of Cowid-19 infection. Out of th 2,763 cases, as many as 774 continue to be active and 1,974 have recovered. The paramilitary has suffered casualties of 15 personnel due to the disease induced by novel coronavirus.

The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has reported 2,113 cases of infection from the pandemic including 1,170 active cases and 941 recoveries besides three deaths.

The Sashatra Seema Bal (SSB) has recorded 1,214 cases of the deadly disease out of which SSS continue to be active and 625 patients have recovered. It incurred loss of lives of four personnel due to the viral disease. The CISF has reported 2,763 cases including 14 deaths and the SSB has 1,214 cases and four deaths.

As on August 1, the paramilitary forces, including NDRF and NSG had reported around 13,000 cases of Covid-19 infection.

121 cops get HM Medal for Excellence in Investigation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The "Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Investigation" for the year 2020 has been awarded to 121 Police personnel. Among the personnel receiving these awards, 15 are from CBI, 10 each are from Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra Police, eight are from Uttar Pradesh Police, seven each are from Kerala and West Bengal Police. 21 women police officers are also included in the medal list announced by Ministry of Home Affairs. This medal was constituted in 2018 with the objective to promote high professional standards of investigation of crime and to recognise such Excellence in Investigation plays a pivotal role in delivering jus-

the outstanding service and commitment of our police personnel. India is proud of them!," tweeted Home

tice. I congratulate all the recipients of 'Medal for Excellence in Investigation-2020'. This is recognition of



Minister Amit Shah.

The recipients are from Constable to Deputy Commissioner of Police ranks. State Police, CBI, NIA personnel involved in the investigation duty are considered for this annual medal.

Covid-19: SC seeks response from Centre on plea to ban disinfection tunnels

The Supreme Court has sought response from the Centre on a PIL seeking an immediate ban on use, installation, production and advertisement of disinfectant tunnels set up to curb the spread of coronavirus.

A three-judge bench of Justices Ashok Bhushan, R Subhash Reddy and M R Shah issued notices to the Ministry

PIL by law student **Gursimran Singh** Narula

of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Science and Technology and Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare while seeking their replies. "Issue notice to respondent Nos. 1 to 3...Counsel for the

petitioner may serve a copy of the petition in the office of the

oblicitor General, who may obtain instructions. List the matter after two weeks," the bench said.

The top court was hearing a PIL filed by law student Gursimran Singh Narula seeking ban on usage, installation, production, advertisement of disinfection tunnels involving spraying or fumigation of organic disinfectants for the purposes disinfecting human beings.

Rahul takes dig at 'Modi hai toh mumkin hai' over GDP prediction



PNS III NEW DELHI

PNS B NEW DELHI

Former Congress chief Rahul
Gandhi on Wednesday took
a jibe at Prime Minister
Narendra Modi citing BJP's
election slogan "Modi hai toh
numkin hai" while attacking
the Government over reported
claims that India's Gross
Domestic Product (GDP)
growth may be lowest since
Independence.

Taking to Twitter, Rahul
shared Infosys co-founder N.R.
Narayana Murthy's purported
remark that "GDP growth may
thit the lowest point since 1947".
"Modi hai toh mumkin hai," he
tweeted.

tweeted.

Last week, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said India's real GDP will contract in the first half of FY21 as well as full financial year.

The former Congress chief has been vociferously targeting the Prime Minister and BJP-led government over several issues

Flagging fears that the country's GDP growth may even touch its lowest since independence in the backdrop independence in the backdrop of coronavirus pandemic, Murthy on Monday said the economy should be brought back on track and people should be prepared to live with the pathogen. He also pitched for developing a new system that should allow every player in every sector of the country's economy to operate at full steam with suitable precautions.

"India's GDP is expected to shrink by at least five per cent.

"India's GDP is expected to shrink by at least five per cent. There is a fear that we may even reach the lowest GDP (growth) since independence, since 1947," Murthy said. Couple of days ago, Rahul had hit out at the centre over the unemployment issue accus-

the unemployment issue accus-ing the Narendra Modi gov-ernment of failing to meet its

mises. He accused the Narendra He accused the Narendra Modi government of failing to meet its promise of jobs for two crore people every year, and then enacting policies that destroyed India's economic structure' and left crores without jobs. He launched the "Rozgar Do" campaign and urged young people without jobs to raise their voices, speak out and "awaken the government from its slumber".

Recovery rate crosses 70% for Covid-19 patients in India

India's Covid-19 recovery rate Crossed past 70 per cent on Wednesday with 16,39,599 people having recovered from the disease so far in the coun-try, while active cases comprise 27.64 pc of the total caseload, the Union Health Ministry said

said.

The case fatality rate has further declined to 1.98 per

further declined to 1.98 per cent, it said.

The highest single-day recoveries at 56.110 are the result of the successful implementation of effective containment strategy, aggressive and comprehensive testing coupled with standardised clinical patients based on holistic standard of care approach, said the Ministry.

The coordinated efforts of

dard of care approach, said the Ministry.

The coordinated efforts of the central, state and UT governments have resulted in continuously increasing average daily recoveries, it said.

"In the first week of July, the daily average recovered cases were at 15,000 which jumped to more than 50,000 in the first week of August," it said.

"With more patients recovering and being discharged from hospitals and home isolation (in case of mild and moderate cases), the total recoveries have crossed the 16



lakh-mark and recovery rate has reached another high of 70.38 per cent," it added. There are 6,43,948 active

There are 6,43,948 active cases of coronavirus which is "actual caseload" of COVID-19 in the country and currently comprise 27.64 per cent of the total positive cases.
They are under active medical supervision.
With a consistent and sustained increase in recoveries, the gap between recovered patients and active COVID-19 cases has reached nearly 10 lakh, the Ministry stated.
Focus on improved and

lakh, the Ministry stated.
Focus on improved and
effective clinical treatment in
hospitals, use of non-invasive,
improved and coordinated services of the ambulances for ferrying patients for prompt and
timely treatment have resulted
in seamless efficient patient
management of Covid-19
patients.

patients.
India's 'test, track, treat' strategy has achieved another peak with 7,33,449 tests done peak with 2,33,449 tests done strategy has achieved another peak with 7,33,449 tests done in 24 hours on Tuesday. This has taken the cumulative tests to more than 2.6 crore. The tests per million has jumped to 18,852, it stated.

States advised not to chart separate ways for procuring vaccine shots once ready

The hattonal expert group on I vaccine administration for Covid-19 which met for the first time on Wednesday to deliberate on various issues pertaining to the procurement mechanisms for the vaccine has advised all the States not to chart separate pathways of pro-curement of the shots when-ever they are readied

curement of the shots when-ever they are readied.

The suggestion came to ensure the central control on the distribution of the vaccine and the States do not start pur-chasing the vaccine at their whims and fancies as had hap-peared in the crea of the pur-

whims and fancies as had hap-pened in the case of the pur-chase of rapid antigen testing kits, some of which were later found to be faulty. "Some States had pur-chased the RT-PCR and rapid antigen kits which created lots of confusion. In the matter of vaccine, we want the process to

of confusion. In the matter of vaccine, we want the process to be smooth and distribution is as per requirements," said a senior official who attended the meeting chaired by Niti Aayog Member, Dr. V K Paul, with Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan as co-chair.

Three vaccine candidates are in different stages of human clinical trials in India -the Covid-19 vaccine candidate developed by University of Oxford by Pune-based Serum Institute of India, the inactivated virus vaccine by Bharat

UI LC I Eduly

Biotech and the DNA vaccine
by Zydus Cadila.

In the meeting the group
deliberated on conceptualisation and implementation
mechanisms for creation of a
digital infrastructure for inventory management and delivery
mechanism of the vaccine,
including tracking of vaccination process with particular
focus on last mile delivery.

The group also deliberated
on the procurement mechanisms for Covid-19 vaccine,
including both indigenous and
international manufacturing
along with guiding principles
for prioritisation of population
groups for vaccination.

They discussed broad
parameters guiding the selection of the Covid-19 vaccine
candidates for the country and
sought inputs from the
Standing Technical SubCommittee of the National
Technical Advisory Group on
Immunisation (NTAGI).

Besides this, it also discused the financial resources
required for procurement of the
Covid-19 vaccine and various
options of financing the same.
Available options in terms of
elivery platforms, cold chain
and associated infrastructure
for roll out of Covid-19 vaccination were also taken up.
India's support to its key

India's support to its key

for roll out of Covid-19 vacci-nation were also taken up. India's support to its key neighbours and development partner countries for Covid-19 vaccines was also taken up.

Govt misrepresented implications of Draft EIA Notification 2020: Ramesh

Days after Union
DEnvironment Minister
Prakash Javedekar said that
the draft Environment Impact
to be finalised, Congress leader
Jairam Ramesh accused the
Government of "inserpresenting" the implications of the
Draft on the country's environmental regulatory framework and its impact on environment alling it "fundamentally flawed."
In a letter to Javadekar,

tally flawed."

In a letter to Javadekar,
In a letter to Javadekar,
Ramesh a former Environment
Minister, said the Standing
Committee met on August 7
and was apprised by officials on
the Draft EIA Notification
2020.

"I am compelled to say that

"I am compelled to say that you are misrepresenting the implications of the Draft EIA Notification, 2020, on our country's environmental regulatory framework and its impact on the environment," Ramesh said, adding that he has read his reply in conjunction with the presentation made by the officials, along with the feedback received from various stakeholders. He suggested the Government to keep the Notification in abeyance until the Standing Committee has examined it.

"The notification is fun-

damentally flawed and makes a mockery of the prime minister's many statements on the need to protect the environment and India's leadership in this regard, he said.

The Congress leader asked how can a subordinate legislation override the parent Act from which it is derived like the Draft EIA Notification 2020 does vis-a-vis the

2020 does vis-a-vis the Environment Protection Act,

1986.
"Your claim that the clearance is not an ex post facto one as 'it is prospective in nature, and previous actions will be penalized' is contrary to how it will actually play out in reality.

it will actually play out in reality.

"If the clearance permits the illegally constructed portion of the project to remain or the illegal operating part of the project to continue, and there is no direction for demolition of the illegall portion or reduction of the illegall portion or reduction of the illegally enhanced capacity — then it is not a prospective clearance. It is being granted ex post facto, and it is regularizing the illegality committed by the project proponent," he said.

"It appears from the processes proposed in Clause 22 of the Draft Notification that the government's objective is to give all the violators and

Covid-19 Impact: Patients with aplastic anemia at receiving end

Paverty, Government apathy and Covid-19 induced-lockdown restricting travel proved fatal for little Kishan, a 11-year-old boy suffering from Aplastic anemia, a life-threat-ening blood disorder condition in which the bone marrow and stem cells do not produce

and stem cells do not produce enough blood cells Facing severe financial constraints and waiting timely medical aid, first at Safdarjung Hospital and then AIIMS, both Government hospitals in Delhi, Kishan's life was cut short in March this year amid Covid-19 pandemic.

March this year amid Covid-19 pandemic.

However, Kishan's is not a lone case. Dr Nita Radhakrishnan, paediatric haemato-noclogist at Super Speciality Paediatric Hospital, Noida, Uttar Pradesh says that as the deadly Coronavirus captured the attention of the most unprecendation in the most unprecedence.

dented manner, the non-Covid patients particularly those with the Aplastic anemia have suffered the most in the crisis.

She gave instances of her two teenage patients who succumbed to blood disorder in the Covid catastrophe. "Manish (name change), a 17-year-old was suffering with on-and-off fever, gum bleeding, and melena for three months, he came to us in December last year just when Coronavirus had started spreading its tentacles from China to other parts of the world."

The boy was diagnosed

China to other pairs or unworld."

The boy was diagnosed with severe Aplastic anemia and was recommended requisite treatment like regular hospital visit for red cell transfusion before he could be given bone marrow transplant. "However, while the family was not able to visit our hospital in Noida due to the covidlockdown, no blood products



ere available at the hospital near to the patient's locality. In want of blood, Manish could

want of blood, Manish could not survive more days. 13-year-old Suresh (name change) too faced similar fate. While Government funds could not be sanctioned for his BMT in time the boy could not sist the Noda hospital for fur-ther follow-up due to travel restrictions. Two weeks lare travelled to the travelled of the sanction of the travelled of the travelled of the doctor.

These are just two reportases from the NCR hos

These are just two reported cases from the NCR hospital located near the country's
capital. Several have gone unreported. The Government has
no policy nor any long-term
plan for such patients.

"The prognosis of severe
aplastic anemia in our country
is dismal. The incidence of 4-6
per million population of childhood aplastic anemia in India
and other Asian countries is
higher than what is observed in
the West," explains Dr

Radhakrishnan. The scenario is gloomy for the patients afflict-ed with the disease as they need blood transfusion almost every 20 days

ed with the disease as they need blood transfusion almost every 20 days.

A significant proportion of patients of aplastic anemia (around 30 per cent) die before any definitive treatment is initiated. A study by AIIMS based on a recent series of patients follow-up showed that out of 1501 patients diagnosed over last seven years, only 303 ie 20 per cent received the definitive treatment modalities through either BMT or IST with ATG and cyclosporine, says Dr Radhakrishnan in her case report "Aplastic anemia: Non-COVID casualties in the Covid-19 era", published in the latest edition of Indian Journal of Palliative Care.

The doctors have sought urgent intervention. Dr Radhakrishnan says that "as we await the peak of Covid-19 in our country and possibly sec-

A SIGNIFICANT PROPORTION OF PATIENTS OF API ASTIC ANEMIA (AROUND 30 PER CENT) DIE BEFORE ANY DEFINITIVE TREATMENT IS INITIATED

ondary and tertiary waves thereafter, patients with aplastic anemia who are the sickest among all hematological illnesses would benefit greatly from urgent intervention from the Government to ensure timely treatment."

"Those suffering with Aplastic anemia, there is mostly delay in diagnosis, delay in initiation of treatment due to monetary constraints, non-inclusion of the disease under government schemes

non-inclusion of the disease under government schemes such as Ayushman Bharat and NHM and delay in sanction of money from other Government schemes such as Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi, Chief

Minister and Prime Minister's relief fund often due to lack of

sminster and Prime Ministers relief fund often due to lack of proper documents, she added. Delay means, risk of contracting fungal infections and increase in drug-resistant bacterial infections increase which further hamper the treatment, point out Dr Ravi Shankar and Dr Savitri Singh in the study. Though the Union Health Ministry, after few days of lockdown period, issued directions for continuing treatment for essential health services including reproductive and maternal health services, newborn care, severe malnutrition, and NCDs

including cancer care, palliative care, dialysis, and care of disabled, unfortunately those with Aplastic anemia got ignored.

This despite of the fact that these patients are at the highest risk of death following a break in the treatment of few weeks, notes Dr Radhakrishnan.

Because of the closure of offices and absence of staff, during the lockdown period, there was delay in sanction of usual grants due to the lock-down of offices and inability in generating documents such as income certificate from the tehsils.

"For instance, Suresh and Manish, both our patients received the Government grant after around 3-4 months of applying for the same. But both had died before they could reach the hospital for treatment," lamented the hematologist.



TN: 5,871 +ve, 119 die on Wed

Tamil Nadu on Wednesday diagnosed 5,871 new persons with Covid-19 while 119 patients succumbed to the pandemic during the 24 hours that ended at 6 pm on Wednesday, said a medical bulletin issued by the Department of Health.

There were 52, 929 active

bulletin issued by the Department of Health. There were 52, 929 active cases as on Wednesday evening all over the State. Number of patients subjected to testing on Wednesday saw an increase as 69, 697 persons were tested across the State thanks to the 132 laboratories.

across the State thanks to the 133 laboratories. Till Wednesday, the State has tested 3.14 lakh positive cases while 2.56 lakh has been cured of the pandemic.



rid-19 patients er involving Chengalpet, and Kancheepuram and Thiruvallur districts remained

high compared to other dis

as on Wednesday while Chengalpet had 439 patients. Kancheepuram (371) and Thiruvallur (407) did not show

terrorist operation, the joint teams of the security forces eliminated a local commander of pro-Pakistan terror outfit Hizbul Mujahideen while one jawan of the Indian Army sacrificed his life during the operation in Kamrazipora area of Pulwama. In the run up to the Independence day celebrations in Kashmir valley, terrorists on Wednesday targeted a Quick Reaction Team (QRT) of the Indian Army along the Srinagar-Baramulla National Highway invitrion as oldier. wama. The terrorist killed in the The terrorist killed in the operation has been identified as Hizb-ul-Mujahideen commander Azaad Lalhari. Police said, "Azaad Lalhari was involved in the killing of police head constable Anoop Singh on 22 May 2020 at Prichu Pulwama where he fired at a naka party".

Jawan hurt as terrorists target QRT

convoy on Srinagar-Baramulla highway

party".

At least six FIRs were regis-tered against him for different ter-

tered against him for different ter-rorist related incidents of vio-lence in the area.

Baramula National Highway injuring one soldier. High alert has already been sounded along the vulnerable stretches of different highways and interior road links across Jammu & Kashmir to prevent any major strike by terrorists or IED attack on security convoys in the coming days.

Quick reaction teams and sniffer dogs have been pressed into service along with road opening parties to thoroughly samitise the road networks ahead of the movement of security convoys.

According to Srinagar based Defence Spokesman, Col Rajesh Kalia, "Terrorists fired at a Quick nt of security convoys. Meanwhile, in another anti-

Reaction Team (QRT) of Indian Army on wednesday. The QRT was moving from Baramulla towards Gulmarg on the Srinagar-Baramulla National Highway near Trumgund Hygam crossing. One Army soldier was injured. Search operation in progress? Army soldier was injured. Seatch operation in progress." Sharing details of Operation

Sharing details or Operation Kamrazipora, Pulwama, Col Kalia said, "One terrorist was killed. 01 AK along with grenades, pouches & other war like stores recovered. One soldier laid down his life in the line of duty". He said the martyred arm juvan has been identified as 25

He said the martyred army jawan has been identified as 25 years old Sowar Jilajeet Yadav of Jaunpur district in Uttar Pradesh. Before dispatching his mortal remains to his native village, It Gen BS Raju, Chinar Corps Commander and all ranks paid homage to the braveheart. He is survived by his wife, Punam Devi.

Covid positive to virus negative for a price?

Operators' salary withheld August 7, he was found positive with coro PRADEEP SAXENA III ALIGARH

PRADEEP SAXENA WALLGARH

The Health Department has transformed the corona era into an opportunity for corruption. The data operators posted here are wrongly entering the name-address, mobile number after taking bribe from the people. ACM-2 Ranjit Singh has revealed the data operators posted at Deendayal Hospital to have a breach in records at the time of sampling of a jeweler's son. One month salary of three operators has been withheld. They have also been given notices. This action has caused panic in the health department.

The case relates to a jeweler's family running a jewelery shop near Meenakshi Bridge. The family hails from Prayag Mill Compound. Sarqf and his wife and one son underwent antigen test at Deendayal Hospital on August 4.1 in this test, husband and wife were found to be infected, while the son was found to be negative. On this, the couple was sent for RTPCR investivation. On

tration tried to find him based on the records, but the mobile number written in the tration tried to find him based on the records, but the mobile number written in the record started going off. A person with that name was also not found at the address. On DM's order, ACM-2 Ranjit Singh started investigation. This made the data operators nervous and corrected the young man's name on the record. On 10 August, the young man was caught. During interrogation of the youth, it was revealed that the taber had misnamed his son's name with the help of the data operators. He was sent to grand mother's house when the report came positive. According to ACM-2, one month's salary of accused data operators Shivam, Ravi and Tarun has been withheld. The matter is very serious. They have been given notices. All three are on contract. Along with this two lab technicians Pushpendra and Omar have also been found to be doing negligient work in registering name, address and mobile number. A warning has been given to them for such negligience and carelessness in the name of bribe.

Gold bars imported as Qurans. alleges Kerala BJP chief

KIIMAR CHELLAPPAN III KOCHI

Two serious allegations have heen made by two prominent Opposition leaders in Kerala against the CPI(M)-led Government K Surendran, BJP State Chief alleged that the consignment from UAE Consulate received by KT Jaleel, higher Education Minister who is also the former SIMI leader, were gold bars and not Qurans. The Minister had claimed from day one onwards that the boxes contained Quran for disvo serious allegations have

boxes contained Quran for dis boxes contained Quran for cus-tribution in the State. But the UAE Embassy officials in New Delhi had made it clear that the West Asian country never sends Quran to other countries as a matter of policy. matter of policy.

matter of policy.

The Customs officials who inspected the C APT (Centre for Advanced Printing and Training), a Government of Kerala organisation that comes

under the Higher Education
Department had found that
the consignment was brought
to this office before it was sent
to other places in the State in
Department Vehicles.
Surendra said that the gold
smuggling through diplomatic
channel was the handiwork of
big sharks and not small fish.
"Chief Minister Pinarayi
Vijayan knows who are the persons behind the massive gold
smuggling syndicate as many
people in his office were associated with it," said Surendran
while addressing a virtual rally
at Palakkadu.
Ramesh Chennithala,

at Palakkadu.
Ramesh Chennithala,
leader of opposition, while
addressing reporters and Ramesh Chennithala, leader of opposition, while addressing reporters at the State capital said that the situation in Kerala due to Covid-19 was pathetic because the Chief Minister and his council of Ministers failed to tackle the spread of the pandemic.

Kerala Government has managed to bring down the number of new coronavirus patients on Wednesday to 1,1212 according to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

Briefing the media on Wednesday, the Chief Minister sald that 880 persons were cured of the pandemic and discharged from hospitals. But out of the 1,212 persons tested positive on Wednesday, 1,068 contracted Covid-19 through local contact. 45 persons who tested positive failed to give the details of the source from where they contracted the pandemic," he said.

source from where they continued as aid.

The Chief Minister said that though some regions showed abatement of the pandemic, situation in most districts remained critical.

"The superintendents of police in the districts are "the superintendents of police in the districts are "the superintendents of counter the pandemic and it will

devising strategies to counter the pandemic and it will definitely bring down the Covid-19 in the State," said

definitely bring down the Covid-19 in the State, said Vijayan.

He said 28, 664 samples were tested during the last 24 hours while five persons succumbed to the pandemic. Thiruvananthapuram which tested 266 positive cases remained the district with the highest number of covid-19 patients.

According to Vijayan, Kerala continued to be the State with the best Covid-19 management and administration.

1,212 new cases in Kerala $|People\ coming\ out\ to\ support$ three-language formula in TN

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Balagurusamy, former Vice-Chancellor, Anna University, who lambasted the Tamil Nadu Government and Tamil Nadu Government and the Dravidian parties for their opposition towards the three-language formula proposed by the Centre in its National Education Policy, more social activists, educationists and paractivists, educationists and par-ents have come out question-ing the propriety behind the resistance to introduce other languages in Tamil Nadu. An educationist has called for a re-ferendum on the issue of intro-ducing a three-language for-mula.

mula.

Vanathi Srinivasan, vice-president, Tamil Nadu BJP who has been fighting to get the impeded irrigation projects

in the State's fertile Kongunadu region going, charged the Dravidian politicians who play with the future of the children. "None of them send their children to Government Schools but to public schools which charge exorbitant fees where Hindi, Sanskrit are all compulsory. But these politicians make sure that Hindi is not taught in Government -run schools because they want to keep students from poor and rural families in perpetual ignorance," said Srinivsan.

An apolitical person like Vijayashree Ramesh, lawyer and activist, pointed out that Chennai is the headquarters of Dakshin Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha because the founder.

Sabha because the founder, Mahatma Gandhi, wanted stu-dents in Tamil Nadu as well as other South Indian States to learn Hindi. "Interestingly, the

vate schools which teach Hindi as a compulsory subject are the ones who oppose the intro-duction of Hindi or three-lan-guage formula in the State. It is sad and shocking that stu-dents in Tamil Nadu do not get dents in Iamil Nadu do not get the opportunity to learn in Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya. The opposition to Hindi by the Dravidian political parties are causing havoc in the lives of poor students in Tamil Nadu," said Ramesh.

said Ramesh.

Srinivasan said the opposition of Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswai was only because of DMK president Stalin's opposition to Hindi. Palaniswain fears that if he supports Hindi, he may lose out to Stalin in the race for Chief Minister's chair in the next assembly election," she said.

Mizoram to boost Covid testing capacity

Aizawł: The Mizoram Government will Purchase 10,000 more rapid antigen kits to boost the states Covid-19 testing capacity, Chief Minister Zoramthanga said on Wednesday.

The Chief Minister made the announcement at a meeting with officials of the state government, NGOs, churches and doctors, according to an official.

Every citizen should take precautionary measures as community transmission can take place at any time.

The preventive measure is for our safety against the pandemic: Testing should be done in a massive way and more rapid antigen kits will be purchased, Zoramthanga was quoted as saying by the official.

It was agreed at the meeting that the

official.

It was agreed at the meeting that the existing safety protocol will be enforced more strictly in the wake of the spurt in cases, the official said.

cases, the official said.
Funerals with maximum 50 people will
henceforth be held either at church halls
or community halls but not in private residences to ensure that social distancing is
strictly followed, he said.

PTI

87 infected in Nagaland, tally rises to 3,118

Kohima: Nagaland on Wednesday reported 87 New Covid-19 cases while 129 people recovered from the virus in the state, an official of the Heath department said.

With the 87 fresh cases, the state's Covid-19 tally has increased to 3,118 of which 1,991 are active cases as 1,113 people have recovered from the disease, eight have died and six ware migrated to other states, the official said.

"87 new +ve cases of Covid-19 have been detected out of 614 samples tested. 48 in

out of 614 samples tested. 48 in Dimapur, 35 in Kohima, 3 in Zunheboto & 1 in Wokha.

Zunheboto & 1 in Wokha.
Necessary contact tracing have
activated. Wear Mask, Keep
Distance, Stay Safe, Nagaland
Health minister S Pangnyu
Phom tweeted.
Additional Director, Health
and Family Welfare, Dr Denis
Hangsing said 129 Covid-19
patients tested negative for the
virus on Wednesday, taking the
total number of recovered people to 1.113.

total number of recovered people to 1,113.

This has improved the recovery rate of the state to 35.69 per cent, he said.
On August 6 the state had reported the highest number of 134 recoveries. Nagaland reported the first three Covid-19 cases on May 25 while the highest single-day spike was recorded on August 4 with 276 cases.

stitute of Horticulture Technologi Guwahati, Mandira, Kamrup – 781127 Expression of Interest

Gowaha, Mardori, Karrupi - 18112

Expression of Interest
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Assam flood: 3 districts remain submerged

Guwahati: Dhemaji, Baksa and Morigaon Districts of Assam continued to remain submerged on Wednesday, even as floodwaters receded from most parts of the state, according to an official bulletin.

At present, 14,205 people are suffering due to the deluge in these three districts while 7,009 hectares cropland is affected, according to the daily flood bulletin of the Asam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA).

Dhemaji is the worst-hit district with 12,908 repole affected, followed

ASDMA). Dhemaji is the worst-hit district with 12,908 people affected, followed by Baksa where 1,000 people are suffering, and Morigaon with 297 people hit by the calamity. On Tuesday, 13,800 persons were reported to be affected across the three districts. The total number of people losing their lives in this year's flood and landslide stands at 136 across the state. Of them, 110 persons were killed in flood-related incidents and 26 died in landslides.

Maha records spike with 344 deaths, 12,712 +ve cases

Preaching the 300-fatality mark on the third occasion during the current month, Covid-19 claimed 344 more lives and left 12,712 others infected in various parts of Meharrschet are Wedgeder.

12,712 otners infected in various parts of Maharashtra on Wednesday.

Maharashtra, which had witnessed 334 Maharashtra, which had witnessed 334 on August 9, recorded 344 deaths on Wednesday, thus taking the total number of Wednesday, thus taking the total number of deaths to 18650. With 12,712 fresh infections, the total

number of infections in the state jumped to 5,48,313. Of the 344 deaths reported on Wednesday, Mumbai accounted for 50 deaths, followed by 41 deaths in Pune and 33 in Thane

Apart from deaths reported in Mumbai, Apart from deaths reported in Mumbai, Pune and Thane, there were 29 deaths in Nagpur, 28 deaths in Nashik, 19 in Kolhapur, 16 each in Jalgaon and Latur, 14 in Sangli, 13 in Palghar, 11 in Solapur, and 10 in Nanded, 8 deaths in Satara, 7 each in Parbhani and Osmanabad, 6 in Ahmednagar, 4 each in Nandurbar and Amravati, 3 each in Raigad, Dhule, Aurangabad and Jalna, 2 each in Ratnagrii, Beed, Akola and Gondiya and death each in Hingoli, Yavatmal, Buldhana, Washim,

Bhandara and Chandrapur. In addition, two persons from other states died in Maharashtra. With 50 fresh deaths, Mumbai's Covid-19 toll rose from 6,893 to 6,943, while the the total number of infected cases rose by 1,132 to touch 126,356 now.

touch 126,356 now.

In a related development, as many as 13408 patients were discharged from hospitals in the state after ful recovery, taking the total number of patients discharged from various hospitals after full recovery since the second week of March this year to 3,81,843. The recovery rate went up to 69.64 per cent. The mortality rate in the state is 3.4 per cent. The state health authorities pegged the number of "active cases" in the state at 147,513

Pune, which has emerged as the second worst-affected district in terms of spread of the pandemic, has recorded 1,19,628 infections and 2865 deaths till now.

the pandemic, has recorded 1,19,628 infections and 2865 deaths till now.

With 108399 infected cases and 31.25 deaths, Thane continued to be the third-worst hit district in Maharashtra.

Out of 29,08,887 samples sent to laboratories, 548,313 have tested positive (18,84 per cent) for COVID-19 until Wednesday.

Currently, 10,15,115 people are in home quarantine while 35,880 people are in institutional quarantine.

Bengal reschedules lockdown days. Opposition sees politics

The Bengal Government on
Wednesday rescheduled
the bi-weekly lockdown dates
for the third time in the past
two weeks triggering strong
criticism from the Opposition
parties some of which called it
a "Tughlaqi system at work"
while others like the Bip
attacked Chief Minister
Mamata Bangriee for "Johanipu

attacked Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for "planning community-based political lockdown."

Under the new scheme there will be no lockdown on August 28. Earlier in order to break the corona chain the State Government had ordered lockdowns on August 20. 21. lockdowns on August 20, 21, 27, 28 and 31 which was in addition to the two lock downs in the first week of this month.

month.
A Government circular said, "Several communications have been received citing dif-

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

ficulty to conduct of business-es and banking operations because of 2-days lockdown during Thursday and Friday in the last week of August 2020 followed by one-day lockdown on the following Monday." This would lead to lock-downs for five consecutive days which would hamper banking services, officials said.

Hence "State Government

said.

Hence "State Government has considered the requests for relaxation of lockdown as would be necessary and essential. Lockdown on Friday 28 August 2020...is hereby withdrawn and statewide complete lockdown shall now be observed on: Thursday 20 August; Friday 21 August; Thursday 27 August and Monday 31 August; the order said.

said.

Meanwhile, coming down heavily on the Government for running a "Tughlaqi sys-

S Congress leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Chowdhury said "it is difficult to understand how an elected government can work like this... The Chief Minister herself sat several occasions with her officers to plan out things in the presence of the media... in spite of so many qualified people including the Chief Minister working on the days they could not decide on the exact dates and had to change the days five times.

had to change the days five times.

"It is ridiculous. More so because while the Government is struggling with scheduling and rescheduling the lock-down days the corona virus is attacking more and more peo-ple. The doctors are dying, nurses are doing, policemen are dying, the private hospitals have been left to loot the peo-ple at will and they are sched-uling and rescheduling the lockdown days."

5-year-old girl raped, admitted in critical condition to Rai hospital

Critical condition
Kota: A five-year-old girl was
admitted to hospital in a critical condition after she was
raped allegedly by a 19-year-old
man in Rajasthan's Baran district, police said on Wednesday.
The incident took place in
Shahabad area on Tuesday
evening, they said According to
Shahabad Circle Officer
Kajodmal, the girl was profusely bleeding after the incident
and was rushed to Baran district
hospital on Tuesday night.
Later, she was referred to Jay
Kay Lon hospital in Kota, the

IO Naj TIOSPII(al) officer said.

The girl underwent on surgery on Wednesday afternoon and there would be two more surgeries, he said rhe accused in the case has been detained, said Shahabad SHO Hariprasad Rana.

The girl, who belongs to a tribal community, had gone outside to attend pature's call at

tribal community, had gone outside to attend nature's call at around 5 pm on Tuesday when the suspect, who was in an inebriated condition, allegedly attacked her, the station house officer said.

CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY
KANKE, RANCHI-834006 (JHARKHAND)

NOTICE Director Central Institute

posts are as under.

1. Senior Resident - 15 posts

1. Senior Resident - 15 posts
Psychiatry - 10 (Un-reserved-04) (Reserved (Vertical) ST-01, SC-02 & OBC-03, (Horizontal) PH-1)
Neurology - 04 (Un-reserved-02, SC-01 & ST-01)
Radio-diagnosis-01 (Un-reserved)
Desirous candidates fuffilling the qualification may appear for the walk-in-interview with their application in the prescribed format giving full details of academic records and experience alongwith original and attested photocopy of the relevant documents with recent photograph on 04.09,2020 at 9.30 AM at this institute. Details can be seen on the institute's website www.cipranchi.nic.in

Director

Director

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PAPER WITH PASSION **Women legal heirs**

SC allows daughters to claim their rights on parental property with retrospective effect in a landmark ruling



iving hope to millions of women, who have traditionally been denied a share in their parental property owing to the cultural preference for a son and the idea of "keeping the wealth within the family", the Supreme Court has said that daughters now have a birthright to parental property with retrospective effect. In essence, this allows women to challenge past injustices, coercion and denials and claim restoration of their economic rights. A three-judge Bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra ruled that a Hindu woman's right to be a joint heir to the ancestral property does not depend on whether her father was alive or not when an old segregatory law was amended in 2005. The

Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005 gave Hindu women the right to be coparceners or joint legal heirs with men but did not clarify whether it could apply retrospectively. Not only does the ruling take away the gender bias from inheritance, one that has disempowered girls socially and led to their differential upbringing and value systems, the court also lauded daughters as more suitable and responsible heirs who deserve a share of parental legacy. "A son is a son till he takes him a wife...a daugh-ter is a daughter all of her life," Justice Arun Mishra said while reading out the order "A daughter remains a loving daughter throughout life," he added, emphasising the compassionate nature of women as care-givers. This also clears the decks for settling countless appeals on the issue that have been pending before different High Courts and subordinate courts on whether the amendment would be time-bound or not. Now that its applicability is crystal clear, this will not only open the floodgates for thousands of ancestral property-related disputes that had been put to rest but will also give women and their children, especially those who are not too well-heeled or financially independent, a fallback cushion. Traditionally, women have been denied a share in their fathers' property in the belief that a girl's share is given to her in the form of dowry and that one day she would inherit the property of her in-laws. Some enlightened families may have been reformist of their own accord but this has largely been the accepted social code. Yet it has been erroneous, for most women have been denied a share in the in-laws' ancestral property after the husband's death. Another draw-back among women so far has been their poor or no legal awareness of their status as rightful stakeholders in family affairs. Even if they were aware of their rights, most women have been hesitant to claim their share in family estates as that would have meant going against their own flesh and blood for a piece of land or house. Plus, with most women in India brought up in a patriarchal society, they were made to believe that in case of a marriage going south or their single status, they would be support-ed by their father and in his absence, by the brother. Hence, most of them, over the years, have meekly given up their rights on property in exchange for this familial anchor While mindset changes will only come with time, the ruling of the apex court unfetters those who are willing to stand up for their coparcenary rights.

It is no secret that access to property empowers women economically, provides them with a sense of security and self-worth and strengthens their decision-making powers. Research shows that ownership of property by women has reset the asym metry in gender relations, resulting in reduced domestic violence, both physical and psychological. Owning assets also gives women caught in abusive relationships an exit route, which they might not have had otherwise, particularly if they are not finan-cially independent. All in all, this judgment is a reassertion of the constitutional value of equality to women in personal law without any pre-conditions. However, one aspect that is being largely ignored in the media over the jubilation on this ruling is that there is a flip side, too. Coparcenary right is an undefined liability and any liability of the father, including the family debt and other dues, will be extended to daughters as well. So, it is not just about the right, it is about inheriting responsibility as well. Besides. what of women in other religious communities, who are governed by separate per-sonal laws in several matters, including inheritance rights? While Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists and Jains are governed by laws on property rights codified in the amended Hindu Succession Act of 2005, Christians and Parsis are governed by the Indian Succession Act, 1925. Property rights of Muslims — both Shias and Sunnis — are yet to be codified. Till we uniformly address gender inequalities in the area of inheritance and have a representative civil rights framework for women across the spectrum, they would be subjected to abuse.

Kamala blooms

Kamala Harris is the third woman to stand for Vice-President of the US. Can she do better than the earlier two?



amala Harris' selection as the running mate of Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden is a momentous one. She is just the third woman to stand for Vice-President of the United States after Geraldine Ferrero in 1984 and Sarah Palin in 2008 but the first woman of colour to do so. This, four years after Donald Trump unexpectedly defeated Hillary Clinton, the first female US presidential candidate for the White House. In India, too Harris' nomination is being celebrated since he mother was a Tamilian. Yet, it's not her origin but

what she represents that might just tilt the scales.
Biden has been less than charismatic and Harris' activism and focussed campaigns on the Afro-American cause give the Democrats a sales pitch to fall back upon, that of upholding civil rights. Not new really, but tested enough. And likely to find some resonance when race relations have taken centrestage following the killing of George Floyd by a White officer. Besides, the Black community has been the worst affected by Trump's selective pandemic management. In all issues, be it of race, gender, healthcare and law enforcement, Harris has maintained a centrist record. But her indaturate and take inforcement, maris has manianted a definish ecolus, but her drive has helped her push walls so far. Which is why Trump made his discomfort very much visible by calling her "extraordinarily nasty." He also accused her of being "the meanest, most horrible" of all US Senators.

With the US extremely fractured today, Harris possibly stands the best chance ever of having a woman occupy one of the top offices. That said, everyone expected Hillary Clinton to win in a landslide in 2016 and we all saw what happened. With Biden's mental acuity being questioned by many and Trump mobilising the Republican base, it would be fatal for the Democrats to take things for granted, particularly in some crucial battleground states which Trump snatched unexpectedly. While Harris was brought up single-handedly by her mother, after her parents divorced when she was five, and her father, the Jamaican-born economist Donald Harris, did extensive work in India, she identifies herself as a "Black" woman to build her political capital. Despite several in the Indian community urging her to recognise her heritage she has consistently sought to downplay it. Incidentally, she is distantly related to India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. So while many in the Indian diaspora will celebrate her nomination, her politics is more often than not at variance with Indian interests. Indeed, she is as guilty as several other politicians of making some major policy flip-flops over the years. But with global geopolitics undergoing a sea change over the past few years and with China increasingly asserting itself, her views on India might change as well.

opanion

Politics of defection

MLAs jumping ship and resort politics are condemnable. There's a lot that our elected representatives need to learn from what Gandhi had expected of them



JS RAJPUT

ne can easily recall umpteen instances of MLAs changing their ideological and political loy-topical loy-to

democracy.

Why isn't there all-round condemnation of the Rajasthan drama of



MLAs being herded from one hotel to the other — under strict State security — as unconstitu-tional, unethical and immoral tional, unethical and immoral? Even known groups of retired bureaucrats — who suddenly appear on the scene to showcase their concerns about the erosion of social cohesion, religious amily and constitutional propriety — never thought it fit to condemn this derogatory practice of herding of elected representatives. Do they find this practice to be in sync with the Constitutional framework and in consonance with moral and ethical considerations?

Constitutional framework and ethical considerations?

In 1922, Gandhij/ had written in a letter that Swaraj would not bring happiness to his people. He had said that four things would weigh heavily against it. Three of them were injustice, burden of administration and treachery of the rich. The fourth, that surprised me the most when I came to know about it, related to "defects of elections." How could he write about defections in 1922? I was told the Mahatma had studied the British election system very thoroughly. Gifted with a prophetic futuristic vision, he could anticipate the shape of things so accurately.

I often wonder whether the MLAs in Rajasthan, who enjoyed a comfortable all-expenses-paid stay in luxury hotels, even remember that they are inheritors of the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi, Lal

Prasad and other stalwars of the freedom struggle. These worthy elected representatives are, in fact, panch parmeshwars of democracy. They are occupying a seat, the incumbent of which is bound to the Constitution by an oath of affirmation.

One wonders how many of them are aware of that eternal eye-opener sentence by Mahatma Gandhi: "It, instead of insisting on rights, everyone does his duty, there will immediately be the rule of order established among mankind." Are such herded stays part of the duty of the elected representatives? Do they not realise that they are being presented in public as weaklings, who would not be able to resist monetary temptations if allowed to move out of the hotel? If these worthies could sit together with their family members, including their children, and seek their opinion on being made a part of the "pliable group", one is confident they would get the right advice. No child would like his parent to be treated as a saleable commodity. Many of them may have read or attended speechs where references were made to a query put before Mahatma Gandhi: What is your message to the people? He replied, "My life is my message." Would our MLAs my message. Would our MLAS be in a position to tell their chil-dren that they could derive strength from their experi-

ences? It appears that everyone — right from the Chief Minister to the Speakers; the party in power to those in the Opposition; and all others who matter — have their interpretations of the Constitution and Constitutional propriety. It is worthwhile to recall that under the Government of India Act of 1935. elections were held in 1936-37 in various provinces and provincial Governments were formed. All Ministers of the then Congress Government had resigned in November 1939. Gandhij was ever vigilant, he consistently expressed his opinion on how legislators and Ministers should be performing their new duties and they should always think about the welfare of the people. He was, in a way, educating the legislators and Ministers in those days when his overarching presence on the scene itself was a deterrent against anyone breaking the norms. "The holding of any office in the Congress Government must be in the spirit of service, without an art in simplicity which he who runs may see. It does not require money to be neat, clean and dignified. Pomp and pageantry are often synonymous with vulgarity? It is indeed a pity that our young ones are

witnessing a political world in which — exceptions apart — elected representatives, Ministers and legislators have forsaken the Gandhian philos-ophy, ideas and dreams. They are doing all this knowing it fully well that it would hurt the Mahatmás memory. When reports emerge of legislators' assets multiplying by a factor of say 500, the com-mon man's reaction is obvious — it would definitely be devoid of respect, confidence or a con-

of respect, confidence or a con nect. In 1937-39, those who nect. In 1937-39, those who became legislators and Ministers were men and women who had entered the freedom struggle — not a political party but a national movement that offered only sacrifice, toil, sufferings and jail terms. Elections and legislative positions came just by chance. But allurements were still there and senior leaders were alert to guide and to "examine the utility value of the legislators."

"examine the utility value of the legislators."

And for the Ministers, the guidelines were: "The Ministers are [the peoples] servants. They can do nothing against the express wishes of the people. They will not stay in office a day longer than the people wish." There is much more for the Chief Ministers, Ministers and the legislators to ponder over. Are the Gandhian ideas totally out of bounds for those who still wear to be the inheritors of his swear to be the inheritors of his out of bounds for those who still swear to be the inheritors of his legacy? If not, how could they ignore Gandhijf's words and deeds? "This office-holding is a step towards either greater presenting or its total loss. If it is not to be a total loss, the Ministers and the legislators have to be watchful of their own personal and public conduct. They have to be like Caesar's wife, above to the conduct with the conduct with the conduct with the conduct with the conduct have to be like Caesar's wife, above to the conduct with the

may not make private gains for themselves or their relatives or friends."

The least people expect from their legislators is that they do not surrender courage of conviction that a citizen can be proud of, particularly those who are in public life and are expected to enjoy the trust and confidence of their electors. They must ultimately be true to the people. They must not subjugate themselves to the whims and fancies of those who wish to retain power or gain power at any cost.

There is a lot for the elected representatives to whom Gandhiji advised not to "arrogate to themselves greater knowledge than those experienced men who do not happen to occupy the ministerial chairs." Obviously, this applies equally to every elected person.

(The writer works in education and social cohesion)

SOUNDBITE

I have known Harris for a long time. She is more than pre-pared for the job. She's spent her career defending our Constitution and fighting for folks who need a fair stake.





This whole insider vs outsider debate was not sup-posed to be an ugly witch-hunting battle. It was supposed to be debate,

Actor —Sandhya Mridul



With Harris as his political living will, he (Biden) is surrendering control of our nation to the radi-cal mob with promises to raise taxes, cut police funding and appease socialist dictators.





LETTERS TO THE **EDITOR**

Clear old accounts

Sir — There are huge amounts in unclaimed deposits at post-offices and many of these account hole are shanker even died. There are chances of fraud happening, with unscrupulous persons staking claim to such deposits. The Department of Posts should send letters to account holders who have not operated their accounts in, say, the last three years and give them reasonable time to either renew or close them. If no response is received, all such unclaimed money may be frozen in some fixed account, which may be allowed to be withdrawn by be allowed to be withdrawn by legal heirs after careful verifica-tion.

Madhu Agrawal New Delhi

Long road ahead

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Atmanirbhar raksha" (August 11). With a view to boost defence manufacturing in India, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh appounced a ban on a Singh announced a ban on a range of defence imports. Defence manufacturing under the Atmanirbhar Bharat scheme

Language discrimination

In the repeated invocation of culture in the National Education Policy, (NEP) — the distaste of its frequent repetitions apart — one finds a long-term strategy to resurred a particular culture in India. The civilisation that flourished between 3300 BCE and 1300 BCE in South Asia, popularly called the Harappan or the India Valley civilisation, is an important era in our recorded history, And. a new culture evolved with the arrival of the Eurasian Steppes pastoralist groups. A new Anguage and Hestyle emerged, a new culture and the ancient Harappan civilisation were unlike each other in every aspect. Researchers have converged on the view that the present-day gods; religion, literature and traditions in most of India are adaptations from the Brahmidical Vedic culture, which was rooted in cast e system and rituals, and not from the ancient Indius. Valley civilisation. There are, therefore, reasons to doubt the loud advocacy of culture, heritage and traditions in



so long as at least two of the three languages are native to India." This eliminates English as the second language automatically as it is not treated as a language native to the country, incidentally, both English and Hindustani (Hindi and Urdu) belong to the indo-European language lamity. This prescription puts South India at a great disadvantage. English has been the link language for this region for over a century, though Tamil, Tellugu, Kannada and Malayalam are of the Dravidian language family. The phenomenal growth of the knowledge-based industry in the South is credited mostly to its proficiency in English. The three-language formula, with a prescription tagged to it, would be detrimental to economic growth.

Haridasan Rajan

Kozhikode

lakh crore under the Make in India scheme are stuck in the estimated to save about four is estimated to save about four lakh crore rupees. No matter how lofty the goals appear, the fact is that India's defence sector suffers from a few drawbacks. Already, projects worth ₹3.5 pipeline. Projects are often not completed on time. Recently, India became a global exporter of arms but we ranked 23rd in

Another grey area is the quality of products. The ammunition supplied by the Ordinance Factory had damaged tanks,

field guns and caused fatalities. The French company that manufactures Rafale fighter planes had expressed doubts about the manufacturing quality of Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL) during the defence deal. HAL-made Jaguar and Mirage-20005 have caused many fatalities. While defence manufacturing under Atmanibhar Bharat looks ambitious to make India self-reliant in defence manufacturing, there's a long way to go. The Government must overcome existing challenges. field guns and caused fatalities.

Venu GS Kollam

Wake-up call

Sir — Back-to-back fire cases at COVID-19 facility centres are a wake-up call for the Government. All such tragic events have proved that those bearing the responsibility of safety regulations have paid lip service. Exemplary action is the need of the hour, or else such cases will continue to occases will continue to occase will be will continue to occase will be will continue to occase will continue to occase will be will

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RAIPUR | THURSDAY | AUGUST 13, 2020

analysis

FIRSTCOLUMN

Staff health is company's asset

We will survive this contagion but the key to this is adaptation. Till that happens, all firms must take care of their employees



HIMA RINDU KOTA

The pandemic has changed the way we perceive every aspect of our daily lives as we struggle to adapt to a new normal. The World Health Organisation's (WHO) statistics on the magnitude and scale of the outbreak have a mind-numbing impact. There are currently 1.97 crore active cases around the world, in 216 countries. The most disturbing aspect is that global casualties have crossed the seven lakh mark. India has 2.2 million active cases and there have been 44,000 deaths. Needless to say, some aspects of the Indian economy and the corporate landscape have changed forev-

re, and that includes the way businesses are conducted.

The economy is in turmoil and the corporate sector is having to bend over backwards to ensure that businesses stay viable. As

to bend over boxwards to ensure that businesses stay viable. As companies struggle to find balance in these critical times, lay-offs have become common, instilling lear and insecurity among the remaining employees who, in addition to their own work, are being pilled up with the duties of their erswhile colleagues. These conditions are stressful and a drain on the psyche of the employee as she flights fears of unemployment, financial insecurity and rising expenses. In these conditions, the mind and body are being stretched to their limits with major collateral damage to human health. This staff distress is unfortunately paving the way for what is being lincreasingly termed as "non-Coronavirus casualities." According to data compiled by a group of researchers led by public interest technologist GN Thejesh and Kanika Sharma, 338 deaths have been recorded on account of the lockdown-spured unemployment, financial distress and isolation. The work from home (WH+I) conditions are also making it an uphill task for the Human Resource departments of firms to gauge the physical and psychological health of their staff. Sometimes problems like depression are identified too late in the day.

used unletts to mins to gauge the physical and psychological relative of their staff. Sometimes problems like depression are identified too late in the day.

The Bengahru-based Suicide Prevention India Foundation (SPIF) conducted a study on the rising spate of suicides in the country and the results are not reassuring. The study based its findings on the responses received from 300 therapits, who found that suicide ideation and self-harm intentions have risen sharply during the pandemic. Out of this, 76 per cent of the people feared job loss. Additionally, 30 per cent of the patients of the therapits have already inflicted some sort of self-harm. This data is alarming to say the least and does not bode well for the future of the corporate sector. Recently, people have been experiencing a slew of emotions due to social isolation, change of litestyle and loss of personal income. In a recent study of 673 workers in Clina, their mental health showed disturbing signs with a significant proportion recording conditions of post-traumatics stress disorder, moderate or severe anxiety, depres-

ususions spirs with a significant projocion recursing contions of post-farumatic stress disorder, moderate or severe anxiety, depression, stress and insormia. Other psychiatric symptoms that are prevalent are worries about physical health, anger, discrimination during the outbreak, paramoid ideations, hallucinations, suicidal thoughts, adorbol usage and intent to burt others. In the COVID-19 scenario, the corporate sector is already learning the ropes quickly and is trythe cuprolate securi is anteary learning in or tropes quickly and its by-ing to maintain employee health. But haemorrhaging profits and lay-offs tell a different story. There needs to be a turnaround in the man-ner employee mental and physical health is being managed, not only in the best interests of the company but for the larger good of the economy as well. There are a slew of measures being taken across the global corporate landscape which can have a direct relevance for India. Many businesses around the world are taking the current to indica, wally obtainesses about to be with all examing the current stressful times as an opportunity to connect with their employees and are comforting them. Health and fitness are being accorded priority over productivity. This, among other things, showcases the humane side of the management.

In order to secure the health of the employees, the Indian cor-

humane side of the management.

In order to secure the health of the employees, the Indian corporate sector must encourage its staff to share their daily exercise routines with Human Resources managers and instead of over-burdening the employees with work-related Zoom and Skype calls, they must focus on some rest and recreation interactions, too.

The critical aspects impacting the health of any employee are broadly three. Fear of job loss, financial insecurity and a rising work-load. The corporate sector must design rehabilitating measures that seek to address these three issues, but for this, financial well-being of the companies is a must and this is where timely Government assistance comes into the picture.

There is no saying when this mayhem will get over. But once things start becoming clearer, would businesses return to their normal self or will the 'new normal' become? Although we may not like the answer, the "new normal" is likely to stary. However, humans are known to adapt. That is the underlying strength that ensures the survival of our species. We will survive this contagion but the key to this is adaptation. Till that happens, it is the responsibility of all firms to take care of the mental and physical health of their staff.

The writer is Associate Professor Amily University Noticia

(The writer is Associate Professor, Amity University, Noida)

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

OLIB FRIENDS WHO HAD GONE AWAY HAVE COME BACK I HOPE THAT WE WILL DO AWAY WITH OUR DIFFERENCES AND FULFIL OUR RESOLVE TO SERVE THE STATE. -RAJASTHAN CHIEF MINISTER



A POWER



ECTRIC EHICL

I AM PAINED BY THE KIND OF WORDS THAT WERE USED. BLIT I HAVE NOT MADE ANY DEMANDS. I AM AN MI A AND I WILL DO WHATEVER THE PARTY ASKS ME TO DO -CONGRESS LEADER

EVs not the best choice

The FAME policy is pumping ₹10,000 crore of taxpayer money into an industry which is strategically counter-productive. It needs a broader definition of e-mobility and innovations in sustainable storage



The Delhi Government recently announced its electric vehicle (EV) policy aimed at faster adoption of cleance vehicles in the national Capital. This policy is on the same lines as the Centre's Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles or FAME-II scheme, 2019. Under Centre's Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles or FAME-II scheme, 2019. Under centre's and up to 73,000 of for e-autos, e-rickshaws, goods carriers and up to 73,000 of for the Addition to the existing incentives provided by the Centre.

The good thing about Delhis EV policy is its detailing but it falls apart when it comes to fund allotton to the existing incentives provided by the Centre.

The good thing about Delhis EV policy is its detailing but it falls apart when it comes to fund allotton. FAME-II offers an incentive of 71,51 halt to electric four-wheelers with an ex-factory price cap of 75,1000 for three-wheelers, including e-rick-shaws and 72,000 for e-two-wheelers. E-buses can claim subsidy up to 750 lakh at a rate of 72,000 KWH battery capacity.

Given the incentives being offered, two questions should be considered. First, are EVs environmentally sustainable? Second, are they viable options for the Indian economy in the long-run? The answers to both these questions are debatable.

To produce an Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) whick, 10 metric tonnes of CO2 are released in the atmosphere and it is the same for an EV without the battery. Manufacturing of a 30 KWH battery releases 5.3 metric tonnes of CO2 are released in the atmosphere and it is the same for an EV without the battery. Manufacturing of a 30 KWH battery releases 5.3 metric tonnes of CO2 wille manufacturing a 100 KWH battery releases 17.5 metric tonnes of CO2, apertolides clar emits an average of 5.2 metric tonnes of CO2 in a year whereas the average was genemission from EV is 2.02 metric tonnes of CO2, apertolides clar emits an average of 5.2 metric tonnes of CO2 in a year whereas the variety of the control of the control of the control of the contr



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a significant tendency is observed to capture such reserves through mergers and accustions. The taw mertail comprises approximately 60 per cent of the total cost of manufacturing Li-so habete is. So, the price is not likely to decline if we use more of these batteries, unlike what we had observed for other electronic items like computers, solar panels and LEDs. The price of these batteries will increase in future if demand exceeds a cetain limit as the price of raw materials will rise. For instance, the price of lithium increased from \$8,500 per tonne in 2015 to \$17,000 per tonne in 2018. Similarly, the price of cobalt rose from \$30,000 per tonne in 2018. Similarly, the price of cobalt rose from \$30,000 per tonne to \$55,000 per tonne in 2015 and 2018. These increases were in anticipation of a growing EV market but later their price dropped on its dismal performance. India does not have any lithium reserves, supply chain or an ecosystem to manufacture Li-son batteries in order to ensure a steady supply. So EVs are not an economically-viable option for the country.

Both FAME and the Delhi EV policy talk about setting up public EV charging stations around Delhi's congested to the control of the country.

Both FAME and the Delhi EV policy talk about setting up public EV charging stations around Delhi's congested roads. This would require vast swathes of public land to serve a handful of wealthy womers and violates the basic principles of public good. Plus, parking is a major instead in the control of the cost of an EV. While China has a thriving lithium chemical battery call manufacturing capacity is in our neighbouring country. On top of that, our neighbouring country. On top of that,

Chinese companies have unparallel control over battery raw materials and processing facilities. At present, almost all roin batteries used for EVs are imported from China. This means incentives aimed at Indian manufacturers are directly going to Chinese battery producers. For example, buying a §15 lahk PV (with Lion batteries) in India means a transfer of 7.5 lakh to China, including §3 lakh of the taxpayers' money. The amount could go up to \$1 crofe of an e-bus Strategically, too, over-dependence on China is dangerous and given the current geo-political scenario, it is not advisable to take such risky steps.

The way forward: FAME or other

steps. The way forward: FAME or other State Government clean vehicle schemes are an excellent platform to promote indigenous production of EVs. They should stick to the principles of Atmanirbhar (self-relant) Bharat to promote localised production at global standards and stop incentivising unsustainable means of storage technologies.

Unbundling of EVs. Separating the vehicle from its fuel, i.e. batteries, is a necessary condition for the development of the EV market in India. At present, EVs away a low-capacity engine with super-expensive fuel options. This is an absurd arrangement and makes a mockery of fair competition. It is like British Petroleum selling cars for their oil or Ford digging oil wells for their can, leading to inefficiency in both the segments.

**Make it consumer-centric: At present, EVs are policy-centric. They hardly consider consumers as end-users and rather aim to cater to the needs of development activists. Consumers need flexibility in choosing a fuel source, mileage, durability and so on. Their mobility requirement also varies from a few kilometres to hundreds of kilometres in one run. They possess varied tastes, concerns

and limitations. Unless consumers are given such flexibility and choices, EV sales in India won't pick up. For a typical middle class/upper middle class family, a car is an aspiration and an investment with reasonable resale value. At present EV's have no resale value, hence, it is unjustified to expect a customer to invest hard-aerned money in an untested, it is unjustified to expect a customer to invest hard-aerned money in an untested, it is unjustified to expect a customer to invest hard-middle to the control of the contr

State backing, consumers will automati-cally adapt to EVs if they fit in with their

requirements.

(The writer is Fellow, India
Development Foundation. Views expressed

Collective effort will make India atmanirbhar

Self-reliance is not a short race, it is a marathon and can be completed only when all engines start firing together in the desired direction



PRIYA GUPTA

If the Centre's biggest agenda is the revival of the economy, then it can only be achieved by implementing the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan. We may get some idea if we analyse the progress of our neighbouring nation, China. In 1987, its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was almost equal to India's GDP at \$279 billion. Then, in December 1978. Deng Xiaoping announced the "Open Door Policy" and it was a major turning point for the Chinese economy. Beijing experienced 15 per cent growth year on year at a time the global economy was not every growing, dipping to a rate of three per growing, dipping to a rate of three per global economy was not even ing, dipping to a rate of three per growing, dipping was cent.

This brought China from the

a short race, it is a maria

32nd position in global exports to
first position in 2013. The Chinese
Government checked all the right
boxes, whether it was a lower tax
regime, industry-friendly wage rules,
cheap capital, free land or even
allowing the misuse of patent and
knowledge laws.

When multinational corporations (MNCs) realised that manufacturing costs in the US and Europe
were skyrocketing due to the high
cost of manpower, land and their
stringent pollution norms, they began
looking for alternative locations and
evaluated a few South Asian countries
like Malaysia, Vietnam, Thaland,
China, Indonesia and many more
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US and Europe, as it had a huge population which could be skilled and brought into the workforce. It had huge tracts of land, too, for setting up manufacturing bases.

Now, given the global anger against Beijing due to the spread of the Coronavirus contagion, nations are looking to shift their manufacturing businesses and supply chains out of China. This is another opportunity for India to attract global Ousinesses and supply thains out of China. This is another opportunity for India to attract global Ousinesses like Beijing did.

It might take time, maybe five-six paraminimum to savour the fruits of an atmanifohm (self-reliant) Bhanat instead of the very next quater his many people ear hoping. If we want to act on self-reliance, we need to focus on all segments of manufacturing, starting from big manufacturing, starting from big manufacturing to the self-reliance of the firm of the self-reliance of th

China, we can't sell them in internal or global markets. If we want to make Atmanirbhar Bharat more than a slogan, then we need to provide capital-rich global players an equal footing for their investment and have an open and consistent trade policy; an easy land acquisition policy; cheap and skilled labour and a consistent power supply.

skilled labour and a consistent power supply.

According to the Government, the five pillars of the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyuan focus on the economy, infrastructure, the system, a vibrant demography and the creation of internal demand. An economy is the sum total of many small components of business, starting from the consumer, markets, traders, banks, utility companies, manufacturers, Government policies and institutions. Hence, any leakage of resources will not bring about effective use of the same.

Infrastructure always remains a talking point in our country but no

Infrastructure always remains a talking point in our country but no one has ever worked seriously towards developing it. As a result of this, many infrastructure projects have been delayed by as much as 20-

s start firing together in the 25 years. It is difficult to believe that projects conceptualised at a cost of \$20 crore in 1968 cost \$200 crore in 2010 and are still pending. If we are really interested in an Almanurbhar Bhanat, then fiscal self-discipline mandatory and it must start from Government departments. Plus, meed to fix responsibility for time and cost overruns in order to get work done on time. India still lacks good infrastructure and Almanirbhar Bhanat will nobe possible if we don't connect all the dots.

Consistent Government policies on trade and taxation are key to crating any manufacturing base as it takes time to reap the benefits of the same. The Government must announce policies for 15-20 years which can't be changed by any new Government of the future. Projects of mational importance must not be scrapped or altered by a new set of Ministers.

Another key component that must be aligned is demography. Though India is a democratic courty and everyone has the right to follow their own free will, if we want

to make India atmanirbhar, then we need to have a "India First" policy.
Self-reliance is not a short race, rather it is a marathon and can be completed only when all engines starting in the desired direction and in synchronisation with each other. Start-ups can act as a catalyst and be stakeholders in manufacturing, service delivery and a support element in creating a consensus among the masses for this mega project.

The Government will act as the agent to expedite and bind the entire process by easing policies around it.

agent to expedite and bind the entire process by easing policies around it. Involve all stakeholders and give adequate compensation to them. If this is implemented, then it can be the biggest employment generator, forex earner and a huge support to the Indian economy.

To achieve a 55 trillion economy from a \$2.8 trillion one in about flow years, we need to achieve a growth rate of more than 15 per cent per annum. It can be done only by firing all engines of growth, including MSME and big industries.

(The writer is Associate Professor, INU)





MANY WAYS TO RESIST CHINA

Freedom of speech and of the Press, both vital to the rule of law and the city's vibrancy, are under attack. vibrancy, are under attack. China is extending to Hong Kong the regime of media regulation and repression that it applies on the mainland. Today, it's the media. Tomorrow, who knows who will be China's next targets. But Hong Kongary will prespend then Kongers will respond then, too, by demonstrating solidarity creatively (*The NYT* editorial)



Surprised that Biden picked 'disrespectful' Kamala: Trump

Harris as his running mate despite knowing how "nasty" and "disre-spectful" she has been towards him. Harris, 55, whose father is an African from Jamaica and mother an Indian, is currently the US Senator from California. "We'll see how she works out. She did year, ware poorly in the pri-

"We'll see how she works out. oue did very, very poorly in the pri-maries as you know. She was expect-ed to do well. She ended up at right around two per cent," Trump told reporters at a White House news con-

reporters at a vi.... ference. "She had a lot of things happen-She nad a lot of things happen-ing and so I was a little surprised that he (Biden) picked her. I've been watching her for a long time, and I was a little surprised," Trump said, offer-ing his first reaction to Biden's pick of Harris.

Harris had launched her presi-dential campaign in January 2019. Her campaign could not take off and by the end of the year, she withdrew from

campaign could not take off and by the end of the year, she withdrew from the race.

Harris is the first person of colour to be selected as a vice presidential candidate and also only the fourth woman and first-ever African American and Indian American to be running for the second highest political position in the country.

Responding to questions, Trump told reporters that Harris has been masty to Biden.

"As far as Kamala is concerned, she's a big tax raiser. She's a big slasher of funds for our military. And she's going to have to explain. Plus she was very, very nasty — one of the reasons it surprised me — she was probably mastier than even Pocahontas (Senator Elizabeth Warren) to Joe Biden. Trump said, referring to the Democratic Party debates.

PTI

TIME, DATE AND PLACE OF PRE-BID MEETING

PLACE OF SALES/RECEIPT OF Bid Docume

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Washington: US President Donald Trump said he is surprised that his Democratic Party challenger for the presidential elections loe Biden has named Indian-origin Senator Kamala Harris as his running mate despite knowing how "nasty" and "disre-

Washington: "Don't sit around and complain about things, do something."
This was the mantra given to Kamala Harris by her mother, Shyamala Gopalan, who was born in Chennai and immigrated to the US to attend a doctoral programme at UC Berkeley.
And today the 55-year-old Indianorign Senator from California who on Tuesday became the running mate of Democratic Party's presidential nominee Joe Biden, says, her mother's advice is what drives her every single day.

day.

Her father, Donald Harris, a retired professor of Stanford University, immigrated to the US from Jamaica to study economics.

economics.

Her mother told her growing up, "Don't sit around and complain about things, do something," which is what drives Kamala every single day, according to the Biden-Harris joint campaign website.

site. "The first Black and Indian-American woman to represent California in the United States Senate, Kamala Harris grew up believing in the



promise of America and fighting to make sure that promise is fulfilled for all Americans, "it says. She graduated from Howard University and earned a law degree from the University of California, Hastings College of Law.

Kamala has been married to her husband Douglas Emhoff, a lawyer, for the past six years. She is the stepmother of two children, Ella and Cole who are her "endless source of love and pure joy," the website says.

Biden 'nailed this decision': Obama

CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER, Bihar State Building Const.

ation Ltd. Patna

: DATE 27.08.2020 , TIME 03.00 PM PLACE: Bihar State Building Constru Corporation Ltd., Patna

: DATE 16.09.2020 up to 3.00 PM

: Only on website www.eproc.bihar.gov.in

: DATE 17.09.2020 Time: 15.00 Hour / (03.00 PM).

Preparation of DPR

As per

: After disposal of Technical bid by Competent Authority

document (In Rs.)

₹5,000.00

BIGEN 'NAIIEG UNIS

Washington: Former US president
Barack Obama has joined top
Democrats, including Hillary Clinton,
to praise Indian-American Senator
Kamala Harris' selection as the party's
vice presidential candidate in the
November election, saying loe Biden
has "nailed this decision".
Presumptive Democratic party
presidential nominee Biden on Tuesday
named 55-year-old Harris as his vice
presidential running mate, making
history by selecting the first black
woman to compete on a major party's

बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम लि०, पटना

(बिहार सरकार का उपक्रम) E-RFP INVITING NOTICE NO. - 04(Cons.) / 2020-21

PERIOD AND PLACE OF SALE OF BID DOCUMENT
LAST DATE AND TIME : DATE 25.08.2020 to 15.09.2020 up to 03.00 PM

Name of the work

3
RFP - Selection of Consultant for Preparation of DPR for THEME PARK, UPGRADATION OF MUSEUM AND ITS INFRASTRUCTURE IN DIFFERENT SEVEN (7) LOCATIONS IN

1) Theme park depicting the life of the Janna-Nayak Karpoori Tahhur, environment and ecology of nural Bhar in the campus of the Smith Sangshalaya.

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7) Construction of a Theme pair, Based on the concept of Shalaisaryay Theme at Kaimur District (H.Q.)

In financial bid rate quoted by consultant is lamp sum basis for each work (Including of GST)

presidential ticket.

Harris, whose father is from Jamaica and mother an Indian, is currently the US Senator from California.

"Choosing a vice president is the first important decision a president makes. When you're in the Oval Office, weighing the toughest issues, and the choice you make will affect the lives and livelihoods of the entire country—you need someone with you who's got the judgment and the character to make the right call," Obama said in a statement.

PIT

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'Harris' nomination adds fuel to fire for China-US conflict'

Beijing: China on Wednesday officially declined to react to US Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden's move to pick Indianorigin Senator Kamala Harris as his running mate but the official media here said that her nomination will add "fuel to fire" to the current conflict between the two sides given her strong stand on human rights issues relating to Xinjiang and Hong Kong.

Biden on Tuesday picked Harris as his running mate, recognising the crucial role Black voters and Indian-Americans could play in his bid to defeat Trump in the US presidential election in

November.

Harris in the past called for increasing pressure on China for human rights violations against Uygur Muslims of Xinjiang and the crackdown against the prodemocracy movement in Hong

democracy inorcons...

Kong.

But she also rejected President
Donald Trump's tariff war on
China, saying that it would hurt
the business of California for
which she was the Senator and increase the prices of consumer goods.

goods.

Asked for his reaction at a media briefing here on Wednesday to Biden nominating

Harris to be his vice-presidential nominee, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian declined to comment. "The Presidential election in

"The Presidential election in the US is an internal affair. We don't have the interest to interfere," he said, apparently referring to US official's allegations that China, Russia and Iran may try to influ-ence the US Presidential poll in November this year. William Evanina, head of the

National Counterintelligence and Security Centre (NCSC), in a statement last week said China "prefers that President Trump -whom Beijing sees as unpre-

dictable - does not win re-elec-tion" and has been "expanding its influence efforts" ahead of the

wote. While Zhao was guarded in While Zhao was guarded in his reaction, state-run Global Times quoted Chinese observers as saying that Harris' nomination won't help end the two parties' playing of the China card. Harris once gave herself a Chinese name, He Jinli, which translates to "intricate and beau-tiful" while the surrange means

translates to 'intricate and beau-tiful," while the surname means "celebrate," according to the Global Times report. But this should not be misinterpreted as goodwill toward China. PTI

Over 1K detained in latest Belarus election protests

Minsk: Police detained over 1,000 people in Belarus during the latest protests against the results of the country's presi-dential election, officials said Wednesday.

against uer essure on the country's presidential election, officials said Wednesday.
Rallies took place in 25 Belarusian
crities on Tuesday and overnight, Interior
Ministry spokeswoman Olga
Chemodanova told The Associated Press.
Thousands have demonstrated in the capital of Minisk and several other cities for
three nights to contest the election results.
The Central Election Commission
reported that President Alexander
Lukashenko won a sixth term in Sunday's
election with 80% of the vote.
Top opposition candidate Sviatlana
Tsikhanouskaya, who had attracted massive crowds at campaign events where voters expressed frustration with the authoritarian Lukashenko's 26-year rule, got just
10%.
Police deployed to break up the post-

Police deployed to break up the post election protests used batons, stun grenades, tear gas and rubber bullets. One protester died Monday amid the crackdown in Minsk, and scores were injured. AP

Outery in Somalia as new bill would allow child marriage

Johannesburg: An outcry is rising in Somalia as parliament considers a bill that would allow child marriage once a girl's sexual organs mature and would allow forced marriage as long as the family gives their consent. The bill is a dramatic reworking of years of efforts by civil society to bring forward a proposed law to give more protections to women in one of the world's most conservative countries.

The new Sexual

The new Sexual Intercourse Related Crimes Bill "would represent a major setback in the fight against sexual violence in Somalia and across the globe" and should be withdrawn immediately, the United Nations special representative on sexual violence in

a statement Tuesday. The bill also weakens pro-

The bill also weakens protections for victims of sexual violence, she said.

Already more than 45 per cent of young women in Somalia were married or "in nion" before age 18, according to a United Nations analysis in 2014-15.

Somalia in 2013 agreed with the UN to improve its sexual violence laws, and after five years of work a sexual offenses bill was approved by the Council of Ministers and sent to parliament.

Council of Ministers and sent to parliament.

But last year the speaker of the House of the People sent the bill back "in a process that may have deviated from estab-lished law" asking for "sub-

New Zealand scrambles to find source of new infections

Wellington: Health authorities in New Zealand were scram-bling on Wednesday to trace the source of a new outbreak of the coronavirus as the nations largest city went back into lockdown.

Authorities had confirmed Authorities had confirmed four cases of the virus in one Auckland household from an unknown source and were awaiting the test results of four more people they suspect have infections — two work colleagues and two relatives of those in the house.

The cases this week were

those in the house.

The cases this week were the first known local transmission of the virus in New Zealand in 102 days.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said more than 200 people with connections to those in the house were contacted Wednesday.

China blasts US for Taiwan visit while virus spreads at home

Beijing: A Chinese official lashed out at US Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar on Wednesday for visiting Taiwan amid an ongoing pandemic back home, accusing him of putting politics ahead of the lives of the American people.

The comments came a day after Azar accused China of failing to warn the rest of the world about the coronavirus.

"He abandoned the millions of people who are struggling with liness and visited Taiwan instead to stage a political show," Foreign

ministry spokesperson Zha.

Lijian said at a daily briefing.
"We don't know how he has the confidence and courage to shamelessly criticise China's antiegidemic achievements." Speak in Taiwan, Azar said that China's ruling Communist that China's ruling Communist Party had the chance to warn the world and work with the world on battling the virus." But the communicated information as soon as it had it.

Azar's trip to Taiwan angered China deciuse it considers the world and work with the world on battling the virus." But the communicated information as on as it had it.

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Azar's trip to Taiwan angered China cause it considers the soon as it had it.

Iran's president, FM **Iranian hard-liners** in parliament reject president's nominee

Tehran: Iranian hard-liners in parlia-ment on Wednesday voted against President Hassan Rouhani's nominee for trade minister in



the first showdown between the rival camps since the house resumed work in

camps since the house resumed work in May despite the struggles to curb the spread of the coronavirus. According to the parliament's website, lawmakers rejected Hossein Modares Khiabani's nomination for minister of trade and industries.

lash out at new US push on arms embargo

UN arms embargo on Iran indefinitely, the latest in the Trump administration's maxi-mum pressure policy against

camps since the house resumed work in May despite the struggles to curb the spread of the coronavirus.

According to the parliament's website, lawmakers rejected Hossein Modares Khiabani's nomination for minister of trade and industries.

Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Gahibid said the voit was 140-104 against the nominee. There were 254 lawmakers at the session and 10 abstained. The parliament has 290 seats.

The vote marked the first serious confrontation between the newly elected house, dominated by conservatives and the bloc of supporters of the relatively moderate Rouhani. Under the law, Rouhani must introduce new nominees to his Cabinet in the next three months. AP

Tehran: Iran's president and foreign minister lashed out on Wednesday at a revised proposal by the US that would extend UN arms embargo on Iran UN arms embargo on Iran ly. The US push to make the Coulicit, which appears timisely. The US push to make the
arms embargo permanent follows President Donald Trump's
2018 withdrawal from the 2015
nuclear deal between major
world powers and Tehran,
aimed at preventing Iran from
developing nuclear weapons.
Tehran has repeatedly
insisted it does not seek to produce a nuclear bomb. The
nuclear deal, endorsed by the
Security Council, includes a
provision lifting the arms
embargo on Iran on October 18.
Rouhani lambasted the
revised draft, saying its "initiators will be responsible for the
consequences" if the Security
Council adopts the new resolution. He did not elaborate on
what steps Iran could take. AP

Around the Globe

London: British Transport Police say three people died and six were taken to hospital after a passenger train derailed in northeast Scotland amid stormy weather. The train's driver was among the dead in Wednesday's incident, which occurred after heavy rain.

Skopje: Police in North Macedonia say they have discovered 148 migrants, including Indians and Pakistanis, crammed into trucks in two separate operations in central and northern parts of the country, and have arrested two men on suspicion of trafficking migrants.

Johannesburg: Mauritius says it is seeking compensation from the owners of a Japanese ship that spilled oil after it grounded in the shallow waters off the Indian Ocean island potice. Ocean island nation, while urgent efforts continue to pump out the remaining fuel.

Beijing: China and Nepal should firmly support each other's core interests and major concerns, a senior Chinese official said on Wednesday as the two countries held their annual diplomatic consultations

Phnom Penh: A construction crane in Cambodia's northwestern city of Poipet on the border with Thailand collapsed Wednesday, killing at least five people and injuring four others.

Lahore: Former Pakistan prime minister Nawaz Sharif's daughter Maryam is among over 300 Opposition PM.-N leaders and workers who were booked by Lahore police on Wednesday for hooliganism and attacking law enforcement officers.

PR. No. 004735(Ni.Ni.) 2020-21

Evaluation of technical documents shall be done by the evaluation committee. Bidder found responsive in technical bid shall be invited to make presentation in before jury member. Financial proposal of the successful Bidder shall be opene in proposal of the successful Bidder shall be opene. c. m Helo-Desk. 1" floor, Plot no. M/22, road no. 25. Sri Krishna Nagar. Bank. of India Com

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in presence of the bidder (their representative.)

Details regarding - RFP can be procured from Help- Desk, 1° floor, Plot no. M/22, road no. 25. 5ri Krishna Nagar, Bank of India Compound, Patra B00001. Ph. no. 9939035496, 66122523006. E tendering invitation notice can be seen frostable, bihar gov.in/prothiar along the interested bidders should have to get registered with E-Procumented, feeling of which are available on the website. Bidders need to procure DSC (Digital Signature certificate), Bidders and participate in the E-tendering process with user id, password, DSC and internet connection. The bidders need to upload the technical documents pretaining to the firm on the website. The date and time of opening of RFP or any correction in the regard will be published on the website www.bbcccl.bih.mic.in.

The RFP documents be (Non-refundable) should be in form of bank draft drawn on any nationalizedbank in favour of DGM BSBCCL, Patna RFP or any patricipate and the processing of the Chical Common State CL, Patra Border be date and time of opening of Technical Index.

The RFP shall pay the Bid processing Fee Including GST through Internet Payment Gateway (Credit / Debit Cards) or internet Banking or NET (ATGS Challan to be credited to Big processing Fee Account of SSECD crip for to the last date with one of down loading the tender document. It is mandatory falling which the tender shall not be considered.

a available on the website www.eproc.bihar.gov.in in the view format. The RFP Document Fee in Demand Draft (original is mandatory submitted in the office of DGM BSBCCL, Patna (PIU), G.M.(South), BSBCCL, PATNA, C.G.M. BSBCCL, PATNA before the date and time of the office of DGM BSBCCL, Patna (PIU), G.M.(South), BSBCCL, PATNA, C.G.M. BSBCCL, PATNA before the date and time of the office of DGM BSBCCL, Patna (PIU), G.M.(South), BSBCCL, PATNA, C.G.M. BSBCCL, PATNA before the date and time of the office of DGM BSBCCL, PATNA before the date and time of the office of DGM BSBCCL, PATNA before the date and time of the office of DGM BSBCCL, PATNA before the date and time of the office of DGM BSBCCL, PATNA before the date and time of the office of DGM BSBCCL, PATNA before the date and time of the office of DGM BSBCCL, PATNA before the date and time of the office of DGM BSBCCL, PATNA before the date and time of the office of DGM BSBCCL, PATNA before the date and time of the office of DGM BSBCCL, PATNA before the date and time of the office of DGM BSBCCL, PATNA before the date and time of the office of DGM BSBCCL, PATNA before the date and time of the office of DGM BSBCCL, PATNA before the date and time of the office of DGM BSBCCL, PATNA before the date and time of the office of DGM BSBCCL, PATNA before the date and time of the office of DGM BSBCCL, PATNA before the office of De Subminusers.

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SECE reserves the right to cancel all the tenders without any information.

Any additional information bidder may contact to Sr. Architect, BSBCCL, Patna AND Tender related issues may contact to dgm (gaya).

Chief General Manager Bihar State Building Construction Corporation Ltd. Patna

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CANCELLATION OF SPECIAL TRAINS DUE TO LOCKDOWN IN WEST BENGAL ON 20/08, 21/08, 27/08, 28/08 & 31.08.2020

In view of lockdown declared on 20/08, 21/08, 27/08, 28/08 & 31.08.2020 in entire West Bengal by State Govt, following trains will remain cancelled on those days: (1) 02024/02023 Patna-Howrah-Patna Special (JCO 20/08, 21/08, 27/08, 28/08 & 31.08.2020). Patna Special (JCC 20/08, 21/08, 27/08, 28/08 & 31.08 2020). (2) 02302 New Delhi-Howrah AC Special (JCC 19/08, 20/08, 26/08, 26/08, 27/08 & 30.08 2020). (3) 02301 Howrah-New Delhi AC Special (JCC 20/08, 21/08, 27/08, 28/08, 83.10.8 2020). (4) 02308 Jodhpur-Howrah Special (JCC 19/08, 19/08, 25/08, 26/08 & 29.08 20/09, 27/08, 28/08 & 31.08 2020). (6) 02307 Howrah-Jodhpur Special (JCC 20/08, 21/08, 27/08, 28/08 & 31.08 2020). (6) 02307 702378 Sealdah-New Allpurduar-Sealdah Special (JCC 19/08, 26/08, 27/08, 28/08, 30/08 & 31.08 2020). (7) 02303 Howrah-New Delhi Special (JCC 28.08 2020). (8) 02304 New Delhi-Howrah Special (JCC 21/08 22/08, 2020). (10) 02381 Howrah-New Delhi Special (JCC 21/08 & 28.08, 2020). (11) 02201 Sealdah-Shubansewar Special (JCC 21/08 & 28.08, 2020). (11) 02201 Sealdah-Shubansewar Special (JCC) 21/08 & 28.08, 2020). (20) 2020 ah-Bhubaneswar Special (JCO 21/08, 28/08, & 31.08.2020) (12) 02202 Bhubaneswar-Sealdah Special (JCO 22/08, 29/08 8 01.09.2020). (13) 02357 Kolkata-Amritsar Special (JCO 18/08 & 25.08.2020). (14) 02358 Amritsar-Kolkata Special (JCO 20/08 &

EASTERN RAILWAY

🕥 PIONEER AGRO EXTRACTS LIMITED

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E	Particulars	Year Ended			
Ì		31.03.2020	30.96.2020	30.06.2019	31.03.2020
t	Total income from operations	67.97	8.34	8.65	43.23
977	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before exceptional items and tax)	37.12	(0.67)	(0.96)	35.40
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after exceptional items)	37.12	(0.67)	(0.96)	35.40
å	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after exceptional items)	31.93	(0.67)	(0.96)	30.21
678	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tox) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	21.93	(0.67)	(0.96)	30.21
ŧ,	Equity Share Capital	435.85	435.85	435.85	435.85
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as show in the Audited Balance Sheet of the penious year	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
8	Earning per share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) - Basic - Diluted	074 074	0.00	0.00	0.70

LOAN RECAST -

NBFCs' refinancing needs likely to increase: Report

PTI MMUMBAI

With the Reserve Bank
allowing restructuring of
loans that are facing stress due
to the Covid-19 pandemic,
non-banking finance companies are likely to see an increase
in their refinancing requirements, says a report.

Last week, RBI gave per
mission to lenders to go frone-time restructuring of corporate and personal loans facing stress due to the disruptions
caused by coronavirus.

"The Reserve Bank of
India's decision allowing
lenders to restructure loans
would increase their refinancing requirements, especially
for non-banking banking companies (NBFCs)." India Ratings
and Research said in a report.

"This is in view of their
large contractual debt repay-

ments, as scheduled cash inflow gets deferred, though the severity of the same would depend upon the proportion of loan portfolio restructured and terms of restructuring (i.e. complete moratorium vs. partial payments)," it added.

A higher quantum of restructured assets would clear.

restructured assets would clearly reflect higher asset quality challenges for NBFCs and can restrict their ability to mobilise funds from banks and capital markets, it said.

At the end of June 2020, a

At the end of June 2020, a substantial portion of Joan book of NBFCs was under moratorium. Housing Joans had the least portion of the book under moratorium, while wholesale lenders had the maximum portion of their Joans under moratorium, the report said. Collection efficiency, reflecting the repayment

behaviour of customers, has improved since April 2020 with easing of lockdown restric-tions.

However, regional lock-

downs did impact collections during July 2020. Collection levels across asset classes/seg-ments were far below pre-COVID levels.

ments were far below pre-COVID levels still did not Businesses still did not Businesses still did not generate cash flows sufficient enough to make their timely debt repayment, the agency said. "We believe a high pro-portion of loans to certain seg-ments such as real estate devel-opers, commercial vehicle owners and micro small medi-um enterprises will be restructured, given the weakness in these sectors," it said. The report said 70-80 per cent of real estate loans were under moratorium at end-June 2020.

per cent.
According to traders, mar-ket sentiment was weak fol-lowing lacklustre macroeco-

Sensex snaps 4-day rally as bulls take a breather

The BSE Sensex snapped its four-session winning run to close marginally lower on Wednesday as investors pocketed gains in finance, banking and consumption stocks amid mixed global cues.

After touching a low of 38,125.81 during the day, the 30-share BSE Sensex pared most losses to end 37.38 points or 0.10 per cent lower at 38,369.63.

On similar lines, the NSE Sirtly slipped 14.10 points or 0.12 per cent to close at 11,308.40 Kotak Bank was the top loser in the Sensex pack, skidding 2.10 per cent, followed by Sun Pharma, Bajaj Finserv, L&T, Bajaj Finance, TCS and Titan.

On the other hand HCI.

Titan.
On the other hand, HCL
Tack Mahindra, On the other hand, HCL Tech, SBI, Tech Mahindra, Maruti, M&M and UltraTech Cement were among the gain-ers, climbing as much as 4.86 per cent.

nomic data and concerns over rising coronavirus cases. India's industrial production declined by 16.6 per cent in June on account of disruption in normal business activity following the outbreak of coronavirus pandemic, government data showed on Tuesday.

The number of cases around the world linked to Covid-19 has crossed 2.02 crore, with India breaching "The account of the 23-lakh mark."

The couraging response to the fundraising by the lending firms has boosted to the fundraising by the lending firms has boosted towards and the covariant of the control of the covariant of the production of the covariant at the higher levels while other ecctors are taking a breather after a substantial rally." Since we're largely mire.

breather after a substantial rally.

"Since we're largely mirroring the global markets, further developments on the stimulus package announcement and US-China trade tension would be actively tracked by the participants for cues. Traders should maintain their

focus on the selection of stocks as we're still seeing enough opportunities across the board," said Ajit Mishra, VP - Research,

Religare Broking. BSE healthcare, consumer BSE healthcare, consumer durables, metal, realty, tele-com and FMCG indices fell up to 1.46 per cent, while auto, utilities, power, IT and teck closed higher. Broader BSE mid-cap and

Broader BSE mid-cap and small-cap indices slipped up to 0.29 per cent. Global equities were largely positive despite deadlock over fresh stimulus in the US and the UK slipping into its deepest recession in the June quarter. Bourses in Hong Kong, Tokyo and Seoul ended with gains, while Shanghai settled in the red.

the red.

Most stock exchanges in
Europe were trading on a positive note in early deals.

Global oil benchmark.
Brent crude was trading 148
per cent higher at USD 45.16
per barrel. In the forex market,
the rupee slipped 5 paise to
close at 74.83 against the US
dollar.

Tesla stock up 7% after car maker announces 5-1 share split

IANS SAN FRANCISCO

Elon Musk-run Tesla has announced a five-for-one split of its common stock that goes into effect on August

that goes into enect on August 21. The move that could help smaller investors afford Tesla stock resulted in Tesla stock surging 7 per cent in the extended session on Tuesday.

"The Board of Directors as approved and declared a five-for-one split of Teslas common stock in the form of a stock dividend to make stock ownership more access-

stock ownership more accessible to employees and investors," Tesla said in a statement.

Each stockholder of record on August 21 will

receive a dividend of four additional shares of common stock for each then-held share, to be distributed after close of

to be distributed after close of trading on August 28.

"Trading will begin on a stock split-adjusted basis on August 31, 2020," said Tesla.

Tesla shares have gained 229 per cent this year.

Apple has also announced a 4-for-1 stock split after shares of the iPhone maker surged more than 80 per cent in the past year.

Tesla reported profits for the fourth straight quarter last month

month
Making \$6 billion in revenue and \$104 million in net income in its June quarter even as the Covid-19 pandemic shut its factories.

Vodafone India

launches portal

on digital literacy

Vodafone India Foundation

Foundation

₹ drops 5 paise to 74.83 against \$ on weak IIP data

The rupee declined by 5 paise to close at 74.83 against the US dollar on Wednesday due to losses in equity markets and weak industrial production data. Forex traders said the rupee traded in a narrow range as muted domestic equities and weak industrial output data weighed on investor sentiment while sustained foreign fund inflows supported the unit. The local unit opened flat at 74.78 at the interbank forex market but later lost ground to settle at

opened flat at 74.8 at the interbank forex market but later lost ground to settle at 74.83 against the US dollar, down 5 paise over its last close of 74.78. During the session, the domestic unit witnessed an intra-day high of 74.77 and a low of 74.93 against the greenback. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback strength against at obasket of six currencies, fell 0.03 per cent to 93.59. India's industrial production declined 16.6 per cent in June on account of disruption in normal business activity following the outbreak of

coronavirus pandemic.
The decline in factory output was widespread across the sectors, including manufacturing, mining, power generation, capital goods and consumer durables, according to the data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
The BSE Sensex snapped its four-session winning run to close marginally lower due to profit booking. Sensex ended down 37.38 points or 0.10 per cent at 38,569.63. The NSE Statistics and market as they purchased shares worth Rs 1,130.84. Poreign institutional investors were net buyers in the capital market as they purchased shares worth Rs 1,013.66 crore on Tuesday, according to provisional exchange data. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, rose 0.99 per cent to USD 44.94 per barrel. Meanwhile, the number of cases around the world linked to COVID-19 has crossed 2.02 crore, and in India, the num-

PM to launch 'transparent taxation' platform

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday will unwell the next phase of direct tax reforms aimed at easing compliance and rewarding honest taxpayers, as the government looks to rebuild the pandemic-hit economy. "The Prime Minister will launch the platform for 'Transparent Taxation – Honoring the Honest' via video conference on August 13, 2020," an official statement said on Wednesday. While the statement did

said on Wednesday.
While the statement did
not give details of the reforms
to be unweiled, the launch of the
platform is expected to further
carry forward the journey of
direct tax reforms undertaken

dured tax reforms undertaken during last six years.

The reforms include reduction in corporate tax last year to 22 per cent from 30 per cent for existing companies and 15 per cent for new manufacturing units respirate of ufacturing units, scraping of dividend distribution tax and faceless assessment. "The focus of the tax reforms has been on reduction in tax rates and on simplifica-tion of direct tax laws. Several

tion of direct tax laws. Several initiatives have been taken by the CBDT for bringing in efficiency and transparency in the functioning of the 1-T Department, it said.

The Budget for 2020-21 fiscal unweiled on February 1, had announced a 'taxpayer charter, which is expected to have statutory status and will empower citizens by ensuring time-bound services by the Income Tax department.

The charter will ensure trust between a taxpayer and

The charter will ensure trust between a taxpayer and the administration and reduce harassment, as well as increase efficiency of the department, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharman had said her Budget

Sitharman had said her Budget speech.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), which is the apex decision making body in direct tax matters, administers personal income tax and corporate tax.

Bharat Forge posts ₹127.3 crore loss in **April-June**

Bharat Forge on Wednesday Preported a consoldiated loss of 127.3 crore for the quarter ended June 30.

ended June 30.

The company had posted a consolidated profit of \$171.9 crore in April-June period of the previous fiscal, Bharat Forge said in a filing to the BSE. The company's income during April-June period declined to \$71.199.2 crore from \$7.372.7 crore in the year-ago period.

The spread of Covid-19 has severely impacted business in many countries, including India, and there has been severe disruption to regular

..., muna, and there has been severe disruption to regular business operations due to lockdown and other emergency measures, Bharat Forge said.

said. The group has made assessment of liquidity, recoverable values of its financial and non-financial assets, including carrying value of its subsidiaries, and has concluded that there are no material adjustments required in the interim financial results.

Tata Power June quarter profit grows 10 % to ₹268 crore

Tata Power on Wednesday said itsconsolidated net profit rose by 10 per cent to Rs 268 crore for quarter ended June on the back of reduced

Jone on the back of reduced expenses.

The company had posted a net profit of 2 43 crore during the same period of year ago, Tata Power said in a BSE filing. During April-June, the company reported a total income of ₹6.540 crore as compared to ₹7.874 crore in the year-ago quarter. Total expenses during the quarter under review stood at ₹6.555 crore as against 7.228 crore in the year-ago period. In a separate statement, the company said, it was able to maintain stable performance despite lower profits from Solar maintain stable performance despite lower profits from Solar EPC businesses mainly on account of lower financing cost and stable performance across all dusters.

"All our business clusters have reported robust perform a n c e despite the

presented by the ongoing pandemic. We aim to continue our progress in our low carbon journey by achieving 50 per cent generation from clean and green sources by 2025 and set new benchmarks in operational efficiencies," Tata Power CEO and MD Praver Sinha said.

CEO and MD Prawer Sinha said.

"The proposed renewable InvIT (investment trust), will be the growth engine and we intend to grow this to be India's largest renewable InvIT. At present, it has about 2.6 (gigawatt) of operating plants and 1.5 GW of capacity in the pipeline taking the total capacity of 4.1 GW. This InvIT provides the option to recycle capital once the assets are operational." Besides adding capacity in the renewable generation space in the next five years, the company will also be scaling the solar cells and modules manufacturing business along with the solar EPC business.

Vodafone India Foundation, the CSR arm of mobile service provider Vodafone Idea, on Wednesday launched a portal to help marginalised communities become digital literate and self-reliant. The portal, Digisakshar Org, which has been developed in partnership with IT and business consulting services firm CGI and NASSCOM Foundation, was launched at a virtual event. In addition to offering digital literacy to communities, Vodafone India Foundation said that the self-learning portal also drives them towards better job and entrepreneurship opportunities helping them become self-reliant.

The free to use portal provides over 40 courses in both Hindi and English, designed for all age groups and curated to cover basic.

It is publically pointed that I am the center of Priot No. 356, Block-A, Sector-46, Noida, That the original registered General Power of Attorney of the above and pot vice Reference No. 20013 and pot vice Reference No. 20013 and pot vice Reference No. 20013 115401 dated-06-10-2010 which has been put not a Withe Cloth Bay has been lost somewhere and not traceable and effect of the post of the company of the c

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS OPEN TENDER

No. COS/CRJ/PUB/e-Tender 19/0162 Date : 10.08.2020 The following e-Tenders can be accessed under the link www.ireps.gov.in. Offers for such e-Tender can be submitted only electronically by accessing the link www.ireps.gov.in → login → E-Tender Stores/ the link www.treps.gov.in → login → E-Tender Stores/
Supply. Vendors may also contact the following officials to obtain clarification regarding particular tender or IREPS related information if any, Dy. CMM/HQ/CLW/Chittaranjan, 3041-2252994 or SMM/CON/HQ, 0341-2535631. Sl. No.; Tender No.; Brief Description of Item; Quantity; Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees); Tender Closing Date & Time (IST): II]s 83200052A; SET OF ROLLER BEARING EACH SET CONSISTING OF 01 NO. OF ROLLER BEARING NU 224E/C4, 01 NO OF ROLLER BEARING NU 224E/C4, 01 NO OF ROLLER BEARING NU 254E/C4, 01 NO OF ROLLER BEARING NU 254E/C4, 01 NO OF TROLLER BEARING NU 254E/C4, 01 C4 and 01 NO. THRUST COLLER HJ219 E TO CLW'S SPECN. NO. 4TMS.096.065 (LATEST VERSION); 136 set; 1,26,780; 03.09.2020 at 11:0 am. OFFICE ADDRESS Dy.CMM-HQ/CLW taranjan, 9163340711 d

SMM/HQ, 9163340704 Principal Chief Materials Manag AD76 - 066 CLW/Chittaranja

Reliance Foundation partners with W-GDP, USAID to bridge gender gap

crore, and in India, the number of infections topped the 23-lakh mark.

gender gap

New Delhi: Under the

Womens Global Development
and Prosperity (W-GDP)
Initiative, a new partnership
between the US Agency for
International Development
(USAID) and Reliance
Foundation will bridge the
gender and digital divide in
India.The partnership was
announced at a W-GDP event
on Tuesday, hosted by US
Deputy Secretary of State
Stephen Biegun along with
special guest, Ivanka Trump,
Advisor to the US President,
and Deputy USAID
Administrator Bonnie Glick
Vanka Trump said: "The
W-GDP Fund was created to
source and scale the most
innovative programs to
advance women's economic
empowerment. We are leveraging the resources and expertise of the US. Govt and the
private sector so that activities
were developed to the control of the c

private sector so that activities have enduring, deep effects on the communities they reach."

Global cues, profit bookings closed equity market lower

The Indian equity market closed marginally lower on Wednesday after six consecutive sessions of gains.

Analysts opined that profit booking, along with negative global cues, depressed the market. Sector-wise, the top gainers included BSE Auto, Power and IT indices, whereas BSE Healthcare, CD, Metal and Realty indices lost ground.

Globally, major Asian markets have closed on a mixed note. However, European indices like the FTSE and CAC conded higher.

Index-wise, h. NSE Nity50 closed at 11,308.40, down by 14.10 points, or 0.12 per cent, from the previous close. The Sensex closed at 38,369.63, lower by 37.38 points, or 0.10 per cent, from the previous close of 38,407.01. It had opened at 38,321.63 and touched an intra-day high of 38,414.37 and a low of 38,125.81 points.

"Technically, while the Nifty has ended lower, the underlying short term trend remains up. The uptrend could accelerate once the immediate highs of 11,322 are cleared," said Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research at HDFC

Retail Research at HDFC Securities. "Crucial supports to watch for any trend reversal are at 11,130."According to Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services: "Indian benchmark indices "Indian benchmark indices "Indian benchmark indices closed out a volatile day, flat, with a negative bias. Global cues added to the uncertainty with doubts emerging about the expected US stimulus mea-sures and continuing US-China

tensions."
"Profit booking continued
in the Pharma sector. Markets
are reacting uncertainly to
global cues and this uncertainty
is expected to continue.
Downside looks limited but investors are advised to remain

DLW achieves record production of 31 locomotives in July

Varanasi: Under the leadership of General Manager YP Singh, Thirty One electric locomotives have been produced by Diesel Locomotive Works, Varanasi in July, 2020. Despite low progress at the beignining of month due to restrictions imposed to contain spread of Covid-19, DLW achieved record production of 31 Electric Locomotives in the month of July, 2020. The achievement becomes more significant because same was achieved after following all guidelines of Central and State Government to contain spread of Covid-19. During the production, all steps like regular santization of work place, social distancing were taken to safeguard staff against spread of Covid-19.

On this occasion, General Manager Shri V.P. Singh congratulated all the Heads of Departments and their staff.

Due to the lockdown announced by the Government of India, to contain spread of Covid-19, production of DLW has also been affected like other industries. But DLW is leaving no stone unturned to make up the deficit in production caused by lockdown. In the current in production caused by lockdown. In the current in ancial year 2020-21, DLW has manufactured 28 electric locomotives till June, 2020. The production of 31 hilyalone, is a mile-

28 electric locomotives till June, 2020. The production of 31 locomotives, in July alone, is a mile stone in itself.

SEARCH OF MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one person (depicted in the photo), Namely: Gambhir, S/o: Unknown, R/o: H.No. WZ-3355, Rajouri Garden, Delhi, Aged: 39 years, has been missing from ISBT Anand Vihar, Delhi since January 2015. In this regard a case vide DD No. 61A. Dated 29.07.2020, has

a case vide DD No. 61A, Dated 29.07.2020, has been lodged at P.S. Patparganj Ind. Area, Delhi. His physical description is as under. Height: 510° Feet, Complexion: Whealtish, Face: Round, Physique/Build: Thin, Clothing: Pant, Shirt and Chappal in feet.

Any person is having any information/clue about this missing person, ma inform SHO, P.S. Patpargani Ind. Area, Delhi at E-mail: clc@cbi.gov.nic.lin or website: http://cbi.nic.lin Tele No.: 011-24368638 or 24368641

P.S. Patparganj Ind. Area, Delhi Tel. 011-22146491, 22146492 DP/152/ED/2020

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one boy namely Vicky S/o Lt. Lalan Jha R/o C-226 SS Nagar WPIA, Delhi, has been missing/kidnapped from the area of P.S. Ashok Vihar, Delhi since 18.07.2020. In this regard, a vide DD No. 52-A, dated 24.07.2020 has been registered at P.S. Ashok Vihar Delhi. The description of the missing boy is as under

under.
Age: 20 Years, Complexion: Wheatish,
Height: 5' 6', Face: Round, Wearing:
White Colour Shirt Blue Colour half pant & hawai chaapal in
feet. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to
frace out him but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has
any information about the missing boy then please inform P.S.
Ashok Vihar, Delhi at following Tel No. / e-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
and Website: Ntb: //cbi. lici. 1

Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 Fax No. 011-24368639 DP/301/NW/2020



Sd/- S.H.O. P.S. Ashok Vihar, Delhi Ph: 011-27243066

Govt. 🌞 of Bihar

OFFICE OF THE SENIOR PROJECT ENGINEER BIHAR RAJYA PUL NIRMAN NIGAM LTD. EXTERNAL PROJECT DIVISION NO.- 02, KISHANGANJ

Short Notice Inviting Tender on EPC Mode

National Competitive Bidding

NIT No.-BRPNNL/KNG/C00 / 799 NIT No.-Bern PRILL, PRILL, PRILL, PRILL, PRILL, A. Government of Bihar undertaking, Bhar Raya Pull Kimran Nigam tud (BRPNIL). A Government of Bihar undertaking, Proposals in two Bid System (Technical and Financial) from eligible Firms/Contractors/Age Companies registed in appropriate category with RDC, Gout. of Bihar/BRPNIL CPWD/Railways or Central Government any State Government or any PSU for the following.

SI.No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (As. in Lacs)	Cost of Bid Document (Rs.) (Non Refundable)	Earnest Money (Rs. In Lacs)	Bid Frocessing Fee (Rs) (Online Payment) (Non Refundable)	Time of Completion of work
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Construction of (1) Boundary wall (2) Main Intrance Green of Guard Room-One Unit (1) Salest Block with all facilities - One On (4) One on on Flight mass lighting, 6 unit of street lighting pole and 21 sights - (5) Road development (PCC Main Road and bour gath from man gale) (6) Covered Challon Salest and Charlest Cha	465.52	10,000.00	9.81	17,700.00	6 Months

2. Document Download Start Date

3. Pre-bid Meeting

19-08-2020 at 3.00 pm (HO_BRPNNI_Patna) 4. Last Date & Time for submission of bid (Bid closing date)

www.eproc.bihar.gov.in

Date 17-08-2020 to 22-08-2020 till 3.00 pm from

6. Financial Bid Opening Date and Time To be intimated later 7. Contact person:- Sri Munindra Thakur, P.E., Ext. Project Division No.-02, Kishan MobNo.− 9006371769

Mob No. 9006371769

For further details please visit website www.cproc.bilbar.gov.in or state.bilbar.gov.in/prdbihar
For clarification and further enquiry, if any, regarding e-tendering process and registration,
bilder may contact op encurement Helpdocks, 1° Son, AVZ, Bank of India Building, Road No
S.K. Nagar, Patna – 800001 (Itel 0612-252)006, 7542028164)

Note: Bildders are requested to keep themselves updated with the website w.w.hrymn.bilm.in
on regular basis for any Annendemar / Clarification / Notification in respect of this NIT.

rther details please visit website state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar Sr. Project Enginee Bihar Rajya Pul Nirman Nigam Ltd

. No. 004698 (Ni.Ni.) 2020-21 External Project Division No.-02, Kishanga नोचन बोतेना में संबंध में सिन्तुन जानवादी एवं सहयोग हेतु 💮 अब Pres No. 104 पर प्राप्त कर सकते हैं। सामग्री- रावेग्री किसी तार को जानवादी उठाण पुक्रव हेतु दूरनाम संग्रेटी 0612-2217656 पर सम्पर्ध किला जा ग्राप्त



Sara pens special note for mom

On turning 25, actor SARA ALI KHAN penned a special message

for her mother Amrita Singh.
She shared a couple of throw-back pictures of Amrita on
Instagram, which reflects her

love for dogs.
"Quarter Century
Ho Gayi!! From
being a Pup Mommy
to a Human Mommy... Love you Maa," Sara captioned the

Sara turned year older on Wednesday, and she had a low-key celebration with her brother Ibrahim Ali Khan in Goa. Taking to Instagram Sara posted a couple of pic-tures and videos from her birthday celebrations



'Have you ever noticed that it is the ones who haven't been loved who grow up to hate so

much? I believe in the emancipation of women but not at the cost of one's home. For in their emancipation, women are losing what has always made them emotionally superior to men — their tenderness and essential warmth of heart.'

Actor-comedian VIR DAS all set to debut an unscripted homegrown comedy special. *Inside Out,* created from his 30 virtual shows during the lockdown.



Das said, "Week on week, the encouraging response kept pouring in and we knew there was enough material to make a spe-cial. We recorded all the virtual shows in advance. I decided to talk about our collective fears and give it a light touch. In such times when we don't know when is our next physical gig or shoot, we thought it'd be a way to work with the changing times. This isn't the new normal but this is a novel alternative, for now.'

Privanka lauds **Kamala Harris**

Actor PRIYANKA CHOPRA JONAS has congratulated the US Democratic vice-presidential candidate Kamala Harris on becoming the first person of Indian descent to achieve that honour.

Priyanka took to Instagram and posted a picture of Harris

"This is a historical, transfor-mational, and proud moment for all women. All women of colour, all Black women, and all South Asian women Congratulations on becoming the first Black woman and First Person of Indian descent to comete on a maio US party's presidential ticket. #repre sentationmatters. Ps. To mv vounaei self: look how far we have come!" she

In the list of major events and people of 2020, a new name has been added — Binod— which has become the buzzword for netizens and social media users. The trend began after a video by the YouTube channel, Slayy Point, in which its creators Abhyudaya Mohan and Gautami Kawale are seen roasting the comments section of popular videos, went viral. Titled, Why Indian Comments Section is Garbage, it highlighted how even asinine and silly entries get hits and "likes". In this case, a user called Binod had simply typed in his name in the commentary chat and had still elicited seven likes. And then Binod trolled several notable social media handles with what can best be described as mumbo jumbo but still got noticed. So much so that it generated memes.

The #Binod memes so hogged the

memes.

The #Binod memes so hogged the limelight that even brands like Airtel, Paytm, Netflix and Tinder didn't leave any stone unturned in making it their new marketing word. While the dating app tweeted, "Yes, Binod is on Tinder, the digital payment app changed its Twitter username from Paytm to Binod for a short period. Food-ordering app Swiggy tweeted, "We think Binod will be the first person to call and wish us at 12 tonight," celebrating its birthday. Reality show Bigg Boss' Twitter handle also posted, "Now who's saying Binod is a contestant this year?" Other handles such as Mumbai Police, Nagpur Police and Jaipur Police used the word for awareness of traffic rules and safety. Well, it sint the first time a bizarre trend has got unprecedented attention from netizens. Who wouldn't remember the viral "Selfie Maine Le Li Aaj" by Dhinchak Poolgo or "Hello friends, chain peelol" or even trends like #IHaveA]oke and #MyQuarantinelnSixWords! But why does such content grab attention? "Yes, there have been bizarre trends in the past. However, I think that things that strike a chord among the audience grabs their attention. For instance, Binod has just a 30-second presence in our video. Even then, not the rest of the video but 'Binod' grabbed eyeballs. It completely depends on the viewers. We present a platter but it could be bust the term for comments.

With Coronavirus being the permanent trending hashtag on social media over the past few months, hashtag Binod cent after this video, rappers like that DJ Snake and Honey Singh would be using the term for comments.

With Coronavirus being the permanent trending hashtag on social media over the past few months, hashtag Binod cent after this video, rappers like that DJ Snake and Honey Singh would be using the term for comments.

With Coronavirus being the permanent trending hashtag on social media over the past few months, hashtag Binod core is nightly fun excresse to destress themselves. Says she, 'If one is sad, she is using Binod. One is too accepted Binod' to commu



GENT B

The term perhaps became more viral than the Coronavirus. Trend creators ABHYUDAYA MOHAN and GAUTAMI KAWALE of the YouTube channel, Slavy Point, explain how. By TEAM VIVA



Mundai Police O , we hope your name is not your online password. It's pretty viral, change it now!

"Receive every call with 'Haan #Binod bol'."

bol'."

The YouTube video also took a dig at the outlandish comments to show how trashy they are, with the creative team pressing all the keys of the keyboard at once so that it typed random alphabets. The 100-word paragraph of alphabets was then posted in comments

of a video, which, in turn, surprisingly grabbed even more bizarre comments. Is this, then, the new theatre of the absurd? Says Gautami, "There's no formula or tutorial about how to go viral or how to start a trend. It depends on the audience, their preferences and likes and when we see the audience talking about it constantly, that's when the

content trends. I think platforms like Twitter and YouTube play a huge role in spurring the growth of such trends among the masses."

among the masses."

So why is it important to note what comments are being posted? Is it any kind of marketing strategy? Abhyudaya refuses. He says, "Well, no! It's not any kind of marketing strategy. Binod's

comments were solely for entertainment because there is no such thing as trend

because there is no such thing as trend marketing."

Binod even raided the Prime Minister's Twitter handle. What did the disruption mean? He adds, "We heard about it and checked PM's Live. People were commenting 'Binod' everywhere. We could then say that's the power of Binod (laughs). I think Binod for them came as a voice of licentiousness in these times of lockdown. We are overwhelmed that it's a trend and people are communication. that it's a trend and people are commu-nicating through Binod rightfully, meaning that it's in the 'Janta's hands' (in hands of the citizens). We are just the medium."

the medium."
Well, the *Binod raids have even reached the comments section of some international artists and Nasa Live sessions! But beyond grabbing eyeballs, a few laughs and generating some revenue for creators, is there any point to this dumbed down pursuit of time-kills?

POWER OF THE YOUN

Choreographer ASHLEY LOBO says that the International Youth Day this year has helped young people find balance without their peers and props at home. By TEAM VIVA



Por choreographer, Ashley Lobo, there is no energy as that of youth on his dance floor. He loves their moves, their hope, and the vibrancy they bring to any class. On International Youth Day, Ashley stressed that it is the youth which is embracing the 'new normal' and helping the not-so-savvy world adjust to the digital age, which has swamped all of us.

tal age, which has swamped all of us.

He says, "Being at home and not with their peer group is not how the youth would have ever imagined their lives but given their proximity to gadgets and the online world, they are doing a pretty good job. I miss their vibrancy in my studio since offline classes are stopped. But when youngsters dance, it is obvious that they like to be free and that spirit is visible in whatever they do."

The pandemic has affected youngsters profoundly, for better or for worse. Through videos and virtual means, youth across



the country have been express ing themselves in unique way and it is believed that the per and it is believed that the performing arts are only helping to liberate them even more. For Ashley, in the art form of dance, there is, after all, no perfection, only being one with the self and passion by dancing from the heart. "I have seen students over the years feel relaxed and happy after a dance session. This is because during the class stress levels drop and the endorphins take over. This, in turn, makes the mind calm. It can be an extremely therapeutic and spiritual experience. When one dances, one connects to the music and to the self. In that one moment, you become one with moment, you become one with yourself and the universe and that strain is the best mantra to get over the pandemic blues," adds he.

that strain is the dest inflate as of et over the pandemic blues, adds he.

Ashley, who has choreographed for Bollywood films such as Dhoom, Jab We Met, Cocktail, and many others, feels its important for the youngsters to be guided properly and the importance of discipline should be instilled early. 'And then, be it a crisis, pandemic, or any other trouble, you will always see the young rise above and show the discipline in every facet of life,' he says.

The current imbroglio which has stopped dancers worldwide from running riot on the dance floor and forced to channelise their energy online is seeing guite a bit of heft in the youth. Despite being confined to channelise their energy online is seeing guite a bit of heft in the youth. Despite being confined to their homes and missing their friends, the youngsters are doing wonders with dance and the arts. 'They will become stronger once this is all behind us because even now the youth in my online classes can find balance in dance through the turbulence of the global pandemic. That is the power of the young and restless,' says Ashley.



Shawn and The Bovs

Gearing up for a more diaboliCal season two of the series,
The Boys, it is all set to introduce
an intriguing character
Lamplighter, into the Supe's universe. A former superstar and
one of the original members of
The Seven, Lamplighter will be
played by X-Men fame Canadian
television and film actor, Shawn
showrunner and executive producer, Eric Kripke said, "We were
trilled that Shawn, who is, let's be
honest, an OG superhero, wanted
to play the crucial part of
Lamplighter. He brings so much
depth, menace, and world-weary
humanity to this former member
of The Seven. Shawn is a really
good guy. We're grateful to have
him join our bloody little family."
Having mysteriously been
replaced by our very own Starlight
(played by Erin Moriarty) in season one, the new season will
unravel what truly happened with
the fire inducing Supe and The
Boys previously. Their tragic history will be in shambles as
lower tragic history will be in shamlbes as
poke at their raw nerves and
change everything
The Boys 2 will premiere on
Amazon Prime Video with the
first three episodes on September
4. New episodes will be available



each Friday, culminating in an epic season finale on October 9. This each Friday, culminating in an epic season finale on October 9. This season, the series will also have an after-show titled, *Prime Rewind: Inside The Boys* hosted by Aisha Tyler, which will debut on August 28.

PEACE, PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY

A series of road and highway projects is on the cards to give impetus to growth in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. By ASHOK TANDON

T Syama Prasad Mookerjee, founder of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh (predecessor of the present day Bharatiya Janat Party), sacrificed his life spearheading a nation-wide Satyagraf Inon-violent agitation) demanding complete integration of the state of Jammua & Kashmir into the Indian Union. Dr Mookerjee had defied the entry-permit order of the government on the J&K border on May 10, 1933 and courted arrest chanting. Ek desh mein do vidhan, do pradhan aur do nishan nahin chalenge (There can't be two constitutions, two prime ministers and two flags in one ime ministers and two flags in one

He was taken to Srinagar jail, where he died under mysterious cir-cumstances on June 23, 1953. Little would have Dr Mookerjee then realised that his mission would be accomplished when a second gener-

accomplished when a second generation party leader from Gujarat will lead the party.

The NDA government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 5, 2019, revoked the special status granted to the state of Jammu & Kashmir under Article 370 of the Indian Constitution. It enabled people of the state to access all central government programmes and laws including right to reservation for disempowered, right to education and right to information, besides Minimum Wages Act and Minority Act. right to education mation, besides Minimum Wages Act and Minority Act.
The historic presidential order nullifying all the provisions of autonomy granted to the state was followed

by another landmark and strategically significant State Reorganisation Act, 2019, dividing the state into two Union Territories — Jammu &

ly significant state keorganisation ract, 2019, dividing the state into two Union Territories — Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

Since then the NDA government, over the last one year, has been grappling with a series of challenges on various fronts, including border security, constructive engagement with international community on the J&K issue and domestic political resistance to converting the state into two union territories. And then there was stupendous challenge of fast-tracking all round development ensuring peace, prosperity and welfare of the people and providing corruption free governance in all the three regions.

The central government converted these challenges into an opportunity to undo the betrayal inflicted upon the people of J&K as well as Ladakh in the name of Article 370 by the family-run political parties who ruled the state for most of the last seven decades.

PMS personal appeal to the youth in the region, particularly the misguided elements in the Kashmir valley, "to be a part of this historic journey and walk together for a greater cause" has shown tangible results on the ground.

With both J&K and Ladakh as union territorics [dammu & Kashmir not permanently) directly under the centre, the Modi government unfolded an ambitious roadmap of peace and progress ushering in a new era of inclusive development and transpar-



ent governance in the entire region.

The Team-Modi adopted an inte-grated approach to build a state-of-the-art infrastructure and unleashed fast-track social welfare and employ-ment generation schemes, especially among the Small, Medium & Micro Enterprises, (MSME), including cot-tage, handicraft, handloom and hor-ticulture enterprises.

tage, handicraft, handloom and horticulture enterprises.
Good quality all-weather roads and national highways enhancing the hitherto lacking inter-region and intra-region connectivity has gone a long way in promoting and creating fresh employment opportunities in the post-bifurcation period.
A region-wise performance audit of the promises made, over the last

one year, gives a fairly good account. Although a complete transforma-tion in the landscape of this beauti-ful region will be on canvas once all tul region will be on canvas once all the ongoing projects, especially sev-eral strategically important national highways, including tunnels in the tough terrains, become operational capable of coping with extreme weather conditions.

KASHMIR

The Road Transport and Highways Ministry, with its arms like the NHAI and NHIDCL, in concert with the BRO and the state PWD, are with the BRO and the state PWD, are currently engaged in completing a series of projects which will give impetus to growth and help the start-ups in establishing producer companies with focus on further development of sericulture, cold water fisheries, woodwork, cricket bats, saffron, handicrafts and horticulture produce.

The ongoing projects include Srinagar-Jammu-Lakhanpur high-way, the Qazigund-Banihal tunnel and Srinagar ring road.

JAMMU
Jammu, with rapidly growing rail and road connectivity, including the Jammu ring road, is getting a huge boost to its economy with flourishing religious tourism and start-ups in businesses like wood grain work, mills, basmati rice trade, rice mills, carpets, electronic items and electric goods.

LADAKH

Ladakh is witnessing an unprecedented boost to the infrastructure development with all-weather roads and highway network coming up in a big way in difficult terrains and strategic locations. Domestic and international tourism promotion has been given a big push.

Sky seems to be the limit of central financial packages to Ladakh resulting in a phenomenal growth in its farm-based economy through enhanced agriculture and livestock activities. An augmented irrigation facility for horticulture and cash crops has improved productivity putting additional money in farmers' pocket.

crops has improved productivity putting additional money in farmer's pocket.

Last but not the least, the abrogation of Article 370 and bifurcation of he state into two union territories has given the local communities in all three regions greater sense of participation in public discourse. It is discernible with the youth in the valley joining security forces and civil services and excelling in the field of education and sports.

Today there is greater awareness about women rights and girls education in Kashmir as well as in Ladakh. People are coming forward to join hands with local administration in isolating anti-social elements and exposing Pakistan-sponsored attempts at radicalisation of youth.

(The author is a senior journalist and a member of Prasar Bharati Board.)



DDA goes digital

In order to facilitate the public interface, Land Disposal department of Delhi Development Authority (DDA) is successfully implementing emutation (Online Mutation Application System) under the computerisation project "IDLI System" for plotted properties. Now, they are introducing two more public services namely e-conversion (online system for conversion from leasehold to freehold of plotted properties) and e-EoT (online application for extension of time). In order to contain the spread of onvel Coronavirus, this initiative will also help in applying and monitoring DDAs online public services without visiting offices. This service would be inaugurated and opened to public today by Anurag Jain, Vice Chairman, DDA. It will be easy to apply, process and monitor the property conversion and extension of time application online from anytime and anywhere. erty conversion and extension of time application online from anytime and anywhere. No offline application for conversion and EOT (extension of time) of plotted properties

will be entertained. It is the first end to end public service interface of DDA, which is conceptualised and executed by Subu R. Commissioner (Land Disposal) of DDA.

All the three services can be availed through single username and password.

For applying online conversion application, applicant have to register with DDA public services portal of LD department. An one time password will be sent on the registered email and mobile of the applicant for login. After that, applicant will fill applicants detail, relation with allottee, property detail, uploading the scanned copy of requisite documents and making online appeared in the payment of initially conversion charges/processing fee. A registration ID of e-conversion and e-EOT will be sent through an auto generated e-mail for future reference. Stage-wise

and e-EOT will be sent through an auto generated e-mail for future reference. Stage-wise alerts will be sent to applicant. IDLI System is also work-ing on e-restoration (restora-tion of cancelled lease of plot-ted properties) and e-appoint-ment (online public appoint-ment).

SHORT



GM Northern Railway holds performance review meeting

Rajiv Chaudhry, General Manager Northern & North Central Railways held a performance review meeting with the departmental heads of Northern Railway through video conferencing. Among other things special emphasis was given on train operations during the rainy season. The running of trains has its own challenges in the monsoons running of trains has its own challenges in the monsoons which includes water logging, inundation and collection of mud and pebbles on the tracks. He advised everyone to be active and vigilant to maintain top operational capabilities. He also added that intensive checking of tracks, major and minor bridges and crossings

should be thoroughly checked by increasing patrolling. He also called upon the concerned department to clear vegetation from the embankments of the track. Due to the raily season, the fast growth in vegetation, infringing the tracks and overhead electric wires is another major issue. The divisions have taken per-mission from the civil authorities and the Forest Department for tree chopping wherever required.

Indian Railways is focusing on increasing the mobility of the passenger and freight trains under the project "Raftans." Sections have been defined in all zones where infrastructure

As a part of the observance of the 'Alma Nirbhar Week, three facilities of Ordnance Factory Board were declicated to the nation by the Minister of Defence. They are:

Manufacturing facility for sighting devices for T-90 Tanks at the Opto Electronics Factory, Dehradun.

The facility comprises

Dehradun.
The facility comprises
ISO-6: Class 1,000 and
ISO-7: Class 10,000 level
clear environment rooms
for the production of var-

OFB ENHANCES EFFICIENCY

ious high end Opto Electronics and electronics assemblies/sub-assemblies of T-90 systems and Stabilised Remote Controlled Gun (SRCG)

project.

☐ The automated assembly line for the production of Pinaka Rockets at the Ordnance Factory, Chandrapur. The system has been conceptualised and devel-

oped indigenously by OF Chanda with M/s Godrej and Boyce, Mumbai. The automated assembly will not only enhance the pro-duction capacity but would also be more efficient as it seeks to do away with most of the manual operations. The assembly line has auto-mated safety, features and mated safety features and facilities for monitoring the quality of production.

The assembly and test-

ing facility of SRCG at the Ordnance Factory, Tiruchirappalli.
The SRCG is a 12.7 mm 2N NATO standard Machine Gun for marine applications. The modern facility with specialised buildings and equipment is for the assembly and for conducting factory acceptance tests of this gun. These modern, indiges

tance tests of this gun.
These modern, indigenously conceptualised facilities will go a long way in
enhancing productivity,
quality and efficiency.

LIC revives lapsed policies

To encourage continuation of risk cover in the current circumstances of high risk, LIC brings an opportunity for its policyholders to revive their lapsed policies. It has decided to launch a Special Revival Campaign from August 10 to Cotober 9 for its customers to revive their individual lapsed LIC policies. In view of the prevailing circumstances, no concessions are being







international FTSE4Good Index Series for the fourth time in a row, affirming the company's commitment



Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) practices in the oil and gas sector. The index series measures the performance of companies demonstrating

FTSS4Good indexes are used by a wide variety of market participants to create and assess responsible investment funds and other products. GAIL Chairman & Managing Director Manoi, Jain add, 1 am pleased that the company has been included in the series for the fourth year. This is a proof of our commitment towards sustainable development while also doing business resconsibly and focusing on our stakeholders."



Government-owned Power Finance Corporation
Ltd (PFC), a NBPC, signed a MoA with District
Administration, Siddharthnagar, Ultar Pradesh for
construction of two modular operation theatie
rooms in the district hospital. Under the MoA, PFC
will provide financial assistance of close to ₹04 will provide financial assistance of close to 194 also he be Bistrik Administation under its CSR initiative. M Prabhatar Das, CGM (CSR&SD), PFC and Dr Dinesh Kumar Chaudhay, Dy CMD, Softbarthuragar Singent the agreement on behalf of respective organisations. The pact is intended to provide support to the Siddharthuragar District Administration to develop the necessary initiatsructure to reduce infant Mortality Rale (MR) and Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR).

Literature has always Lacted as a torchbearer for the society. Whether it be the intellectual renaissance or the dark phases when everything seems to go haywire, literature has been the soothing soul. At this juncture when literary fraternity needs fresh voices who can act as a doyen, literary agency, Literia Insight signs a two book

deal with IRS Officer, Neha Chakravarthy. A science graduate, Chakravarthy has an insa-A science graduate, Chakravarthy has an insa-tiable passion for writing and considers it as a medi-um to connect with inner soul. Her passion has increased manifold since

she started to scribble. She is now ready to make a mark with her two poetry collections, *Impressions* and *Perfections*.

LOVE FOR WRITING

brings a huge amount of talent and unparalleled cre-ativity in her writings. She is surely going to be one of the doyens of the literary fraternity in future and we collections, impressions and Reflections.

In the words of Nitish Raj, Co-Founder: Literia Insight, "We are delighted to sign Chakravarthy who

Max Bupa introduces ReAssure insurance plan

Max Bupa — one of the standalone health insures, has introduced 'ReAssure' — a comprehensive health insurance plan that provides unlimited sum insured for any type of hospitalisation including the ones related to COVID-19. This allows consumers to make as many claims as required for themselves or for family members covered in the same policy, for same or different illness in a year, at no additional cost. A single claim under ReAssure benefit will be payable up to the base sum insured amount. In a nutshell, the customers will never fall short of coverage which is critical to protect against unforeseen medical expenditure towards all kinds of diseases, including COVID. Even in case of critical illnesses like kidney dialysis or cancer, when patients often need hospitalisation multiple times in the same year, unlimited coverage in the product will prove to be extremely useful.

For instance, a family of four are insured with Max Bupa ReAssure policy with 710 lakh floater sum insured. In case one of them gets diagnosed with COVID or any other disease covered in the policy and needs hospitalisation, then s/he can



claim coverage up to ₹10 lakh along with the ReAssure benefit getting triggered. Next claim onwards an additional amount of ₹10 lakh per claim for as many number of claims as needed will be available for any insured or any illness in the same year. The benefit will be triggered from the first claim, even if two family members get hospitalised at the same time. The product comes with a Booster Benefit that doubles the sum insured in just two

Booster Benefit' that doubles the sum insured in just two claim free years. If no claim was made during the year, then for the next year the sum insured will increase by 50 percent. If in the second year also there is no claim, then there will be another 50 percent increase in sum insured which amounts to a total 100 per cent increase in sum insured which amounts to a total 100 per cent increase in sum insured which amounts to a total now years. Moreover, in case a claim is

made only for COVID in a year, there will be no impact on Booster Benefit which means sum insured will not be impacted and will still increase by 50 percent; up to a maximum of 100 percent; up to a maximum of 100 percent. Commenting on the launch of ReAssure Health Insurance Plan, Krishnan Ramachandran, MD & CEO, Max Bupa Health Insurance said, "ReAssure Health Insurance promises our customers three things which are relevant in times of COVID—Assurance in the form of multiple customer benefits; Accessibility through our quality network across the country and Affordability through the various financial benefits available under the product. The Max Bupa Covid-19 survey shows that 71 percent people now realise the benefits of

have a strong preference for comprehensive health insur-ance plans for protection against any unforeseen medical emer-

any undresseen medical emergencies.

Dr Bhabatosh Mishra,
Director - Products,
Underwriting & Claims, Max
Bupa Health Insurance said,
'India is one of the most under
penetrated health insurance
markets globally, with people
either having no health insurance
cover being inadequately
covered. Considering this, we
have launched ReAssure which
has the potential to revolutionise how people percive
and utilise health insurance in
the country. Each product benefit has been conceptualised
with the intent that every customer is adequately covered at
any given point in time. At Max
Bupa, we acknowledge that
people want to be financially
secured in these difficult times,
hence we have designed a truly
cashless product that will ensure
here is no financial burden on
them once they opt for this police."

icy."

The ReAssure plan is available on individual and family floater basis, with sum insured ranging from ₹3 lakh up to ₹1

HARYANA CM **INAUGURATES PLASMA BANK**

Manohar Lal Khattar, Haryana & Santosh Kumar Gangwar, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Labour & Employment, Govt of India inaugurated plasmabank at SEIC Medical College and Hospital, Faridabad (Haryana) through video conference from Haryana Bhawan on Friday, Heera Lal Samariya, Secretary, Govt of India, Anuradha Prasad, Director General, ESIC and officers of MoLE, ESIC & Govt of Haryana also graced the occasion. Khattar informed the state of Haryana Govt in combating COVID-19 pandemic, He also briefed about the starting of plasma therapy at three different locations — Panchkula, Rohtak and Gurugram. At the end, he made an appeal to the COVID recovered patients to come forward and donate their plasmas to save the lives of others.

During his address, Gangwar informed that the ESIC has been work-ing to provide social secu-rity to its insured persons. In the last 67 years of jour-ney, that day, the services of ESIC have expanded to about 566 districts out of 722 and about 12 crore beneficiaries are receiving FSI facilities ESI facilities.

ESI facilities.

In this crisis situation, 21 ESIC hospitals have been converted into dedicated COVID hospitals. More than 2,400 isolation beds, 550 ICU/HDU beds with 200 ventilators have been made available. Quarantine facility (1300 Beds) has been made

functional in four ESIC hospitals at Alwar (Rajasthan), Bihta, Patna (Bihar), Gulbarga (Karnataka) and Korba (Chhattisgarh). Besides Covid-19 testing facility

Covid-19 testing facility has been made available at ESIC hospital, Faridabad (Haryana), Bassidarapur (New Delhi) and San at h n a g ar (Hyderabad). Plasma therapy is also being provided at ESIC Hospitals, Faridabad and Santhnagar for the treatment of serious COVIID patients. Gangwar commended the efforts being made by ESIC, an organisation under his Ministry, to combat COVID-19.



No action for Blue Tigers this year

PTI NEW DELHI

The Indian football team will not see any action this year with the Asian qualifying matches for the 2022 FIFA World Cup on Wednesday getting post-poned to 2021 owing to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Asian Football Confederation post-poned all mens qualifiers scheduled in October and November for the 2022 World Cup and the 2023 Asian Cup. India's last international match was the joint qualifying round match against Oman in Muscat in November last year, which they had lost 0-1.

Though out of contention for a place in the next round of World Cup qualifiers, India are still in the reckoning for a spot in the 2023 Asian Cup. They were scheduled to play Qatar at home on October

S YEAR

8 followed by matches against Afghanistan (home) and Bangladesh (away) in November.

A third-place finish in the group will help India get affered berth in the third round of the qualifiers for the 2023 Asian Cup.

Both FIFA and AFC stated that the decision was taken keeping in mind the safety of all participants during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The games will be rescheduled in 2021.

India are currently fourth in Group E with three points from five games. Qatar top the table with 13 points with Oman a point behind them in second.

Eight group winners and four best runners-up will progress to the continent's 12-t-tem final qualifying stage for the World Cup.



Sevilla qualified for the semi-finals of the Europa League on Tuesday after Lucas Ocampos late header broke Wolverhampton Wanderers' hearts, while Shakhtar Donetsk thumped Basel 4-1 to join the Spaniards in the last four

Donetsk thumped Basel 4-1 to join the Spaniards in the last four.

Five-time competition winners Sevilla face Manchester United in Cologne on Sunday thanks to a brilliant header from Argentine Ocampos with less than two minutes left on the clock which gave them a deserved 1-0 win, while Shakhtar take on Inter Milan on Monday in another intriguing tie.

Sevilla dominated their English opponents over the course of the match, as a tired-looking Wolves'



Sevilia players colebrale after Lucas Ocar dreams of European glory ended with a whimper.

"I am very proud of my players. We needed to have lots of patience against a very good team," said Sevilla coach Julen Lopetegui, whose team are now unbeatten in 19 matches in all competitions, to BT Sport.

"We have ambition we work very hard... but we are going to play against Manchester United... the biggest team in world football."

Premier League outfit

Premier League outfit Wolves thought they were set to make the perfect start in the 11th minute when

Adam Traore set off on a sensational surge towards goal from his own half and was chopped down in the area by Diego Carlos. However, Raul Jimenez, who had scored all of his previous eight penalties for Wolves, sent a weak spot-kick towards. Yassine Bounou, who could hardly believe his There were claims that Bounou had left his line while Sevilla players seemed to enter the area before the

RR fielding coach tests virus +ve

SINGLES

3 INDIANS IN LPGA EVENT FOR FIRST TIME NORTH BERWICK: In a first for Indian women's oolf. and Tvesa Malik — will tee up at an LPGA event together, the Ladies Scottish Open, starting on Thursday, Diksha plays with Stephanie Kyriacou and Yu Liu at 7.15 am while Aditi Jays with Scottish star Carly Booth and South African Lee-Ann Pace at 9.58 am. Tvesa has been drawn with Yaelimi Noh and Emily Pedersen, and they tee off at 12.22 pm.

BARCA PLAYER TESTS CORONA POSITIVE
BARCELONA: A Barcelona player has tested positive

BARCELONA: A Barcelona player has tested positive for the novel comavirus after reporting back for pre-season training, the La Liga side said in a statement on Wednesdy. Barca said the player was isolating in this home and was asymptomatic, adding that he had not been in contact with any of the players who are to travel to Lisbon for the Champions League Final Eight tournament.

LIVERPOOL SET FOR RECORD PAYDAY

LYERPOOL: Liverpool will receive a record 175 million pounds payout for winning the Permier League after all 20 clubs in England's top-flight agreed to postpone any reductions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. The Times reported on Wednesday that teams will receive their entire payout for last season and rebates to broadcasters, which could amount to 330 million pounds.

DELHI'S SUDEVA FC TO PLAY IN I-LEAGUE
NEW DELHI: Sudeva FC will become the first ever New DELHI: Sudeva FC will become the first ever football dub from Delhi to play in the 1-League as the All India Football Federation (AIFF) on Wednesday approved the city side's participation in the second-tier domestic competition from the upcoming season. The AIFF also announced Visakhapatama side Sreenithi FC's entry into the I-League from 2021-2022 season.

SPURS SIGN SOUTHAMPTON'S HOJBJERG

London: Tottenham Hotspur have signed Denmark midfleder Pierre-Emile Holpier from Southampton on a flw-year deal with full back Kyle Walker-Peters moving in the opposite direction on a similar contract. Financial details of the transfer were not disclosed but British media reported that Spushave paid Southampton an initial fee of around 15 million nounded to size the 90 service and 15 mi million pounds to sign the 25-year-old Hojbjerg who had a year left on his contract. Agencies

Serena sets Venus clash in Top Seed Open

AFP I FXINGTON

Serena Williams had to fight for a winning return from her six-month coronavirus layor for The winning for the winning to the

American world number 60 Pera 4-6, 6-4, 6-1 in two hours and 15 minutes at the Top Seed Tennis Club in

Seed Tennis Club in Lexington.
Venus Williams started her campaign with a straight sets wins over Victoria Azarenka in a a battle of former World No 1 players. The 40-year-old American won 6-3, 6-2 and set up an exciting encounter between the Williams sisters in the second round.
Rising American

Rising American Coco Gauff had to work hard for her straight-set win over qualifier Caroline Dolehide, winning 7-5, 7-5 while Dolehide, winning
7-5, 7-5 while
Canadian qualifier Leylah
Fernandez
knocked out
seventh seed Sloane Stephens in their open-

This week's tournament the first WTA event in the S since the Covid-19 pan-emic — is taking place with-

demic — is taking place with-out spectators. Williams, 38, later revealed that the sedate surroundings had suited her game. "It was a really chill," Williams said. "I can't say I dis-liked it. I didn't mind it at all. I've been through so many thines in been through so many things in my career and this was totally different. I think I won today because I was calm for once in my career. Kind of reminds me of junior days. Something nos-talgic about that. I kind of

talgic about that. I kmu or enjoyed it? The 23-time Grand Slam singles champion looked to be filtring with an early exit in the second set, but recovered from 0-40 down at 4-4 before holding and eventually win-ning the set.

and eventually winning the set.
"I just knew I could do better," Williams said. "It was an interesting game. I just had to get used to her game a little bit. She played really well."

CSK expect Dhoni to play until 2022 Unacademy to fight for IPL title sponsorship rights

hennai Super Kings CEO inc
Kasi Vishwanathan feels
their talisman Mahendra Singh
Dhoni, who has not played any
competitive cricket since last
year's World Cup semifinal, will
be part of the franchise in
2021 and 2022 IPIs.
The 39-year-old
Dhoni is set for a return
to competitive cricket in
the upcoming IPI, to be
played in the UAE from
September 19 to

played in the UAE from September 19 to November 10. "We can expect MS Dhoni to be part of both (IPL 2020 and 2021) and probably for even the next year

NEW DELHI: Sri Lanka and United Arab Emirates are the two back-up countries being zeroed in on by the ICC, in case India is unable to host next year's

India is unable to host next year's T20 World Cup.
While there is still one year to go before the mega event which was set to be held in Australia this year but got post-poned due to Covid-19.
According to a report in ESPN Cricinfo, "Sri Lanka and the UAE are among the back-up venues for the 2021 men's T20

— 2022," Viswanathan was quoted as saying by indiatoday.in.

uoted as saying by didatodayii.

"I am getting updates through the media only, saying he has been training in Jharkhand in indoor nets. But we don't have to worry about the skipper, boss. We don't worry about him at all.

"He knows his responsibilities and he will take care of himself and the team."

N Srinivasan, the vice-chairman and managing director of India Cements, owners of the CSK franchise, in January said that Dhoni would be retained by the team for

the 2021 IPL mega-auction. CSK have planned a short training camp at their base from August 16 to 20. While CSK are hoping to leave for the UAE on August 21, Vishwanathan confirmed

Rajasthan Royals' fielding Rooach Dishant Yagnik has tested positive for Covid-19, the IPL team announced on Wednesday, making it the first such case among the league franchises ahead of their depar-ture next week to this year's tournament venue, the UAE. Yagnik is currently in his hometown Udaipur and has

been advised to get admitted to hospital for his 14-day quaran-

nospital for his 14-day quaran-tire.

"Toot 14 days, Dishant will be undergoing two tests as per the protocols of BCCI. On return of two negative reports, he will be allowed to join the team after self isolating for 6 days and receiving 3 further negative tests upon his arrival in the UAE," said Royals in a statement.

that all the players will assemble in Chennai on August 14.
"It will be a skill-based plus training camp. It can't immediately start off with skills because they are coming back after a long off," he said.

bid, will have competition," the senior official told PTI. Vivo, which annually paid *440 crore, dropped out as title sponsor this year due to the Sino-India border standoff.

PTI NEW DELHI

"If you want to test your-self, you have to play against teams at this high level." The Ukrainian side got off to a flyer thanks to Brazil-born Moraes, who headed home Marlos' corner with less than two minutes on the clock, and they never looked back from that point on.

on.
Taison put Shakhtar two
ahead 20 minutes later when
his deflected shot flashed
past Basel's bamboozled
goalkeeper Dorde Nikolic.
Alan Patrick put the
result beyond doubt from
the penalty spot with 14
minutes left after Taison's
burst into the box was ended
by a clumsy challenge from
Basel defender Yannick
Marchand.
Shakhtar rounded off a

Shakhtar rounded off a e display in the 88th

Shakhtar rounded off a fine display in the 88th minute when right-back Dodo combined with Tete before smashing home a superb finish. Ricky van Wolfswinkel's close-range strike for Basel a minute into stoppage time made no difference to a thumping defeat for the Swiss.

Education technology com Epany Unacademy, which is already one of IPL's sponsors, is eyeing the league's title sponsorship rights now and is set to submit its bid to replace

A BCCI offined that Unacademy has picked up the bid papers but refrained from making any comments beyond that.

"I can confirm that Unacademy has shown interest and picked the bid papers. I have heard they will be submitting a bid and are pretty serious. So Patanjali if they

Chinese mobile phone company
Vivo this season.
A BCCI offito 350 crore

. The BCCI is now looking

between ₹300 to 350 crore

for a period of four months and 13 days.

The official said Unacademy is a part of IPLs central sponsorship pool with other companies like DreamII and Paytm.

"Yes, Unacademy is already in IPLs central sponsors' pool from 2020 to 2023," the BCCI official said.

Sri Lanka, UAE kept as back up for 2021 WT20

World Cup, should the Covid-19 pandemic make India an untenable host."

The ICC confirmed last week that India will host next

week that India will host next year's tournament as scheduled in the original FTP while this year's postponed edition in Australia goes ahead in 2022. However it is a standard protocol to have back-up venues listed for any global event. "Identifying potential back-up venues is standard practice for every ICC event, but it takes

on extra significance in this time because of the nature of the pan-demic.

"India is currently the third-worst-hit country in the world morst-ini country in the world in terms of cases, according to most data studies, with over 2 million cases so far and over 45,000 deaths.

45,000 deaths.
"The current situation has
forced the BCCI to relocate the
IPL to the UAE, and only tentative plans are in place for the
domestic season," the website
further stated.
PTI

PTI KARACHI

The Pakistan Cricket Board is is furious at former captain Mohammad Hafeez for his apparent breach of the biosecurity protocol imposed by the England and Wales Cricket Board for the ongoing away series.

series.
The former skipper, who is

tweeted a picture of himself with an elderly lady from the golf course adjacent to the team hotel despite strict instructions that they shouldn't interact with

hotel despite strict instructions that they shouldn't interact with anyone outside the bubble. A source close to the Pakistan team said Hafeez's breach of protocol had upset severyone as all players had been told specifically to avoid interaction with anyone outside bein secure bubble, since the course is open to the public in Southampton. Hafeez put himself in trouble when he posted a tweet of himself and the lady terming her as inspirational. The ECB medical team is aware of the breach of protocol and Hafeez will most likely have to isolate himself for five days and then undergo two negative Covid-19 tests before he rejoins the team again.

The ECB is taking any breach of the biosecurity protocol very seriously and fast bowler jofffa Archer was also reprimanded and was dropped for the second Test against West Indies after he also breached the biosecurity bubble by going to

Indies after he also breached the biosecurity bubble by going to his apartment in Brighton.

Eng will sweep Pak **Hafeez breaks bio-bubble** series: Vaughan

Series: Vaughan
Southampron: Former England
captain Michael Vaughan predicted the hosts will sweep the
three-test series against Pakistan
despite the absence of talismanic all-rounder Ben Stokes
for the last two matches.
Stokes was part of the
England team which pulled off
a thrilling three-wicket victory
in the first Test at Old
"THE (Stokes) plays a big, big
role in that dressing room,
Vaughan wrote in a blog,
although he had no doubts
about the depth in the England
squad.

about the depth in the England squad.

"Even though Ben Stokes is out I think England will be too strong. England will be too strong. England will win the series 3-0, that's my prediction."

He also felt England might rest veteran quick James Anderson in the second Test beginning on Thursday.

"I'd be surprised if he plays back-to-back games, so I think he will be rested. Maybe Sam Curran will come in for him or he will be rested. Maybe Sain Curran will come in for him or Mark Wood," he added. "Zak Crawley will probably come in for Ben Stokes." Agencies

National hockey camps to resume on Aug19

PNS NEW DELHI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The training camps for India's national hockey teams will go ahead as scheduled from August 19 in Bengaluru despite half a dozen men's team players, including skipper Manpreet Singh, being hospitalised after testing positive for Covid-19. Both the men's and women's teams will resume training at the Sports Authority of India (SAI) South Centre in Bengaluru.

"...The Indian men's and Indian women's hockey teams are scheduled to resume sports activities from, Wednesday 19th August 2020, following the completion of their 14-day quarantee period," the SAI said in a statement on Wednesday.

The decision was taken after a discussion with the game's stakeholders, including Hockey India officials and chief coaches of both the teams.

"...After giving the utmost recircity to the safety and well.

coaches of both the teams.

".After giving the utmost priority to the safety and well-being of all the athletes, it has been decided that the sporting activities will be resumed at SAI's National Centre of Excellence in Bergaluru, as scheduled earlier.

The camp for male hockey players was uncertain after six of them tested positive for Covid-19. The women's camp, however, was never in doubt



after all of them tested negative for the dreaded virus. Currently, 33 male and 24 female players are in Bengaluru

female players are in Bengaluru for the camp.

The light intensity national acamp is expected to continue till September 30.

Mens hockey team chief coach Graham Reid said the health and wellbeing of the players and support staff will be the top priority during the camp.

camp.

The six Covid positive players will be integrated into the

All 6 players shifted to hospital

BENGALURU: Five Covid-19 pos-titive hockey players have been shifted to a hospital in Bengaluru as a precautionary measure after striker Mandeep Singh was transferred to the facility following a dip in his blood oxygen level, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) said on Wednesday.

Wednesday.

"...The Sports Authority of India decided to shift the other five players, to SS Sparsh Multispeciality hospital in Bengaluru on Tuesday afternoon, as a precautionary measure," the SAI said precautio SAI said.

SAI said. "The decision to hospi-talise them was taken so as to ensure that the players were attended to at all times and could be given the best possi-ble treatment. All six athletes are in good health and recovering well."

group once they recover from

the virus.

"They are in good spirits, and are looking forward to a quick recovery. Once recovered and after following protocol of quarantine, we look forward to have them back with us," Reid said.

Robinson replaces Stokes for 2nd Test

PTI SOUTHAMPTON

Fast bowler Ollie Robinson Fast bowler Ollie Robinson Freplaced Ben Stokes as England on Wednesday named a 14-member squad for the second Test against Pakistan, starting Thursday at The Ageas Bowl. The 26-year-old trained with the squad during the West Indies series and took

eight Hampshire wickets dur-ing his subsequent appearance in the Bob Willis Trophy. But whether he makes a Test debut at Ageas Bowl on Thursday could depend on how the England attack that played in a three-wicket win in the first of a three-match series recovers from their exertions at Old Trafford last week.

saying by ESPNcricinfo.
"We are hoping all the players are fit.
Obviously, there are standards that they

have to organise a bit of game time for Shakih, as well as for all the players."

The all-rounder's fitness will be taken into consideration before picking im." It is very difficult to get into international cricket without any sort of cricket. I think we need to try to find some opportunities for him to play some games. He is a world-class player so I am sure he will get back into it prety soon, but fitness is an important thing," the coach said.

According to the report, Sri Lanka Cricket chief executive Mohan de Silvasid the two boards have reached an agreement on Bangladesh's departure date, which has been set as September 24.

But there are still discussions over whether it will be a two or three-match T201 series in addition to the astars hitting balls and bowling some than the control of the contro Shakib, as well as tor all the piayers.

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According to the report, Sri Lanka Cricket chief executive Mohan de Silva additional to the two boards have reached an agreement on Bangladeshis departure date, which has been eat as September 2.

But there are still discussions over whether it will be a two or three-match Test series after the BCB requested a three-match T201 series in addition to the

