

OPINION 6
POLITICS OF
DEFECTION**WORLD 8**
SURPRISED THAT BIDEN PICKED
'DISRESPECTFUL' KAMALA: TRUMP**SPORT 12**
CSK EXPECT DHONI TO
PLAY UNTIL 2022

RANCHI, THURSDAY AUGUST 13, 2020; PAGES 12 ₹3



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SARA PENS A
SPECIAL NOTE
FOR MOM
10 VIVACITY

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

PTI ■ BENGALURU

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 (in police firing)," Bengaluru Police Commissioner Kamal 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, apparently triggered by the online post.

SDPI leader Mumazil 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



Police and residents walk past charred remains of vehicles vandalised by a mob over a FB post by a relative of a Congress MLA in Bengaluru on Wednesday

PTI

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

Akhanda Srinivasa Murthys residence and a police station at DJ Halli were among those targeted by the angry mob. The house of the MLA, 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 jewels, were looted and the rest, including vehicles, were set on fire

"It is clear from the intensity of vandalism that the intention was to attack and finish off Srinivasa Murthy. It has to be investigated whether any corporator or anti-social elements from within the state and outside 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 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 Udipi 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 magistrate would conduct an enquiry into the violence.

The Government also decided to recover losses caused to public property during the violence from the rioters.

BJP MP Shobha Karandlaje who visited Pulakeshinagar, in a tweet said, "PFI-SDPI conspired this violence, they targeted only Hindu houses & burnt public properties. I strongly condemn this behaviour of a communal elements & urge @CMofKarnataka to take stringent actions against the culprits."

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India, Brazil, Mexico, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are among the 20 countries from Asia, Latin America and West Asia which have shown interest in getting the vaccine. The first registered vaccine for coronavirus disease in the world.

A Russian website dedicated to the "world's 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, the first batch of the vaccine will be released," Russian Health Minister Mikhail Murashko announced on Wednesday. Murashko said that vaccination against coronavirus will be

Covid-19 IN INDIA
TOTAL
CASES: 23,94,738
DEATHS: 47,130
RECOVERED:
16,92,157
ACTIVE: 6,54,977



voluntary for everybody, including healthcare 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.

STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	5,48,313	18,650	3,81,843
Tamil Nadu	3,14,520	5,278	2,56,313
Andhra Pradesh	2,54,146	2,296	1,61,425
Karnataka	1,96,494	3,511	1,12,633
Delhi	1,48,504	4,153	1,33,405
Uttar Pradesh	1,36,238	2,230	84,661
West Bengal	1,04,326	2,203	76,120
Bihar	90,553	474	60,068
Telangana	84,544	654	61,294
Gujarat	74,390	2,713	57,493
Assam	69,000	161	45,074
Rajasthan	56,100	822	41,648
Odisha	50,672	358	36,479
Haryana	44,024	503	36,694
Madhya Pradesh	41,604	1,048	31,239
Kerala	38,144	127	24,922

No improvement in Pranab's condition

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

admitted to the hospital in Delhi cantonment on August 10 and was operated for removal of a clot in the brain.

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.

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 helps to inspire the next generation 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 letter said.

It also said in the aim to glorify the screen character of Ex-Flt Lt Gunjan Saxena, M/s Dharma Productions presented some situations that are misleading and portray an inappropriate 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 the Service has always ensured an equal opportunity to both male and female personnel and the organisation is gender neutral. The IAF has also annexed the summary of the scenes and dialogues of the script, which are considered objectionable due to the presentation 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.

The IAF stated that it feels that a mere media plan and disclaimer 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.

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 any film, documentary or web series on military.

State witnesses highest Covid recoveries in a day

PNS ■ RANCHI

Jharkhand on Wednesday reported highest number of Covid recoveries in a day so far as over 1500 patients were discharged from hospital after testing negative for the viral infection and showing no symptoms associated with it, health officials said.

As per a bulletin released by the National Health Mission (NHM) on Wednesday late evening, as many as 1567 patients, including 285 in Godda and 274 in Dhanbad, recovered in 24 hours, taking the Covid recovery rate in state above 60 per cent.

However, the Covid tally in Jharkhand crossed the 20,000 mark on Wednesday as 679 more people tested positive for SARS-CoV-2, the NHM bulletin stated.

Ranchi and East Singhbhum reported 119 and 117 fresh cases of infection respectively, while 156 patients recovered in Ranchi and 111 overcame the infection in East Singhbhum, government data stated.



Health worker collects sample from a resident for COVID-19 test during the ongoing Unlock 3.0 in Ranchi on Wednesday

Total
tally
crosses
20,000

East Singhbhum, which has reported the highest number of Covid fatalities in State so far, reported five of eight deaths in Jharkhand on Wednesday. As per government figures, the district alone accounts for 78 of state's 202 Covid casualties.

Ranchi, which is the worst-affected district in Jharkhand, has reported 3799 cases of infection so far, while the tally in East Singhbhum was 3182 by the time this report was filed.

Of the 20,257 cases of Covid infection in state, at least 12,197 have recovered, taking the recovery rate to 60.21 per cent, highlights government data. However, the Covid recovery

rate in Jharkhand is still lower than the national average of 69.34 per cent.

The government has so far collected swab samples of around 4.08 lakh people and tested around 4.02 lakh of them. On Wednesday, health workers collected swab samples of 7138 people and tested 6272 of them, stated the NHM bulletin.

The Covid tally has crossed the 1000 mark only in Ranchi, East Singhbhum, Dhanbad and Giridih. The remaining 20 districts in Jharkhand have reported cases in triple digits so far. However, over 900 cases have surfaced in Hazaribag and more than 850 in Palamu.

City to soon have dedicated Covid test centre

PNS ■ RANCHI

With the increasing Coronavirus cases in Capital there is a plan to set up a dedicated Covid test centre in Ranchi. The Covid test centre will function on a private basis and only people having symptomatic and asymptomatic corona will be tested here.

Sources said that there are few labs which apart from Covid test also carry other disease tests which lead to fear and anxiety among patients.

The Covid test centre will be set up on Birsa Munda Rajpath near Kishoreganj Chowk. The biggest advantage of a dedicated Covid test centre is that from the centre only the corona test will be done. The centre will not accept tests of any other diseases. Presently in Ranchi there are four Covid test centres. The test will be done through RT-PCR or swab test method.

As per Union Health Ministry, the Reverse Transcription-Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) is the gold standard frontline test for coronavirus (COVID-19) and that rapid antibody test cannot replace it.



A health worker collects samples from a Police official for COVID-19 test during the ongoing Unlock 3.0 in Ranchi

Pioneer photo

Presently the government is using the RT-PCR tests to detect novel coronavirus from samples of throat or nasal swabs of people with symptoms or high-risk individuals who might have come in contact with positive patients.

Dr Shipra Sharan, manager of the test centre said, "The test centre has been set up. We are hopeful that by this week we will get a license from ICMR and after getting permission from the state government we will start testing."

As per Health Ministry

directive, symptomatic persons with travel history, symptomatic persons having contact with lab confirmed positive persons, symptomatic health care workers, SARI patients with fever, cough and/or shortness of breath and asymptomatic persons who have been in direct contact of high-risk confirmed cases are to be tested.

The test centre will be open soon and for training is being provided to people right

from collection of samples to changing PPE kit. Also doctors and other technical staff are getting trained for the test centre.

Also the test report will be provided to patients within the day and starting in this direction in the beginning 50 tests will be done in an hour and 300 tests in a day. During an emergency situation the test centre will have the capacity of conducting 600 tests in a day.

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

PNS ■ JAISALMER/JAIPUR

"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 hotels," he said on Wednesday, in an apparent reference to the previous evening's Congress Legislature Party meeting in Jaisalmer.

"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.

Covid cases cross 3K mark, death toll on a new high

Chamber of Commerce demands complete lockdown

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR

The number of COVID-19 positive cases crossed 3000 as over 100 fresh cases were reported in the city on Wednesday. The city also witnessed four more deaths taking the final toll figures at Tata Main Hospital (TMH) to around 90.

Meanwhile, the death of a 48-year-old businessman Sarabjit Singh Rinku spread like a wildfire in the city this morning. Singh, who was owner of Dupatta Sagar in Bistupur was a well-known trader. He was tested positive on August 6 and was admitted at TMH on August 7. He was facing difficulty in breathing.

Following his death, the Singhbhum Chamber of Commerce and Jamshedpur Chamber of Commerce reiterated their demand for a complete lockdown. "It is high time that the State Government take immediate steps to ensure complete lockdown. In view of spreading cases of coronavirus and



deaths the Government must impose curfew across the state till August 21," said Mohanlal Agarwal, president, Jamshedpur Chamber of Commerce.

The Deputy Commissioner, East Singhbhum, Suraj Kumar has also ordered strict compliance of social distancing in passenger vehicles in view of COVID-19. As per the directives, strict action will be taken

against those not wearing masks and those vehicles taking more passengers than the prescribed.

The Deputy Commissioner has said instructions have been given by the Transport Department, Government of Jharkhand through various letters to strictly follow the departmental directives. Wearing helmets and masks have been

made compulsory for two-wheeler drivers under which the State Government on violation of Section 194. The provision of penalty is Rs 1000.

Provision has been made in respect of permission to hire taxis outside the Containment Zone, inside the district and other districts of the state, which are as follows: In the category of taxi commercial vehicle, only the registration certificate will be considered as their route pass, they will not need to take separate pass.

Spray sanitizer will have to be kept in the taxi and seats will have to be sanitized before each time a new passenger sits.

The Kolhan Division, which was under green zone, came under the coronavirus map with two persons testing positive at Chakulia, under East Singhbhum district on May 12. However, with the arrival of migrants the figure has reached 500 mark and now it has crossed 3000.

Most of the patients do not have travel history. Several other persons tested positive have travel history from Maharashtra, Delhi, Gurugram and Chennai.

They had arrived in the city and were staying in quarantine centres in different parts.

Security forces recover huge cache of arms, ammunition

PNS ■ DALTONGANJ

Jharkhand Jaguar (JJ) and Palamu police made a big haul of arms and ammunition of TSPC extremist outfit today between the two hills, one laying each on Palamu side and the other on Chatra side.

JJ's three assault teams numbering 11, 29 and 40 carried this job today. The recovered arms and ammunition included one insas rifle, one 9 mm CMG, one Springfield American rifle, one country made pistol, 7 magazines, 334 rounds of live fire, eight cell phones, one solar plate, three pairs of shoes, ten bags, two aadhar cards and one notebook.

The contingent of TSPC was led by its zonal commander Shashikant alias Aarif. Aarif and his men escaped leaving behind these arms and ammunition, said SP Palamu Ajay Linda.

Linda said JJ and police carried out a search operation as there was a tip off about Aarif and his men there in between the two pahars Kedaal (Palamu) and Bhainsamar (Chatra) for

The recovered arms and ammunition included one insas rifle, one 9 mm CMG, one Springfield American rifle, one country made pistol, 7 magazines, 334 rounds of live fire, eight cell phones, one solar plate, three pairs of shoes, ten bags, two aadhar cards and one notebook

extracting levy from some contractor which our JJ and police aborted like anything and dented TSPC severely.

Linda said there was a short time exchange of fire between JJ & Palamu police and TSPC extremists.

Although the place of occurrence falls under Manatu police station this Manatu police station was not engaged in the search against extremists. There is no comment as to why Manatu police station was kept out of the loop of the search against TSPC today.

Linda just said "Our forces did a very good job. Just a few days ahead of Independence Day this successful denting and jerking to TSPC by us will make CPI Maoists also scared of our readiness to take them on as well."

Lack of dialysis facility at Covid hospital claims life of Covid patient

PANKAJ KUMAR ■ DHANBAD

Lack of dialysis facility at Covid hospital at Central Hospital has claimed the life of a Covid patient and another patient died due to non availability of oxygen alleged family members.

The dialysis was required for a retired employee of Central Institute for Mines and Fuel Research (CIMFR) RB Singh, who was admitted at the aforementioned hospital on August 7 night and died on August 11.

Though he was diabetic and also was undergoing dialysis he was not provided the dialysis facility at hospital in absence of the facilities there though a new unit was installed at dedicated Covid hospital at Sadar hospital on Monday evening.

Despite attempts the dialysis for the Covid patients

could not be started at the Central hospital based Covid hospital having 100 beds for Covid affected persons.

Family members that include a physical challenges son and wife are in shock since the death was reported on Tuesday night. One of the relatives of Singh said that he died due to negligence of doctors who could not provide them much needed dialysis at time of need.

In another incident one Ashok Singh resident of Bank More locality in a letter to deputy commissioner has levelled allegation of negligence on doctors and paramedical staff of PMCH that claimed life of his younger brother who was not provided oxygen despite breathing problems. No one attended his brother for hours and lastly he died. Ashok has demanded an inquiry into the incident.

D Y Patil varsity to take exams in person, students cry foul

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR

City-based students of the D Y Patil University at Pune are left in lurch as the university has asked the final year students to return back to campus and appear for the final year exams later this month. With Pune becoming an epicentre of the pandemic, the students are not willing to leave the city and give exams in person.

"The order of the university has come as a shock to us. The university has scheduled exams beginning from August 31 and have asked us to be quarantined before appearing for them. Moreover, we have also been asked to conduct a COVID test before leaving the city. But we want the university to conduct online exams. The situation is not good for us to travel," said a student, who wished not to be quoted.

The student said not only Jamshedpur but there are several students from other parts of the State who are being



forced to appear in the exam in person. Pune being the hotbed of coronavirus going to such a place makes the students highly susceptible to the virus.

"Since we have got the notification about the final year exam from the college all of us have raised our various concerns before several government authorities and demanded for online exams. We are watching the news daily about the Covid condition in Pune. It is very risky to travel to Pune right now. Even my parents are not allowing me to

travel and so I have stayed back in Jamshedpur."

A student who is back home at the moment that the students have also written to various authorities to conduct these tests online as conditions in Pune are not at all good for them to travel there. Cases are rising every day and it is risky to come to the city just to take the exam in person.

According to university officials the decision has been taken to maintain their academic schedule and for the benefit of their future.

13 new cases found, 95 screened in Hazaribag

Hazaribag: On the direction of health ministry of Jharkhand government, the Hazaribag administration has decided to issue Corna bulletin twice in a day. There will be no need to go to the hospital for the collection of the reports. The will be accompanied with all supporting documents also.

Deputy Commissioner of Hazaribag Aditya Kumar Anand has given the direction to Superintendent of Hazaribag Medical College and Hospital and civil surgeon of Hazaribag that this work should be done on war footing.

The Health department of Hazaribag has decided to issue the bulletin in the morning at 10 am and in the evening at 8 pm.

The district TB officer and district IDSP have been appointed as in-charge of this work. The bulletin will be based on the guidelines of the state health department.

In the Corona testing report, the concern has to mention the timing of the testing of the report. Now this will be the duty of the concern officer to available the testing report on time.

As per the hospital report 13 new corona positive patients were found in the district on Wednesday. Now, the number of total active patients has reached to 1052. In 13 positive patients one each are from Barhi and Barkagaon, three from Padma block and 8 from different areas of town.

PNS

Non disposal of large number of mutation cases irks DC Palamu

PNS ■ DALTONGANJ

Non disposal of as many as 196 mutation cases in various 'circles' has irked DC Palamu Shashi Ranjan, who has directed circle officers (COs) to do mutation of land without any more delay or face music.

Mutation of land is to be done within 30 days of the filing of the request for it but these 196 cases were far beyond the 30 days period.

Ranjan said, "During my review of land revenue performance I discovered this huge number of pending cases of mutation which is highly inappropriate and unjustified. I have directed officials to expedite its disposal."

Ranjan said the large number of non disposal of mutation has been reported from anchals like Untari Road,

Chainpur, Hussainabad. COs of these places have been shown to explain this pendency of disposal of mutation cases.

Sources said there is a Service Guarantee Act under which there is a time slot for public utility work to be disposed of and for mutation it is 30 days but lackadaisical approach of COs to it is causing serious backlogging of this important work in land revenue.

Reminded that in Mohammadganj Circle the concerned CO there has done a mass rejection of mutation applications to which DC said "This matter has come to our notice. We have asked the Mohammadganj CO to look into it again as to how such a rejection has been so done."

Sources said 13,521 acres of gair majrua land have been settled with 4,835 people in 449 villages of Palamu and these settlements of GM land are under the lens of the land revenue officials for its either being 'illegal' and 'doubtful/dubious'

Secretary land reforms, registration & revenue Kamal Kishore Soan has issued a 'sankalp' of the government wherein COs in the State have been asked to take a final call on all such illegal and dubious /doubtful settlements of GM land and not to leave such land in lurch.

Sources said COs have been made accountable and now the COs have taken a safe route of doing rejection of settlement of such illegal and dubious settlement of GM land more to save their skin.

DC Ranjan said "Rejection on flimsy ground is untenable but if there are concrete things that call for rejection then in that event who stops the CO from rejecting it."

Soan's letter too reads a CO must take a decision either of cancellation or of regularization of such settlement of GM land but not to leave such land matter in the lurch under category of illegal and doubtful/dubious.

Deficit rainfall hits Kharif sowing in Bokaro

Bokaro: Deficit rainfall has delayed the sowing of Kharif crops in Bokaro district, much to the farmers' concern. Till now, only 59 per cent of paddy sowing has been achieved across the region against its goal.

The favourable time for paddy sowing is about to come to an end, said a district agricultural department official.

Owing to inadequate rainfall, several hectares of farmland that usually see knee-deep water during this time of the season is now lying dry. Though crop sowing with lift irrigation facilities has been done in many places, farmers are wary of uncertainty.

Farmers of Bokaro district are anticipating a severe drought, given the deficit rainfall so far. The region did not receive an average rainfall since

the onset of monsoon; drought-like situation may arise if the district did not witness adequate rainfall in the next 10 days, said Bhagwat Mahato, a farmer of Kasmar block.

"Scanty of rainfall not only hit the paddy crop but also Maize, Oilseeds and Pulses across the district. The coverage of paddy is only 52 percent of the target," added Mahato.

"We will have to see very hard days. There is not enough water to cultivate crops or transplant the paddy seeds," said Ashok Rajwar of Chandankiari village.

According to the report available through the agriculture department officials, the transplantation of Paddy seeding was done only in 17000 hectares of land instead of a target of 33000 hectares. Maize seeding only in 9431 hectares of

land against the target of 9620 hectares, Bajara on 260 hectares of land against 790 hectares, Pulses on 14,731 hectares of land against the target of 19,100 hectares of land while Oil seeds seeding was done on 458 hectares of land against the target of 1240 hectares of land.

The coverage of maize is 98.4 percent, pulses 77.16 percent, and oilseeds are 36.94 percent, Bajara 32.91 of the average as targeted, official sources said.

According to the agriculture department, the rainfall was below the average in all eight blocks of the district; in July the district observed only 286.9 mm rainfall against the average 329.3 mm.

We were expecting good rainfall, but there were no sufficient rains, said Sambhu, a farmer of Jaridih block. PNS

10 new cases of Covid-19 confirmed in Bokaro

PNS ■ BERMO

At least 10 new cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed in Bokaro district. All the residents have been tested in private labs. All are being shifted to isolation wards in BGH.

The Covid patients include 71-year-old male resident of Jaranadih market of Bermo block, 20-year-old male resident of Gomia block, 72-year-old male resident of Nawadih, Village Kendra police station of Chas block Pindarajora Karra resident 34 year old female, 39 years old male resident of Cooperative Colony, 26 year old male resident of 30 Girish Lane Gowri, 56 year old female resident of Batagali of Phusro Municipal Council, 48 year old male resident of Patwatola Karmakar Tola, 25 year old resident of Kewat Sav Tola of Jaridih block and a 25-year-old male are residents of Azad Nagar Siwandih.

As many as 31 people from Bokaro General Hospital and District COVID-19 Care Center and elsewhere returned

to their homes after recovering. They all got healthy and returned to their homes.

The people of BGH and District COVID-19 Care Center were encouraged by the Health Department team and were advised to stay in home quarantine for 14 days. Now Bokaro district has a total of 164 active cases.

In order to discharge the patients, Civil Surgeon Dr. Ashok Kumar Pathak said that the people can save themselves from infection of COVID-19 virus.

The only way to avoid this virus is to wear a mask and comply with social distancing. He said that in recent times people have become quite fearless about the virus and are going out of their homes unnecessarily without masks and becoming part of any crowd who are working to invite the COVID-19 virus.

Therefore, the people of Bokaro district will be requested to wear masks themselves and motivate their children to wear them as well, added the CS.

Residents of Kirkend in Dhanbad on boil over eviction notice

PNS ■ DHANBAD

Residents of Kirkend and surrounding areas in Dhanbad are on boil over eviction notice by Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL).

The notice came through newspaper advertisement, in which a population of around 35,000 has been asked to vacate Kirkend Bazaar besides all colonies along the western side of the national highway no 32 with Jamshedpur via Chas - Bokaro.

The BCCL management claims that the areas that also include Rajput Basti are under threat of subsidence and residing here may be risking lives. Altogether 41 subsidence inci-

dents have occurred in the Gopalchak project area. Out of these 20 took place only at Rajput Basti.

The notice issues by the project officer (PO) of Gopalchak project of the company that comes under Putki - Bahihari area has sighted notice of the Director General of mines safety (DGMS) that according to the PO has too declared the area as subsidence prone zone and living in those areas may be rising lives.

Project officer GK Mahta said, "We have to make people aware of the risks thus an appeal was published."

However, the Wholesale Cloth Merchants Association

(WCMA) of Kirkend sees this notice as a conspiracy to terrorise people who are living here for generations.

Secretary of the WCMA Ghanshyam Narnoli in a press release has expressed deep concern over the notice and said that the conspiracy to uproot a large population would not be successful.

The association has decided to oppose the move of the BCCL with help of all those likely to be affected.

Ghanshyam said, "If at all BCCL is willing to get land for its coal projects, first relocate and rehabilitate all those residing here along with adequate compensation than only initiate step eviction."

A local resident SKGiri said, in last 12 to 13 years since Jharia Action Plan (JAP) started the administration has succeeded in rehabilitation of just 3000 odd families out of around a lakh who have been registered as illegal residents from Jharia locality through the residents face major threat from underground fire raising since over a hundred years.

This eviction notice to people of Kirkend and surrounding areas is an attempt to intimidate people by the company. T

he company must come out with a comprehensive compensation and rehabilitation plan first, added Giri.

Covid test for Swiggy, Zomato delivery boys, vegetable vendors

Restaurants, employers to ensure tests are done

PNS ■ RANCHI

All delivery executives working for Swiggy and Zomato in Ranchi will have to be tested for Covid-19 as a precautionary measure to prevent spread of infection among consumers, officials from Food Safety Department of Jharkhand said on Wednesday.

Not only delivery boys but also chefs, cooks and other staff working in restaurants have to be tested for the virus in a bid to adhere to the safety stan-

dards during the pandemic, said Ranchi's food safety officer, SS Kullu.

"Third party food delivery companies and restaurants that have employed delivery partners have to ensure that all delivery boys are tested," said Kullu. "There is no such mandate as of now, but food delivery companies and restaurants will soon be asked to get their employees tested for Covid-19 to maintain safety standards," he added.

Several families in New Delhi, Hyderabad and Bengaluru were quarantined during the lockdown period



A Swiggy delivery boy in Ranchi on Wednesday Pioneer photo

after food delivery boys, who if they came in contact with any

frequent the localities, were found infected. However, no such incident was reported in any of the cities in Jharkhand, officials said.

Food delivery boys have been providing their services to Ranchites throughout the lockdown period. The delivery boys had to visit different localities during this period, and it was difficult to find out

Covid-infected person, officials said.

"We are planning to conduct a survey to find out the total strength of delivery boys working for Swiggy, Zomato, local food delivery companies and restaurants," said Kullu.

While there is no data available with the food department on the number of food delivery boys in Ranchi, sources said that around 1000 such delivery boys were working in the state capital. These delivery partners were also roped in for delivering grocery, vegetables and even alcohol in cities across Jharkhand.

Meanwhile, the health department has directed deputy commissioners of all districts to conduct Covid tests of vegetable and fruit vendors as they were likely to spread the infection among a large number of people.

A directive from health secretary Nitin Madan Kulkarni on Tuesday said that vegetable vendors and roadside hawkers were often found flouting the safety norms for Covid 19. Testing them, the directive said, was important as they come in contact with a large number of people every day.

Agri Min Badal to flag off first lot of vegetables to Kolkata Airport today

MRITUANJAY KUMAR ■ RANCHI

In bid to provide an international platform to local vegetable growers of the State, the Agriculture Department under the guidelines of the Minister, Badal completed all preparation to export the first lot of vegetables of the State likely on this Friday. The Minister will flag off the first lot of vegetables to be sent to UAE via Kolkata on Thursday.

The move which brings smile on the face of farmers of the State amid the global epidemic when most of the economic activity has come to a grinding halt, the Agriculture Department with the help of e NAM and a private trading company of agricultural products,

All Season Farm Fresh is ready to send its first lot of vegetables in the international market. Secretary Marketing Board cum Nodal Officer e NAM, Abhisek Anand informed that the preparation to export vegetables to abroad is on final stage and almost all necessary works have been completed in this regard by the department.

"The vegetables have been checked by Agriculture and Process Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA). It is found like exportable material and international standard. The department



A woman farmer arranges Ladyfingers at her vegetable farm near Ranchi on Thursday Pioneer photo

has completed its preparation to send the first lot of one tone to one and half tone of vegetables to Saudi Arabia. The process of cargo booking has started and we are waiting for its nod and time. Once it will give its schedule time then we send the vegetables," he added.

Earlier, the APEDA in a bid to promote exports from agriculturally prosperous regions of the Country including Jharkhand, had sent the first trial shipment of vegetables from Jamshepur to Saudi Arabia by the sea route in last year. The Ladyfinger from a farmer from the District, Ram Khelawan Yadav's farms were sent to the Country.

"The Agriculture Department and Marketing Board has trained

farmers of Nagri Blocks to produce vegetables of international standard. Vinod Mahto owned Nagri based Farms Produce Organisation was added to it. Around 150 farmers are members of this FPO. They are producing Ladyfinger, Bitter Gourd, Pumpkin and Scheet Corn to send abroad. The test is mandatory to send all these things abroad. After the first lot the chain will form then the department will start to export it to other countries also," said Anand.

Jharkhand is one of the major producers of vegetables in the Country. The major vegetable crops grown in the state in order of area covered by them are tomato, lady finger, peas, cauliflower, brinjal, cabbage and bitter gourd.

The varied agro-climate conditions of Jharkhand are congenial for production of a variety of vegetables throughout the year. The vegetables produced in this plateau region have special comparative advantage as these are of better quality and ready for market when these are not produced in plains. Consequently, the off-season vegetables produced in this region fetch high prices.

Livelihood promotion through Kharif seed distribution

PNS ■ RANCHI

With an aim to promote agro-based livelihood and in view of the rainy season, high quality subsidised seeds have been made available at affordable prices to the women of Sakhi Mandal in rural areas of the State. Efforts are being made to strengthen the livelihood of the women by linking them with Kharif crops in this hour of disaster.

Under the Seed Exchange and Distribution Programme and Seed Production Scheme by the Department of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Corporation, rural families have been provided with improved seeds at a subsidy of 50 per cent through Sakhi Mandal.

About 2259.2 quintals of paddy seeds have been distributed through JSLPS across the State while transplanting and other work is in progress. To promote the cultivation of pulses, 930.3 quintal of arhar, 322.4 quintal urad and about 26.5 quintal moong seeds have been distributed.

In order to fight malnutrition 183.3 quintal and 132.4 quintal seeds of ragi and groundnut respectively have also been distributed through Sakhi Mandal. The women have also been provided with 516.1 quintal of maize seeds.

About 15 lakh families associated with Sakhi Mandal are being connected with agriculture based livelihoods through promotion efforts by the Rural Development Department under the Jharkhand State Livelihood Promotion Society (JSLPS). This also includes about four lakh migrants who have returned to the State so that they can immediately take up farming and move towards a stronger livelihood.

Hazaribag based Lakhan Rana who



Villagers carry seeds distributed under skill development scheme Pioneer photo

returned from Mumbai during the lockdown said that he and his wife Babita Lakshmi who is associated with Sakhi Mandal are trying their luck at farming. "The seeds of arhar, urad, moong and maize have been made available by JSLPS and with getting the seeds on subsidy, we are able to cultivate pulses also besides paddy." Lakhan further states that he does not intend to go back to Mumbai and will continue to do farming with his wife.

Khurshid, a resident of Mdhapur, Deoghar, he lost his job as a painter in Kerala. "With shortage of money, fish farming has become a source of income for me. My mother is associated with Sakhi Mandal and I have taken two lakh spawns. Now some money will be earned immediately from fish cumin while more from fish farming."

Nutrition kits have also been distributed in the State for livelihood promotion and also to fight malnutrition amongst 10,000 highly specialised primitive tribal (PVTG) families. The kits contain seeds of various vegetables that help fight malnutrition.

This initiative will help in the production of Kharif crops and with high quality seeds, farmers will also be benefitted.

ICMR Special Reference Form must for Covid test



Ranchi DC Chhavi Ranjan at an Anganwadi Centre in Namkum on Wednesday Pioneer photo

PNS ■ RANCHI

The Ranchi district administration has urged residents to submit ICMR Specimen Referral Form (SRF) for COVID-19 (SARS-CoV2) test. At the same time all labs and testing centres conducting Covid tests have been asked to accept ICMR Specimen Referral Form (SRF) mandatorily for the test.

The ICMR SRF id is personnel details of a patient consisting of his name, address, gender and other details. The SRF id also consists of a patient category such as symptomatic international traveller in the last 14 days, symptomatic contact of lab confirmed case, symptomatic Influenza Like Illness (ILI) patient in hospital/ MoHFW identified clusters and three other categories.

The SRF id also has patient medical information such as exposure history (two weeks the onset of symptoms). Clinical symptoms such as Cough, Breathlessness, Sore throat, Chest pain and others are two part of SRF id details. Pre-existing medical conditions such as Chronic lung disease, Chronic renal disease, Heart disease, Chronic liver disease information too are filled in SRF form.

Ranchi deputy commissioner Chhavi

Ranjan acting strictly on SRF id said, "If any test centres or labs refuse to give SRF form then the person should inform the district administration." The DC at the same time has asked all labs and test centres to fill SRF forms.

Meanwhile, in other development the DC Ranjan on Wednesday visited model Aaganwadi kendras at Namkum block. The DC on his visit to Aaganwadi Kendras also interacted with sevikas, Sahiya and other community workers. The DC on the occasion visited Horhap, Purnadih, Sariatola Aaganwadi Kendras.

The DC during his visit also assess NHRM guidelines on Village Health Nutrition Day and in this connection asked CDPO to have coordination. 40 Aaganwadi Kendras as per IOCL CRR fund are being developed as model Aaganwadi Kendras. The Ranchi district administration and IOCL in this connection have signed MoU.

Importance is being given to children

Online darshan at Pahari Baba

The Ranchi district administration arranged online darshan of Lord Shiva at Pahari Mandir has become a huge success during the corona period. During Shravan month and other days online arrangements have been made for worship and accessible darshan of Pahari Baba, in which lakhs of devotees sitting at home through Jhargov TV and YouTube have viewed Baba live darshan. Also, a total of Rs 77064 from Rudrabhishek by 70 devotees, Rs 6262 by special pujas from 62 devotees and Rs 15240 as donations has been received by Pahari Mandir management authority.

On Janmashtami, Agri Minister launches ready to eat 'Kheer Mix'

PNS ■ RANCHI

On the auspicious occasion of Janmashtami, Jharkhand Milk Federation (JMF)'s ready to eat product Medha Kheer Mix was launched by Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and Cooperative Minister Badal, on Wednesday.

The Kheer Mix will be available at all milk booths and other shops of Medha Dairy in a pack of 120 grams and its consumer price has been fixed at Rs 30 per pack.

Appreciating Medha Dairy for launching the product Badal said that he is hoping that Medha Dairy would keep bringing new products to the market in future, so that the people of the State will continue to get nutritious products associated with dairy milk producers and they will also get livelihood.

The Agriculture Minister said that the credit of white revolution in the country goes to former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri; he is trying to fulfill Shastri's dreams. He said that Jharkhand was formerly known only for its mineral wealth, but now Jharkhand is becoming self-sufficient in milk production and efforts are being made to fulfill the dream of development of the farmers and youth of the village by Chief Minister Hemant Soren.

On this occasion, Managing Director of Jharkhand Dairy Federation, Sudhir Kumar Singh thanked the Minister and said that Medha thanked the producers associated with the dairy organization, whose tireless efforts have brought



Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and Cooperative Minister Badal alongwith Ranchi Metropolitan President Sanjay Pandey and others launched the Sanjeevani Herbal Vatika and 'Medha Kheer Mix' at the Medha Dairy office Hotwar, in Ranchi on Wednesday Vinay Murnu | Pioneer

this new product to market.

"Medha Kheer Mix is a ready-to-eat product, which is very easy to make. After putting the entire contents of the packet in 400 mL of hot water, it has to mix well with a spoon for 1-2 minutes and can be served hot or cold as you wish. It can also be cooked with consumer milk and can also be served by adding dry fruits to it at your convenience. During the Corona period people of all classes are very alert, in this time nutritious food has become necessary from all perspectives. Working in this direction, the RND team of JMF has done a thorough test to prepare this product from a mixture of milk powder, semolina and sugar. It is a complete diet full of protein and its consumption will benefit the physical and mental development of children, while it is also very useful

for the youth and the elderly," said Singh.

On the occasion Medha Sanjivani Herbal Garden was also inaugurated in Hotwar premises by Badal. A total of 34 types of medicinal plants have been planted in this herbal garden such as: Tulsi, Giloy, Ashwagandha, Brahmi, Drumstick, Satavar, Khas, Lemon grass and others.

"The State of Jharkhand is a full of natural wealth and the above types of plants are available here in plenty. As it is known, during the Corona period, people of all classes are engaged in increasing their immunity, on this initiative, this herbal garden is moving on the message that we Indians should not forget our traditional heritage and plant medicinal plants in our home to get benefits," said Badal.

INBRIEF

JPCC TO ORGANIZE SEMINAR



A meeting of senior officials of Jharkhand Pradesh Congress Committee (JPCC) was held in chairmanship of JPCC Chief, Rameshwar Oraon on Wednesday at the Party Headquarters in the State Capital to discuss the plan to organize and celebrate forthcoming occasions like Independence Day on August, 15 and Rajiv Gandhi's birth anniversary on August, 20. During the meeting of the party officials it was decided to organize a seminar on former Prime Minister Late Rajiv Gandhi's philosophy of modern India on August 20. At the same time, on August 15, 74th anniversary of Independence Day it was decided to hoist the national flag at the party headquarter and it has been ensured to honour the personnel and corona warriors working in the health services.

DANAPUR DIVISION OFFICER AWARDED

Rajbhasha Officer of Dnapur Railway Division Rajmani Mishra of East Central Railway has been awarded the third prize of the prestigious "Premchand Award Scheme" by the Railway Board. The award has been given for the book 'Chand Khol Par Thap' written by him. Chief Rajbhasha Adhikari cum Chief Signal and Telecom Engineer Rajesh Kumar and other high officials of East Central Railway have congratulated him on this achievement. This award is given by the Railway Board to selected participants for story, drama, novel, drama and other prose literature in Hindi.

VIRTUAL JANMASHTAMI AT SBPS

Janmashtami, the birth anniversary of Lord Krishna was celebrated nationwide with great devotion and reverence. On this occasion, Sarala Birla Public School, Ranchi organized a host of virtual activities for its students. The students participated wholeheartedly and displayed their beautiful creations. School Head Personnel and Admin Pradip Varma lauded the performance of the students. School Principal, Paramjit Kaur said, "Janmashtami is one of the most celebrated festivals all over the world as lord Krishna's glory is unsurpassable and his story is a source of joy and inspiration for people from all walks of life. Hence, the coming generation should know to live according to our true Dharma and remain steadfast in it."



SANITATION WEEK BY RRD



A special Sanitation Week campaign is being run from 10 August 2020 to 16 August 2020, under which today on 12 August 2020, Railway Colony, Railway Colony Campus, Ground Area, Retiring Room, Waiting Hall, Rest House and Dormitories are specially Cleaned. Under the Cleanliness Week campaign, trains and tracks will be specially cleaned on tomorrow, August 13, 2020.

POULTRY INDUSTRY LOOKS FOR A TURNAROUND

The poultry industry of the country has been an animated topic of discourse during the pandemic which has had a cataclysmic effect on the sector, undergoing incredible losses during the entire lockdown phase. In a recently conducted virtual conclave, experts from diverse backgrounds which included Guest of Honour, Amit Saraogi, managing director, Anmol Feeds and Suresh Rayudu Chitturi, vice chairman and managing director, Srinivasa Farms Pvt. Ltd. Addressing the audience of the conclave, the Guest of Honour, Amit Saraogi stated: "The poultry industry had run into losses of over INR 26,000 crores in just three months, owing to misinformation about COVID 19 spreading from the consumption of chicken and a nationwide supply chain and logistics logjam. In addition, the prices of raw materials, primarily soyameal, had gone up by nearly 10-15 per cent. More than 70 million small farmers were in a deep debt trap owing to severe liquidity crunch and their livelihood was at stake."

'WE THE BITIANS' PROGRAMME HELD

"We the BITians" an inhouse event was organised by the News and Publication Society of Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra on the 10th and 11th of August. The two-day event was approved by the Dean of Student's Welfare, Dr. Anand Kumar Sinha and Associate Dean of Student's Welfare, Dr. Ashok Sharan. It was conducted under the guidance of Dr. Vijay Nath, Faculty Advisor, News and Publication Society. The event, divided into four slots on two days was conducted on Instagram Live and each day was subdivided into two slots. The panelists in the four different slots were students of the K17 batch of BIT who had bagged internships in various prestigious companies.

UPES CANCELS ENTRANCE EXAMS

UPES, India's leading multi-disciplinary & specialization focused University, today announced that UPESEAT 2020 (Engineering Aptitude Test) and UPESPAT 2020 (Pharmacy Aptitude Test) stands cancelled.

The decision has been taken in light of the pandemic situation and keeping in mind the safety of students and parents. The University also issued revised admission guidelines, according to which admissions for B.Tech. & B.Pharm programs for AY2020 will be done based on 10+2 central/state board results. Commenting on the development, Dr Sunil Rai, Vice-Chancellor, UPES, stated, "Well-being of the students and their parents is of prime concern for us. Therefore, we have decided to cancel UPESEAT and UPESPAT this year. However, we will continue with our admission process and have made appropriate changes to our policies to ensure streamlined enrolments based on merit."

KIA UNVEILS THE SONET

Kia Motors Corporation, one of the world's largest automakers, revealed the Kia Sonet to the world today in a digital presentation. Manufactured at Kia's state-of-the-art production facility at Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh, the Sonet is Kia's all-new smart urban compact SUV, and the brand's latest made-in-India global product after the Seltos. The new Sonet marks Kia Motors' entry into the burgeoning compact SUV segment, and sets new benchmarks with its first-in-class features. The world premiere of the production-ready model follows the global unveiling of the Sonet concept at the Delhi Auto Expo in February 2020. Sales of the new car will commence soon in India, with sales in many of Kia's global markets due to follow.

Folk artists struggle for livelihood in Covid times

DIVYA MODI ■ RANCHI

Owning to the outbreak of Covid-19, folk artists across Jharkhand claim that the pandemic has wreaked havoc on their livelihood and work resuming in the entertainment industry seems like a farfetched dream.

As grand celebrations for weddings and festivals have all been called off this year, the artists also say that the majority of them have no work and are forced to sit idle at home. They also say that since not

everyone has the resources and is tech savvy, they are unable to use social media to reach their audience.

"Most of the artists here don't have work at the moment. Folk artists get a lot of opportunities to perform during weddings and local festivals here while many also travel to other cities or shows. One show generally involves a team of about 15- 20 people right from singers, musicians, technicians, dancers and anchor. Some have started a YouTube channel during this period but



not everyone is able to do so. The government has been doing work for people from various backgrounds but no schemes have been launched for the folk artists of Jharkhand and aid should be provided to



them as well," said City based Nagpuri singer Pawan Roy. "The state of the local artists of Jharkhand is certainly not very good, especially the smaller ones. Various organizations have come forward to help but the question is till

when will they also continue to do so. It is a tough time especially for those who have a family to support and not everyone else is also able to create a bank balance that can last for a few months. Fortunately I have a studio at home but not everyone has the same opportunities. And for artists it is a very difficult time to present their art to the audience. The government should at least take some steps so that the folk artists of this land do not die of hunger but unfortunately not much is being done in this regard,"

said Monika Mundu, Ranchi based folk singer and actress. "The pandemic has severely affected the entertainment industry of Jharkhand. A lot of artists have also run out of their savings in the last four months and if the same continues for the next one or two years, things can go from bad to worse. For those who have another source of income, they still have something to fall back on but not everyone," said actor and singer Raman Gupta who has also been a part of few Bollywood movies.

2 desi LCH deployed 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 now 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.

"It is the lightest attack helicopter in the world designed and developed by the HAL to meet the specific and unique requirements of Indian Armed 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 operation in Ladakh along with HAL test pilot, Wing Commander Subash P John (Retired) by taking-off from high altitude location to a forward 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 deployment prowess to forward locations in extreme temperatures,



the HAL said.

The IAF and Army together need around 160 LCHs and the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has approved an initial batch of 15 LCHs. 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.

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 at its Bengaluru 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 altitudes 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 fighter jets now undertaking practice sorties in Himachal Pradesh's mountainous terrain. The state shares LAC with 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.

Covid-19 infection cases in paramilitary forces touch 17K mark

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Two of the biggest paramilitary 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 (NDRF), both of which are deploymentist 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 is 64 and 7,204 patients in the five forces continue to be active. The five paramilitary forces have 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 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 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. Out of the 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 585 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 by investigating officers. "A thorough Investigation plays a pivotal role in delivering justice. I congratulate all the recipients of 'Medal for Excellence in Investigation-2020'. This is recognition of the outstanding service and commitment of our police personnel. India is proud of them!" tweeted Home 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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

Solicitor 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 of disinfecting human beings.

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



PNS ■ 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 mumkin 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 hit the lowest point since 1947". "Modi hai toh mumkin hai," he 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 including the standoff with China, economic distress, and COVID-19 handling.

Flagging fears that the country's GDP growth may even touch its lowest since 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. 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 accusing the Narendra Modi government of failing to meet its promises.

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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 country, while active cases comprise 27.64 pc of the total caseload, the Union Health Ministry said.

The case fatality rate has 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 management of the critical patients based on holistic standard 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 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 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.

India's 'test, track, treat' 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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The national expert group on 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 procurement of the shots whenever they are readied.

The suggestion came to ensure the central control on the distribution of the vaccine and the States do not start purchasing the vaccine at their whims and fancies as had happened in the case of the purchase of rapid antigen testing kits, some of which were later found to be faulty.

"Some States had purchased the RT-PCR and rapid antigen kits which created lots 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

Biotech and the DNA vaccine by Zydsus 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 Sub-Committee of the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI).

Besides this, it also discussed the financial resources required for procurement of the Covid-19 vaccine and various options of financing the same. Available options in terms of delivery platforms, cold chain and associated infrastructure for roll out of Covid-19 vaccination 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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Days after Union Environment Minister Prakash Javedekar said that the draft Environment Impact Assessment notification is yet to be finalised, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh accused the Government of "misrepresenting" the implications of the Draft EIA Notification 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.

"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 illegal 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 an opportunity to regularize their illegal activities," he alleged.

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 Environment Protection Act, 1986.

"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 fundamental to the environment and the health of the nation. It is a matter of public interest. The government should not take any decision on it without consulting the public and the experts. The notification is fundamental to the environment and the health of the nation. It is a matter of public interest. The government should not take any decision on it without consulting the public and the experts.

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

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Poverty, 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-threatening blood disorder condition in which the bone marrow 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.

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

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 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 (BMT), a life saving treatment.

"However, while the family was not able to visit our hospital in Noida due to the covid-lockdown, no blood products



were available at the hospital near to the patient's locality. In 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 visit the Noida hospital for further follow-up due to travel restrictions. Two weeks later, Suresh died due to hemorrhage at his native place, lamented the doctor.

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 afflicted 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 APLASTIC 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 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 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 lockdown 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.

Women legal heirs

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



Giving 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 daughter 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 drawback 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 supported 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 asymmetry 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 financially 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 personal 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?



Kamala 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 her 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 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.

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

One can easily recall umpteen instances of MLAs changing their ideological and political loyalties for reasons best known to them. Leaders who defect justify it as “the wish of the people.” When the floor-crossing happened for the first time in Haryana, when an MLA switched party thrice in a day, the term, *Aaya Ram Gaya Ram* (party-switching) gained prominence in the political discourse — right from the chaupals to the Central Hall of Parliament — but was brushed aside as an “aberration.” Slowly but steadily, the practice gained ground. Who can forget Bhajan Lal, the former Chief Minister of Haryana, who migrated to the then newly-elected ruling party at the Centre, lock, stock and barrel and retained his position?

The practice was subsequently polished and upgraded by leaders of all hues. One could go on counting the number of luxury hotels that have been used by parties to house their MLAs on numerous occasions. What happened in Rajasthan says it all. The MLAs, who enjoyed a comfortable stay in hotels at different locations in Haryana, Rajasthan and Gujarat, were convinced that if they went to their home State and their constituencies, they would not be able to resist the temptation of lucrative offers that would be waiting outside to change hands.

What normally should be considered as a humiliating slur by any dignified individual is now taking shape as an “unwritten” but “acceptable” code across the board and has become a parliamentary practice in Indian democracy. Every major political party has tried this on several occasions. One wonders how these MLAs would react if Mahatma Gandhi walked into their room and asked them, “*kaise hain aap?* (How are you?)” The Rajasthan episode is almost over and nobody condemned the happenings, not even those who have risen on several occasions to express their concern regarding the attack on constitutional values. I find their silence amazing.

What’s even more surprising is that those, who usually come up with joint statements expressing concerns about what they consider “Constitutional impropriety, an attack on secular values and ethical lapses”, never come up to denigrate this unethical and immoral practice that makes fun of democracy and lowers the esteem of the elected representatives themselves. It is a shameless strategy that should not find a place in a vibrant, functional 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 unconstitutional, 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 amity 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?

In 1922, Gandhiji 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.

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

Bahadur Shastri, Rajendra Prasad and other stalwarts 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: “If, 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 speeches 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 be in a position to tell their children 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. Gandhiji 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 the slightest expectation of personal gains.”

Our distinguished legislators can ponder over Gandhian thoughts: “There is a beauty and 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 philosophy, ideas and dreams. They are doing all this knowing it fully well that it would hurt the Mahatma’s memory.

When reports emerge of legislators’ assets multiplying by a factor of say 500, the common man’s reaction is obvious — it would definitely be devoid of respect, confidence or a connect. 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.”

And for the Ministers, the guidelines were: “The Ministers are [the people’s] 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 swear to be the inheritors of his legacy? If not, how could they ignore Gandhiji’s words and deeds? “This office-holding is a step towards either greater prestige 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 suspicion in everything. They 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 prepared for the job. She’s spent her career defending our Constitution and fighting for folks who need a fair stake.

Former US President
—Barack Obama



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

Actor
—Sandhya Mridul



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

American consultant
—Katrina Pierson



Every cricketer goes through a rough patch. I am sure this break would have helped us both unwind and chalk out a plan. It’s a matter of time before we click.

Indian cricketer
—Mithali Raj



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Clear old accounts

Sir — There are huge amounts in unclaimed deposits at post-offices and many of these account holders may have 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 legal heirs after careful verification.

Madhu Agrawal
New Delhi

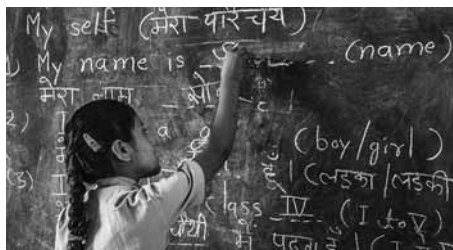
Long road ahead

Sir — This refers to the editorial, “*Atmanirbhar raksha*” (August 11). With a view to boost defence manufacturing in India, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh 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 resurrect a particular culture in India. The civilisation that flourished between 3300 BCE and 1300 BCE in South Asia, popularly called the Harappan or the Indus Valley civilisation, is an important era in our recorded history. And 600-700 years after the Harappan civilisation waned, a new culture evolved with the arrival of the Eurasian Steppes pastoralist groups. A new language and lifestyle emerged. The Vedic 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 Brahminical Vedic culture, which was rooted in caste system and rituals, and not from the ancient Indus Valley civilisation. There are, therefore, reasons to doubt the loud advocacy of culture, heritage and traditions in the NEP.

The NEP professes, “the three-language formula will continue to be implemented while keeping in mind the Constitutional provisions, aspirations of the people, regions and the Union and the need to promote multi-lingualism as well as promote national unity.” The catch here is, “the three languages learned by children will be the choices of States, regions and, of course, the students themselves



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 family. This prescription puts South India at a great disadvantage. English has been the link language for this region for over a century, though Tamil, Telugu, 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

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

lakh crore under the Make in India scheme are stuck in the pipeline. Projects are often not completed on time. Recently, India became a global exporter of arms but we ranked 23rd in

the list of major arms exporters for 2015-2019 and 19th for 2019.

Another grey area is the quality of products. The ammunition supplied by the Ordnance 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-2000s have caused many fatalities. While defence manufacturing under *Atmanirbhar Bharat* looks ambitious to make India self-reliant in defence manufacturing, there’s a long way to go. The Government must overcome existing challenges.

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 occur.

Aman
Via email

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

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 BINDU 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 forever, 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 companies struggle to find balance in these critical times, lay-offs have become common, instilling fear and insecurity among the remaining employees who, in addition to their own work, are being piled up with the duties of their erstwhile colleagues. These conditions are stressful and a drain on the psyche of the employee as s/he fights 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 increasingly termed as "non-Coronavirus casualties." 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-spurred unemployment, financial distress and isolation. The work from home (WFH) 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.

The Bengaluru-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 therapists, 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 therapists 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 lifestyle and loss of personal income. In a recent study of 673 workers in China, their mental health showed disturbing signs with a significant proportion recording conditions of post-traumatic stress disorder, moderate or severe anxiety, depression, stress and insomnia. Other psychiatric symptoms that are prevalent are worries about physical health, anger, discrimination during the outbreak, paranoid ideations, hallucinations, suicidal thoughts, alcohol usage and intent to hurt others. In the COVID-19 scenario, the corporate sector is already learning the ropes quickly and is trying to maintain employee health. But hemorrhaging profits and lay-offs tell a different story. There needs to be a turnaround in the manner 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 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 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 workload. 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 permanent? Although we may not like the answer, the "new normal" is likely to stay. 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, Amity University, Noida)

OUR 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
ASHOK GEHLOT

POINT COUNTERPOINT



I AM PAINED BY THE KIND OF WORDS THAT WERE USED. BUT I HAVE NOT MADE ANY DEMANDS. I AM AN MLA AND I WILL DO WHATEVER THE PARTY ASKS ME TO DO.

—CONGRESS LEADER
SACHIN PILOT

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



ARIJIT DAS

The Delhi Government recently announced its electric vehicle (EV) policy aimed at faster adoption of cleaner 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 Delhi's EV policy, purchase incentives will be given worth ₹30,000 for e-autos, e-rickshaws, goods carriers and up to ₹30,000 and ₹1.5 lakh for e-two-wheelers and e-cars respectively, depending on their battery capacity. This will be in addition to the existing incentives provided by the Centre.

The good thing about Delhi's EV policy is its detailing but it falls apart when it comes to fund allocation. FAME-II offers an incentive of ₹1.5 lakh to electric four-wheelers with an ex-factory price cap of ₹15 lakh and it also has a provision for an incentive of ₹50,000 for three-wheelers, including e-rickshaws and ₹20,000 for e-two-wheelers. E-buses can claim subsidy up to ₹50 lakh at a rate of ₹20,000 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) vehicle, 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 while manufacturing a 100 KWH battery releases 17.5 metric tonnes of CO₂. A petrol/diesel car emits an average of 5.2 metric tonnes of CO₂ in a year whereas the average usage emission from EV is 2.02 metric tonnes per year. EVs are non-polluting (at the level of the vehicle), and by design, if and only if, renewables are used as the power source. This is an unlikely phenomenon in the near future as a wide spectrum of allied infrastructure needs to be built around EVs to ensure renewable use for charging.

More than 90 per cent incentives (especially for two-wheelers and three-wheelers) are availed by lead-acid type batteries and they are environmentally hazardous. These batteries were already in high demand and competitive against the fossil fuel at least for slow vehicles. Even e-rickshaws were a hit much before the FAME scheme was announced. Over-incentivising lead acid batteries can significantly harm the environment.

Coming back to the economics of EVs, FAME correctly identified that the cost of batteries is a major price differential but failed to investigate intricate details behind such a difference. It is a common mistake often made while evaluating eco-friendly solutions. EVs should not be compared with ICEVs or regular car engines in totality. EVs are a combination of an engine and life-time fuel whereas ICEVs are valued only for the engine. Anyone buying an EV is essentially pre-owning fuel for a lifetime. Both EV and ICEV engines are comparable and cost the same. Providing an incentive to EVs is against fair competition norms and gives an undue advantage to the EV producer, which ultimately is going to hurt the technological advancement of the automobile industry as a whole.

Plus, about 40-50 per cent of the cost of manufacturing an EV accounts for reliable fuel storage i.e. the Li-ion batteries. These are the best storage options available but highly unsustainable. The raw material required for manufacturing is limited and concentrated in a very few countries. Not only that,

“FOR A TYPICAL MIDDLE CLASS AND UPPER MIDDLE CLASS FAMILY, A CAR IS AN ASPIRATION AND AN INVESTMENT WITH REASONABLE RESALE VALUE. AT PRESENT EVS HAVE NO RESALE VALUE. HENCE, IT IS UNJUSTIFIED TO EXPECT A CUSTOMER TO INVEST HARD-EARNED MONEY IN AN UNTESTED, RISKY TECHNOLOGY IN THE NAME OF POLLUTION CONTROL WHILE THERE IS NO DEFINITE PROOF THAT IT IS A CLEANER ENERGY OPTION”



a significant tendency is observed to capture such reserves through mergers and acquisitions. The raw material comprises approximately 60 per cent of the total cost of manufacturing Li-ion batteries. 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 certain 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 to \$95,000 per tonne between 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-ion 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 roads. This would require vast swathes of public land to serve a handful of wealthy owners and violates the basic principles of public good. Plus, parking is a major issue in Delhi, so allowing public charging is only going to legitimise capture of sidewalks. Also, charging an EV in the blazing summer sun in Delhi is neither advisable nor safe.

The China factor: Li-ion batteries account for almost 50 per cent of the cost of an EV. While China has a thriving lithium chemical, battery cathode, battery cell and EV supply chain, India has none. China dominates the battery supply chain and around three-quarters of the global battery cell manufacturing capacity is in our neighbouring country. On top of that,

Chinese companies have unparalleled control over battery raw materials and processing facilities. At present, almost all Li-ion 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 lakh EV (with Li-ion 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 crore for 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 State Government clean vehicle schemes are an excellent platform to promote indigenous production of EVs. They should stick to the principles of *Atmanirbhar* (self-reliant) *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 have 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 car, 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 EVs have no resale value, hence, it is unjustified to expect a customer to invest hard-earned money in an untested, risky technology in the name of pollution control while there is no definite proof that it is a cleaner energy option.

Competing alternatives: The FAME policy is biased towards EVs, which might be discriminatory against other environment-friendly mobility options like hydrogen fuel cell buses. We already have experience in running CNG buses and we can run hydrogen cell variants, too. These buses can be manufactured in India without any fuel constraint as hydrogen is the most abundant element in the universe and multiple renewable sources can easily be used to generate it. Apart from being zero-emission, it does not have to face logistical challenges like EVs. In a nutshell, FAME is pumping ₹10,000 crore of the taxpayers' money into an industry which is strategically counterproductive and not even environment-friendly. This policy should immediately be replaced with a guideline which uses a broader definition of e-mobility, encourages innovations in sustainable storage that rely on the *Atmanirbhar Bharat* ethos.

The worst is the increasing tendency to use public money for the elite. If pollution is a concern, then why not give induction cookers to the poor or ban diesel generators? Automobiles do not require State backing, consumers will automatically adapt to EVs if they fit in with their requirements.

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

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 even growing, dipping to a rate of three per cent.

This brought China from the

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, Thailand, China, Indonesia and many more.

They ignored India due to the Licence Raj, stiff labour laws, unclear policy on land acquisition, poor power supply, lack of skilled manpower, a closed foreign trade policy and many more such hurdles. We were one of the lowest-ranked nations on the Ease of Doing Business index.

Upon the evaluation of all South Asian countries, it was found that China was best suited for moving manufacturing business from the

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 business. But we need to check all the right boxes like Beijing did.

It might take time, maybe five-six years minimum to savour the fruits of an *atmanirbhar* (self-reliant) *Bharat* instead of the very next quarter like many people are hoping. If we want to act on self-reliance, we need to focus on all segments of manufacturing, starting from big manufacturing companies to the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), which can feed the former.

However, unless we invest in Research and Development (R&D), unless we create products that are better and more economical than products made around the world and in

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.

According to the Government, the five pillars of the *Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan* 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 one has ever worked seriously towards developing it. As a result of this, many infrastructure projects have been delayed by as much as 20-

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 *Atmanirbhar Bharat*, then fiscal self-discipline is mandatory and it must start from Government departments. Plus, we need to fix responsibility for time and cost overruns in order to get work done on time. India still lacks good infrastructure and *Atmanirbhar Bharat* will not be possible if we don't connect all the dots.

Consistent Government policies on trade and taxation are key to creating 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 national 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 country 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 start firing 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. 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 \$5 trillion economy from a \$2.8 trillion one in about five 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, JNU)

FOREIGN EYE



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. 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 Kongers will respond then, too, by demonstrating solidarity creatively. (The NYT editorial)

Surprised that Biden picked ‘disrespectful’ Kamala: Trump

Washington: US President Donald Trump said he is surprised that his Democratic Party challenger for the presidential elections Joe Biden has named Indian-origin Senator Kamala Harris as his running mate despite knowing how “nasty” and “disrespectful” 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 very, very poorly in the primaries as you know. She was expected to do well. She ended up at right around two per cent,” Trump told reporters at a White House news conference.

“She had a lot of things happening 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, offering his first reaction to Biden’s pick of Harris.

Harris had launched her presidential campaign in January 2019. Her 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 nasty 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 got a lot of difficult things that she’s going to have to explain. Plus she was very, very nasty — one of the reasons it surprised me — she was probably nastier than even Pocahontas (Senator Elizabeth Warren) to Joe Biden. She was very disrespectful to Joe Biden,” Trump said, referring to the Democratic Party debates. **PTI**

Harris says her mom’s advice drives her every single day

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 Indian-origin 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.

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

“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. **PTI**

Biden ‘nailed this decision’: Obama

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 Joe 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

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. **PTI**

‘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 Indian-origin 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 pro-democracy movement in Hong 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.

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 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 influence 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 unre-

dictable - does not win re-election” and has been “expanding its influence efforts” ahead of the vote.

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 beautiful,” 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 presidential election, officials said Wednesday.

Rallies took place in 25 Belarusian cities on Tuesday and overnight, Interior Ministry spokeswoman Olga Chemodanova told The Associated Press. Thousands have demonstrated in the capital of Minsk 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-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**

Outcry 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 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 conflict, Pramila Patten, said in

a statement Tuesday.

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 union” 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.

But last year the speaker of the House of the People sent the bill back “in a process that may have deviated from established law” asking for “substantive amendments,” the UN special representative said. **AP**

New Zealand scrambles to find source of new infections

Wellington: Health authorities in New Zealand were scrambling on Wednesday to trace the source of a new outbreak of the coronavirus as the nation’s largest city went back into lockdown.

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 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. **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 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 PML-N leaders and workers who were booked by Lahore police on Wednesday for hooliganism and attacking law enforcement officers.

बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम लि०, पटना

(बिहार सरकार का उपक्रम)

E-RFP INVITING NOTICE NO. - 04(Cons.) / 2020-21

- 1- OFFICER INVITING BIDS : CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER , Bihar State Building Construction Corporation Ltd. Patna.
- 2- 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
- 3- TIME, DATE AND PLACE OF PRE-BID MEETING
(Virtual Online) : DATE **27.08.2020** , TIME 03.00 PM
PLACE: Bihar State Building Construction Corporation Ltd., Patna
- 4- LAST DATE AND TIME FOR
SUBMISSION OF BID. : DATE **16.09.2020** up to 3.00 PM
- 5- PLACE OF SALES/RECEIPT OF Bid Documents : Only on website www.eproc.bihar.gov.in
- 6- TIME AND DATE OF OPENING
TECHNICAL BIDS : DATE **17.09.2020** Time: 15.00 Hour / (03.00 PM).
- 7- TIME AND DATE OF OPENING
FINANCIAL BIDS : After disposal of Technical bid by Competent Authority
- 8- LAST DATE OF BID VALIDITY : 120 days from Last date of Bid submission
- 9- Following work:-

Sl. No.	Dist	Name of the work	Consultant Fee for Preparation of DPR	Cost of Bid document (In Rs.)	Bid Processing Fee	Time of completion of work	Name Of PIU
1	2	3	4	6	7	8	9
1	Patna, Buxar, Kaimur, Gaya, Darbhanga, Bhagarpur, Munger	RFP - Selection of Consultant for Preparation of DPR for THEME PARK, UPGRADATION OF MUSEUM AND ITS INFRASTRUCTURE IN DIFFERENT SEVEN (7) LOCATIONS IN BIHAR 1) Theme park depicting the life of the Jana-Nayak Karpoori Tahkur, environment and ecology of rural Bihar in the campus of the Smriti Sangrahalaya 2) Heritage Theme park in Taradih, Bodhgaya 3) Theme based Landscaping & beautification of Museum of Maharaja Lakshmeshwar Singh Museum, Darbhanga 4) Theme based Landscaping & beautification of Museum of Sita Ram Upadhyay Museum, Buxar 5) Theme based Landscaping & beautification of Bhagalpur Museum and its Up gradation of Museum Design, Museum Infrastructure depicting customs, tradition and local art and culture of rural Bihar 6) Museum Design, itsInfrastructure and development of Art Gallery representing customs, tradition, local art and culture of Munger Museum, Munger 7) Construction of a Theme park, Based on the concept of Shailasraya Theme at Kaimur District (H.Q.) * In financial bid rate quoted by consultant is lamp sum basis for each work (Including of GST)	As per offer	₹5,000.00	₹1180.00	04 (Four) Months	Patna,

- 10- Registration certificate from Council of Architecture of Principal / Partner / Director and also of other Architects in the firm.
- 11- Evaluation of technical details of the firm to base on eligibility criteria.
- 12- 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 opened in presence of the bidder/their representative.
- 13- Details regarding e-RFP can be procured from Help-Desk, 1st floor, Plot no. M/22, road no. 25. Sri Krishna Nagar, Bank of India Compound, Patna 800001. Ph. no. 9939035696, 06122523006. E-tendering invitation notice can be seen from state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar also.
- 14- Interested bidders should have to get registered with **E-Procurement**, details of which are available on the website. Bidders need to procure DSC (Digital Signature certificate). Bidders can participate in the E-tendering process with user id, password, DSC and internet connection.
- 15- The bidders need to upload the technical documents pertaining 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.bsbccl.bih.nic.in.
- 16- The RFP documents fee (Non-refundable) should be in form of bank draft drawn on any nationalized bank in favour of **DGM BSBCCL, Patna (PIU)** payable at **Patna**, and submitted in original in the office of **DGM BSBCCL, Patna (PIU), G.M.(SOUTH) BSBCCL, Patna , C.G.M. BSBCCL, Patna** before the date and time of opening of Technical bid..
- 17- The RFP shall pay the Bid processing Fee including GST through Internet Payment Gateway (Credit / Debit Cards) or Internet Banking or NEFT / RTGS Challan to be credited to Bid processing Fee Account of BSEDC prior to the last date & time of down loading the tender document. It is mandatory failing which the tender shall not be considered.
- 18- RFP is available on the website www.eproc.bihar.gov.in in the view format. The RFP Document Fee in Demand Draft (**original is mandatory**) to be 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 opening of Technical bid.
- 19- **BSBCCL** reserves the right to cancel all the tenders without any information.
- 20- For any additional information bidder may contact to Sr. Architect, BSBCCL, Patna AND Tender related issues may contact to dgm (gaya), Mobile no-9264493032

Chief General Manager

Bihar State Building Construction

Corporation Ltd. Patna

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

नौबल कोरोना के संघर्ष में विस्तृत जानकारी एवं सहयोग हेतु  Toll Free No.: **104** पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं।

खाद्य सामग्री- संबंधी किसी तरह की जानकारी अवगत चुनाव हेतु दूरभाष संख्या 0612-2217636 पर संपर्क किया जा सकता है।

Iranian hard-liners in parliament reject president’s nominee

Tehran: Iranian hard-liners in parliament 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 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 Ghalibaf said the vote 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**

ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said at a daily briefing.

“We don’t know how he has the confidence and courage to shamelessly criticise China’s anti-epidemic achievements.” Speaking Tuesday in Taiwan, Azar said that China’s ruling Communist Party “had the chance to warn the world and work with the world on battling the virus.” “But they chose not to, and the costs of that choice mount higher every day,” he said.

The Trump administration has repeatedly accused China of

Iran’s president, FM lash out at new US push on arms embargo

Tehran: Iran’s president and foreign minister lashed out on Wednesday at a revised proposal by the US that would extend a UN arms embargo on Iran indefinitely, the latest in the Trump administration’s maximum pressure policy against Iran.

The US on Tuesday circulated the revised draft at the UN, seeking to gain more support in the 15-member Security Council where veto-wielding Russia and China have voiced strong opposition.

The revised draft, which eliminated some provisions from the earlier version that diplomats said went beyond the extension of the arms embargo, may be put to a vote as early as Friday. Still, with Russia and China sharply critical of the US effort to indefinitely extend the arms embargo, the two will

likely use their veto powers even if the draft got the minimum nine “yes” votes in the council, which appears unlikely. 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**

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 **canceled** on those days : **(1) 02024/02023 Patna-Howrah- Patna Special** (JCO 20/08, 21/08, 27/08, 28/08 & 31.08.2020). **(2) 02302 New Delhi-Howrah AC Special** (JCO 19/08, 20/08, 26/08, 27/08 & 30.08.2020). **(3) 02301 Howrah-New Delhi AC Special** (JCO 20/08, 21/08, 27/08, 28/08 & 31.08.2020). **(4) 02308 Jodhpur-Howrah Special** (JCO 18/08, 19/08, 25/08, 26/08 & 29.08.2020). **(5) 02307 Howrah-Jodhpur Special** (JCO 20/08, 21/08, 27/08, 28/08 & 31.08.2020). **(6) 02377/02378 Sealdah-New Alipurduar-Sealdah Special** (JCO 19/08, 20/08, 21/08, 26/08, 27/08, 28/08, 30/08 & 31.08.2020). **(7) 02303 Howrah-New Delhi Special** (JCO 29.08.2020). **(8) 02304 New Delhi-Howrah Special** (JCO 30.08.2020). **(9) 02381 Howrah-New Delhi Special** (JCO 20/08 & 27.08.2020). **(10) 02382 New Delhi-Howrah Special** (JCO 21/08 & 28.08.2020). **(11) 02201 Sealdah-Bhubaneswar Special** (JCO 21/08, 28/08, & 31.08.2020). **(12) 02202 Bhubaneswar-Sealdah Special** (JCO 22/08, 29/08 & 01.09.2020). **(13) 02357 Kolkata-Amritsar Special** (JCO 18/08 & 25.08.2020). **(14) 02358 Amritsar-Kolkata Special** (JCO 20/08 & 27.08.2020). Passengers are requested to plan their journey accordingly. Inconvenience is regretted.

Chief Passenger Transportation Manager

EASTERN RAILWAY

<div>  PIONEER AGRO EXTRACTS LIMITED Regd Office- Chhoti Nehar Malakpur Pathankot-145025 (Punjab) www.pioneeragro.co.in CIN : L15319PB1993PLC012975 Telephone No. : 0186-2345352/53/55. E-mail : complianceofficer@pioneeragro.co.in Extract of unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter ended June 30, 2020 </div>				
		(Rs. in lakhs)		
Particulars		Year Ended 31.03.2020	30.06.2020	Quarter Ended 30.06.2019 31.03.2020
1	Total income from operations	67.97	8.34	8.65 43.23
2	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
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after exceptional items)	31.93	(0.67)	(0.96) 30.21
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	31.93	(0.67)	(0.96) 30.21
6	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 previous year	50.00	50.00	50.00 50.00
8	Earning per share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)			
- Basic		0.74	0.00	0.00 0.70
- Diluted		0.74	0.00	0.00 0.70
Notes: The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly / Yearly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and other Disclosure Requirements) Regulation, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Financial Results are available on the website of the Stock Exchange www.bseindia.com and on the Company’s website www.pioneeragro.co.in				
On behalf of the Board of Directors, (Jagat Mohan Aggarwal) Managing Director Din : 00750120				
Place : Pathankot Dated : August 12, 2020				

LOAN RECAST NBFCs’ refinancing needs likely to increase: Report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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 permission to lenders to go for one-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 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 substantial portion of loan book of NBFCs was under moratorium. Housing loans had the least portion of the book under moratorium, while wholesale lenders had the maximum portion of their loans under moratorium, the report said. Collection efficiency, reflecting the repayment

behaviour of customers, has improved since April 2020 with easing of lockdown restrictions.

However, regional lockdowns did impact collections during July 2020. Collection levels across asset classes/segments were far below pre-COVID levels.

Businesses still did not generate cash flows sufficient enough to make their timely debt repayment, the agency said. “We believe a high proportion of loans to certain segments such as real estate developers, commercial vehicle owners and micro small medium 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.

Sensex snaps 4-day rally as bulls take a breather

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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 Nifty 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, HCL Tech, SBI, Tech Mahindra, Maruti, M&M and UltraTech Cement were among the gainers, climbing as much as 4.86 per cent.

According to traders, market sentiment was weak following lacklustre macroeco-

nomc 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 23-lakh mark.

“The encouraging response to the fundraising by the lending firms has boosted the investors’ sentiment towards the banking stocks... Helping the benchmark to sustain at the higher levels while other sectors are taking a 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 durables, metal, realty, telecom and FMCG indices fell up to 1.46 per cent, while auto, utilities, power, IT and teck closed higher.

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.

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

Global oil benchmark Brent crude was trading 1.48 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 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 has approved and declared a five-for-one split of Tesla’s common stock in the form of a stock dividend to make 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 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

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

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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

coronavirus pandemic.

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 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’s strength against a basket 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

PM to launch ‘transparent taxation’ platform

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday will unveil 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 not give details of the reforms to be unveiled, the launch of the platform is expected to further carry forward the journey of direct 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, scraping of dividend distribution tax and faceless assessment.

“The focus of the tax reforms has been on reduction in tax rates and on simplification of direct tax laws. Several initiatives have been taken by the CBDT for bringing in efficiency and transparency in the functioning of the I-T Department,” it said.

The Budget for 2020-21 fiscal unveiled 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 administration and reduce harassment, as well as increase efficiency of the department, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharman had said her Budget speech.

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

Bharat Forge posts ₹127.3 crore loss in April-June

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Bharat Forge on Wednesday reported a consolidated loss of 127.3 crore for the quarter 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 ₹1,199.2 crore from ₹2,372.7 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 business operations due to lockdown and other emergency measures, Bharat Forge 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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

The company had posted a net profit of ₹ 243 crore during the same period a 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 EPC businesses mainly on account of lower financing cost and stable performance across all clusters.

“All our business clusters have reported robust performance despite the challenges

Vodafone India Foundation launches portal on digital literacy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is publically notified that I am the owner of Plot No. 356, Block-A, Sector-46, Noida. That the original registered General Power of Attorney of the above said plot vide Reference No. 20013 dated 23-11-2011 and challan No. 115401 dated-06-10-2010 which has been put into a White Cloth Bag has been lost somewhere and not traceable till date inspite of my best efforts. I have lodged an eFIR vide eFIR No. 057505/2020 dated 10-08-2020. If any one will recover the same he/she may contact at my above noted address.

Bhushan Lal Bajaj
A-356, Sector-46, Noida
Ph. No. 9910037349

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/ 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, 0341-2525594 or SMM/CON/HQ, 0341-2535631. **Sl. No.;** **Tender No.;** **Brief Description of Item;** **Quantity.;** **Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees);** **Tender Closing Date & Time (IST):** **[1]; 83200052A; SET OF ROLLER BEARING EACH SET CONSISTING OF 01 NO. OF ROLLER BEARING NU 224E/C4, 01 NO OF ROLLER BEARING NJ219E/ 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 11:00 am. OFFICE ADDRESS : D y . C M M - H Q / C L W / Chittaranjan, 9163340711 or SMM/HQ, 9163340704.** **Principal Chief Materials Manager AD76 - 066 CLW/Chittaranjan**
Like us on : www.facebook.com/chtrrailways

Reliance Foundation partners with W-GDP, USAID to bridge 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.

Ivanka 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 U.S. Govt and the private sector so that activities have enduring, deep effects on the communities they reach.”

Global cues, profit bookings closed equity market lower

IANs ■ MUMBAI

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 ended higher.

Index-wise, the NSE Nifty50 closed at 11,308.40, down by 14.10 points, or 0.12 per cent, from its 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 38,321.13 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 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 closed out a volatile day, flat, with a negative bias. Global cues added to the uncertainty with doubts emerging about the expected US stimulus measures 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 cautious, considering the valuations of some of the stocks.”

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 beginning 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 sanitization of work place, social distancing were taken to safeguard staff against spread of Covid-19.

On this occasion, General Manager Shri Y.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 financial year 2020-21, DLW has manufactured 28 electric locomotives till June, 2020. The production of 31 locomotives, in July alone, is a milestone 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 been lodged at P.S. Patparganj Ind. Area, Delhi.** His physical description is as under:

Height: 5'10" Feet, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Round, **Physique/Build:** Thin, **Clothing:** Pant, Shirt and Chappal in feet.

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

Gambhir

S.H.O
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.

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 trace 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: http://cbi.nic.in**
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639

VICKY

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

DP/301/NW/2020

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						
(Only through e-tendering system on Website (www.eproc.bihar.gov.in)						
NIT No.-BRPNNL/KNG/C00 / 799						
Bihar Rajya Pul Nirman Nigam Ltd (BRPNNL), A Government of Bihar undertaking, invites Proposals in two Bid System (Technical and Financial) from eligible Firms/Contractors/Agencies or Companies registered in appropriate category with RCD, Govt. of Bihar/BRPNNL/MES/CPWD/Railways or Central Government/ any State Government or any PSU for the following work on EPC Mode. Those not registered with BRPNNL will have to get registered with BRPNNL after issue of LOA and before executing the agreement.						
Sl.No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of Bid Document (Rs.) (Non Refundable)	Earnest Money (Rs. In Lacs)	Bid Processing 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 Entrance Gate and Guard Room- One Unit (3) Toilet Block with all facilities - One Unit (4) One no. of High mast lighting, 6 unit of street lighting pole and 12 lights (5) Road development (PCC Main Road and foot path from main gate) (6) Drainage and Cross Drainage (7) Covered Chabutra- One Unit (8) Staff Quarter- One Unit (9) Tube Well- One Unit (10) Hand pump- One Unit (11) Notice Board- One Unit (12) Silapat- One Unit work etc. of Krishi Bazar Samiti, Thakurganj, Phase- 1 (As per AA)	465.52	10,000.00	9.31	17,700.00	6 Months
2. Document Download Start Date		Date 17-08-2020 to 22-08-2020 till 3.00 pm from www.eproc.bihar.gov.in				
3. Pre-bid Meeting		19-08-2020 at 3.00 pm (HQ, BRPNNL, Patna)				
4. Last Date & Time for submission of bid (Bid closing date)		Date 23-08-2020 till 3.00 pm can be submitted on www.eproc.bihar.gov.in				
5. Technical Bid Opening Date & Time		Date 25-08-2020 at 3.30 pm on www.eproc.bihar.gov.in				
6. Financial Bid Opening Date and Time		To be intimated later				
7. Contact person:- Sri Munindra Thakur, P.E., Ext. Project Division No.-02, Kishanganj, Mob No.- 9006371769 For further details please visit website www.cproc.bihar.gov.in or state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar For clarification and further enquiry, if any, regarding e-tendering process and registration, the bidder may contact e-procurement Helpdesk, 1 st Floor, M/22, Bank of India Building, Road No. 25, S.K. Nagar, Patna- 800001 (Tel 0612-2523006, 7542028164) Note: Bidders are requested to keep themselves updated with the website www.brpn.bih.nic.in on regular basis for any Amendment / Clarification / Notification in respect of this NIT. For further details please visit website state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar						
Sr. Project Engineer Bihar Rajya Pul Nirman Nigam Ltd External Project Division No.-02, Kishanganj						
PR. No. 004698 (Ni.Ni.) 2020-21						
नौकर कोरना के संबंध में विस्तृत जानकारी एवं सहायता हेतु Toll Free No.: 104 पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं। स्वात सामग्री- संबंधी किसी तरह की जानकारी अथवा सुचना हेतु दूरभाष संख्या 0612-2217636 पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।						


Trend Blazer


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 pictures.

Sara turned a 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 pictures 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.’

—Amitabh Bachchan

Actor-comedian **VIR DAS** all set to debut an unscripted home-grown 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 special. 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.”

Priyanka 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, transformational, 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 compete on a major US party’s presidential ticket. #representationmatters. Ps. To my younger self: look how far we have come!” she wrote.



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 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 isn’t 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 Pooja or “*Hello friends, chai peelo!*” or even trends like #IHaveAJoke and #MyQuarantineInSixWords! 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 just one thing that grabs their attention or it could be the entire video as well,” says Abhyudaya, who never thought that 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 certainly came as a clutter breaker and social disruptor. For Gautami, Binod became an “emotion” for people in lockdown, a byword for an alternate universe, or a flighty fun exercise to de-stress themselves. Says she, “If one is sad, s/he is using Binod. One is typing Binod to wish someone good morning! There’s absolutely no head or toe to this. This has really been a clutter breaker as brands and celebrities too accepted ‘Binod’ to communicate. Personally, we really liked Airtel India’s tweet,



AGENT BINOD

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



“Receive every call with ‘Haan #Binod 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.”

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 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 communicating through Binod rightfully, meaning that it’s in the ‘Janta’s hands’ (in hands of the citizens). We are just 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 YOUNG

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



For 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.

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 expressing themselves in unique ways 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 realising one’s true emotions 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 yourself and the universe and that strain is the best mantra to get over the pandemic blues,” adds he.

Ashley, who has choreographed for Bollywood films such as *Dhoom*, *Jab We Met*, *Cocktail*, and many others, feels it is 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 imbroglia which has stopped dancers worldwide from running riot on the dance floor and forced to channelise their energy online is seeing quite 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 Boys

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 Supes’ 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 Ashmore.

Speaking on roping in Shawn, showrunner and executive producer, Eric Kripke said, “We were thrilled 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 Lamplighter enters again and dredges up painful memories, 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 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

Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee, founder of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh (predecessor of the present day Bharatiya Janata Party), sacrificed his life spearheading a nationwide Satyagrah (non-violent agitation) demanding complete integration of the state of Jammu & Kashmir into the Indian Union. Dr Mookerjee had defied the entry-permit order of the government on the J&K border on May 10, 1953 and courted arrest chanting: *Ek desh mein do vidhan, do pradhan aur do nishan nahin challe* (There can't be two constitutions, two prime ministers and two flags in one nation).

He was taken to Srinagar jail, where he died under mysterious circumstances on June 23, 1953. Little would have Dr Mookerjee then realised that his mission would be 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.

The historic presidential order nullifying all the provisions of autonomy granted to the state was followed

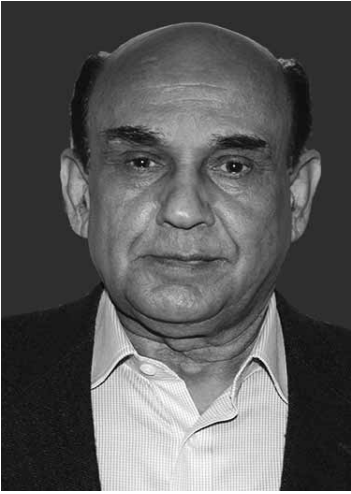
by another landmark and strategically significant State Reorganisation Act, 2019, dividing the state into two Union Territories — Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

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.

PM's 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 territories (Jammu & 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 integrated approach to build a state-of-the-art infrastructure and unleashed fast-track social welfare and employment generation schemes, especially among the Small, Medium & Micro Enterprises (MSME), including cottage, 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 transformation in the landscape of this beautiful region will be on canvas once all the ongoing projects, especially several 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 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 highway, 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.

Last but not the least, the abrogation of Article 370 and bifurcation of the 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 e-mutation (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 novel Coronavirus, this initiative will also help in applying and monitoring DDA's online public services without visiting offices. This service would be inaugurated and opened to public today by Anurag Jain, Vice Chairman, DDA. It will reduce the time of processing and bring in transparency. It will be easy to apply, process and monitor the property conversion and extension of time application online from anytime and anywhere.

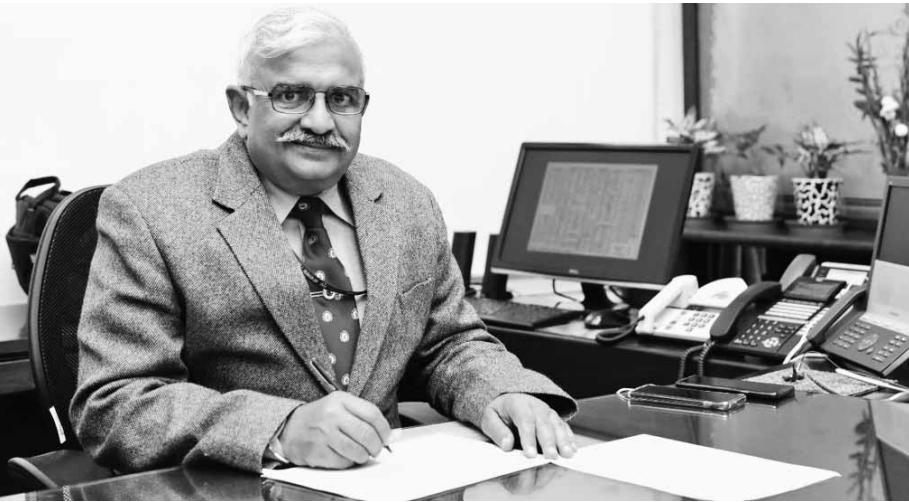
No offline application for conversion and EOT (extension of time) of plotted properties

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 applicant's detail, relation with allottee, property detail, uploading the scanned copy of requisite documents and making online 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 alerts will be sent to applicant.

IDLI System is also working on e-restoration (restoration of cancelled lease of plotted properties) and e-appointment (online public appointment).



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 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 rainy season, the fast growth in vegetation, infringing the tracks and overhead electric wires is another major issue. The divisions have taken permission 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 'Raftaar'. Sections have been defined in all zones where infrastructure

is to be upgraded to facilitate running of trains upto 160 kmph. GM emphasised on the need of periodic overhauling of the rolling stock i.e. locomotives, coaches and wagons to increase their working abilities. Doubling and electrification of high density routes are to be taken up, for this Detailed Project Reports (DPR) should be prepared and submitted on priority.

Taking note of the working of the Business Development Units of the five divisions, GM lauded their efforts. He stated that freight transportation, both inter and intra state, should be targeted upon.

As a part of the observance of the 'Atma Nirbhar Week', three facilities of Ordnance Factory Board were dedicated 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 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 production capacity but would also be more efficient as it seeks to do away with most of the manual operations. The assembly line has automated 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 M2 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, 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 October 9 for its customers to revive their individual lapsed LIC policies.

In view of the prevailing circumstances, no concessions are being

offered in medical requirements and the same are limited to late fee only; under plans other than term assurance and other high risk plans.

Under this campaign, policies of specific eligible plans can be revived within five years from date of the first unpaid premium subject to certain terms and conditions. Policies which are in lapsed condition during the premium paying

term and not completed policy term as on the date of revival are eligible to be revived in this campaign.

The campaign is launched to benefit those policy holders who were not able to pay premiums due to unavoidable circumstances and their policy lapsed. It always makes better sense to revive an old policy to restore insurance cover.

LOVE FOR WRITING

deal with IRS Officer, Neha Chakravarty.

A science graduate, Chakravarty has an insatiable passion for writing and considers it as a medium 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 *Reflections*.

In the words of Nitish Raj, Co-Founder, Litteria Insight, "We are delighted to sign Chakravarty who

brings a huge amount of talent and unparalleled creativity in her writings. She is surely going to be one of the doyens of the literary fraternity in future and we are more than happy to pitch her masterpieces with Big Foot Publications."

Max Bupa introduces ReAssure insurance plan

Max Bupa — one of the standalone health insurers, 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 ₹10 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 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 percent increase in sum insured in just two 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.

Commenting on the launch of ReAssure Health Insurance Plan, Krishnan Ramchandran, 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

health insurance and 57 percent have a strong preference for comprehensive health insurance plans for protection against any unforeseen 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 perceive 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 there is no financial burden on them once they opt for this policy."

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

HARYANA CM INAUGURATES PLASMA BANK

Manohar Lal Khattar, Chief Minister of Haryana & Santosh Kumar Gangwar, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Labour & Employment, Govt of India inaugurated plasma bank at ESIC 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 about the efforts 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 working to provide social security to its insured persons. In the last 67 years of journey, that day, the services of ESIC have expanded to about 566 districts out of 722 and about 12 crore beneficiaries are receiving 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), Bhiha, Patna (Bihar), Gulbarga (Karnataka) and Korba (Chhattisgarh). Besides, Covid-19 testing facility has been made available at ESIC hospital, Faridabad (Haryana), Basaidarapur (New Delhi) and Sanathnagar (Hyderabad). Plasma therapy is also being provided at ESIC Hospitals, Faridabad and Sanathnagar for the treatment of serious COVID patients. Gangwar commended the efforts being made by ESIC, an organisation under his Ministry, to combat COVID-19.

IN SHORT



Kolkata Metro has been observing cleanliness week from August 10 to 16. Special focus has been given to cleanliness of track, station offices, platform and adjoining areas, toilets, railway colonies, drains, water vending points, work sites and hospital. Emphasis is being given to the collection and disposal of plastic wastes in these areas.

As per the directive of the Railway Board, under Swachh Rail Swachh Bharat, special cleanliness drive is being organised in the Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW). It will be carried out in all the offices and workshop premises. It will also be carried out in the Dankuni Unit of CLW.



GAIL (India) Limited has been included in the international FTSE4Good Index Series for the fourth time in a row, affirming the company's commitment towards Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) practices in the oil and gas sector. The index series measures the performance of companies demonstrating strong ESG practices. The



FTSE4Good indexes are used by a wide variety of market participants to create and assess responsible investment funds and other products. GAIL Chairman & Managing Director Manoj Jain said, "I 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 responsibly and focusing on our stakeholders."



Government-owned Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC), a NBFC, signed a MoA with District Administration, Siddharthnagar, Uttar Pradesh for construction of two modular operation theatre rooms in the district hospital. Under the MoA, PFC will provide financial assistance of close to ₹94 lakh to the District Administration under its CSR initiative. M Prabhakar Das, CGM (CSR&SD), PFC and Dr Dinesh Kumar Chaudhary, Dy CMO, Siddharthnagar signed the agreement on behalf of respective organisations. The pact is intended to provide support to the Siddharthnagar District Administration to develop the necessary infrastructure to reduce Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR).



Indian captain Sunil Chhetri with his Bangladeshi counterpart PTI

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 postponed to 2021 owing to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Asian Football Confederation postponed all men's 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

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

A third-place finish in the group will help India get a direct 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-team final qualifying stage for the World Cup.

LATE WINNER

Ocampos' 88th minute header break Wolves hearts; Shakhtar thump Basel to reach semis

AFP ■ DUISBURG

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.

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'



Sevilla players celebrate after Lucas Ocampos scores Spanish club's first goal against Wolves Europa League/Twitter

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 unbeaten 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 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 luck as he batted the Mexican's tame shot aside.

There were claims that Bounou had left his line while Sevilla players seemed to enter the area before the

penalty was taken, but in any case, that was to be Wolves' last shot on target of the match as chances became hard to come by.

In Gelsenkirchen, Shakhtar booked their spot in the last four with a commanding win over Basel that will give Inter Milan something to think about ahead of their semi-final clash on Monday.

"I'm feeling amazing because we have worked hard and we trust we can reach the final," said goalscorer Junior Moraes.



Serena sets Venus clash in Top Seed Open

AFP ■ LEXINGTON

Serena Williams had to fight for a winning return from her six-month coronavirus lay-off on Tuesday, defeating lowly ranked Bernarda Pera in three sets at the WTA Top Seed Open tournament in Kentucky.

Serena, who before Tuesday had not played a competitive game since a Fed Cup appearance in February, came from behind to defeat American world number 60 Pera 4-6, 6-4, 6-1 in two hours and 15 minutes at the Top Seed Tennis Club in Lexington.

Venus Williams started her campaign with a straight sets wins over Victoria Azarenka in 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 star Coco Gauff had to work hard for her straight-set win over qualifier Caroline Dolehide, winning 7-5, 7-5 while Canadian qualifier Leylah Fernandez knocked out seventh seed

Sloane Stephens in their opener.

This week's tournament — the first WTA event in the US since the Covid-19 pandemic — is taking place without spectators.

Williams, 38, later revealed that the sedate surroundings had suited her game.

"It was a really calm atmosphere, it was really chill," Williams said. "I can't say I disliked it. I didn't mind it at all. I've 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 nostalgic about that. I kind of enjoyed it."

The 23-time Grand Slam singles champion looked to be flirting with an early exit in the second set, but recovered from 0-40 down at 4-4 before holding 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."

National hockey camps to resume on Aug19

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 quarantine 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 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 Bengaluru, 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 for the camp.

The light intensity national camp is expected to continue till September 30.

Men's 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.

The six Covid positive players will be integrated into the

All 6 players shifted to hospital

BENGALURU: Five Covid-19 positive 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.

"...The Sports Authority of India decided to shift the other five players, to SS Sparsh Multi-speciality hospital in Bengaluru on Tuesday afternoon, as a precautionary measure," the SAI said.

"The decision to hospitalise them was taken so as to ensure that the players were attended to at all times and could be given the best possible treatment. All six athletes are in good health and recovering well."

PTI

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.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Chennai Super Kings CEO 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 IPLs.

The 39-year-old Dhoni is set for a return to competitive cricket in the upcoming IPL, to be 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 —

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

"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.

SL, UAE back up for 2021 WT20

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 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 postponed 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

World Cup, should the Covid-19 pandemic make India an untenable host."

The ICC confirmed last 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 pandemic."

"India is currently the third-worst-hit 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."

"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

Ollie replaces Ben Stokes for 2nd Test

PTI ■ SOUTHAMPTON

Fast bowler Ollie Robinson replaced 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 during 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.

RR fielding coach tests virus +ve

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Rajasthan Royals' fielding coach 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 departure 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 quarantine.

Unacademy to fight for IPL title sponsorship rights

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Education technology company *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 Chinese mobile phone company Vivo this season.

A BCCI official confirmed 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."

SINGLES

3 INDIANS IN LPGA EVENT FOR FIRST TIME

NORTH BERWICK: In a first for Indian women's golf, three leading players — Aditi Ashok, Diksha Dagar 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 plays with Scottish star Carly Booth and South African Lee-Ann Pace at 9.58 am. Tvesa has been drawn with Yealimi Noh and Emily Pedersen, and they tee off at 12.22 pm.

BARCA PLAYER TESTS CORONA POSITIVE

BARCELONA: A Barcelona player has tested positive for the novel coronavirus after reporting back for pre-season training, the La Liga side said in a statement on Wednesday. Barca said the player was isolating in his 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 DAYDAY

LIVERPOOL: Liverpool will receive a record 175 million pounds payout for winning the Premier 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 football club from Delhi to play in the I-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 Visakhapatnam side Sreenidhi FC's entry into the I-League from 2021-2022 season.

SPURS SIGN SOUTHAMPTON'S HOJBJERG

LONDON: Tottenham Hotspur have signed Denmark midfielder Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg from Southampton on a five-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 Spurs have paid Southampton an initial fee of around 15 million pounds to sign the 25-year-old Hojbjerg who had a year left on his contract.

Agencies

फाइलेरिया से बचाव हेतु

एम.डी.ए. सप्ताह दिनांक 10-20 अगस्त 2020 के दौरान दवा जलूर खावें

फाइलेरिया रोधी दवा की एकल खुराक 10-20 अगस्त 2020 के दौरान पहले तीन दिनों तक रांची, गोड्डा, गिरीडीह, खूंटी, गुमला, हजारीबाग, गड़वा, चतरा, पूर्वी सिंचभूम, पश्चिमी सिंचभूम, देवघर, दुमका एवं सिमडेगा जिलों में सभी आंगनवाड़ी केंद्रों, वार्ड कार्यालय, स्वास्थ्य उपकेंद्रों, प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य केंद्रों और सामुदायिक स्वास्थ्य केंद्रों पर मुफ्त खिलायी जायेगी।

छूटे हुये लोगों को छेप दिनों में घर-घर जाकर दवा खिलायी जायेगी।

फाइलेरिया से मुक्ति के लिए 2 वर्ष से कम उम्र के बच्चों, गर्भवती महिलाओं एवं गम्भीर रूप से बीमार व्यक्तियों को छोड़कर सभी को उम्र के अनुसार डी. ई. सी. तथा अल्बेंडाजोल की निर्धारित खुराक खिलाई जाएगी।

1-2 वर्ष के बच्चों को कृमि मुक्ति हेतु दवा खिलाई जाएगी।

आपका सहयोग प्रयास हमारा, फाइलेरिया मुक्त हो झारखण्ड हमारा

स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग, झारखण्ड सरकार