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MUDDLING THROUGH

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WPI INFLATION FALLS FOR 3rd CONSECUTIVE MONTH

AVENUES 10
TAKE THE UNCONVENTIONAL ROUTE

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MESSI CAN PLAY TILL 2025, SAYS GARCIA
12 SPORT

Gehlot gains upper hand, but situation shaky

Sachin Pilot sacked as Dy CM and removed as State Cong chief, 2 Ministers who joined him in his revolt against CM also dropped

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress Government in Rajasthan is on the brink just three months after the party lost Madhya Pradesh in a similar rebellion. Rebel leader Sachin Pilot was sacked as Deputy Chief Minister and removed as State party chief after he skipped a second meeting of MLAs despite the leadership reaching out to him several times. Two Ministers who have joined him in his revolt were also dropped.

Congress said Pilot was "ensnared" by the BJP to bring down the Ashok Gehlot Government. The BJP has demanded Gehlot to face floor test and senior BJP leader Om Mathur reached Jaipur to conduct a meeting of party leaders on Wednesday at 11 am in Jaipur. Former Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje Scindia will be present.

While sources indicated that Pilot may announce to launch a new political party on Wednesday, Om Mathur said he is welcome in the BJP making it first public invitation to Sachin Pilot amid the ongoing crisis in the Rajasthan Government.

The BJP leader also said that if Ashok Gehlot is claiming that he has the support of MLAs, he should go through the floor test and prove majority in the Rajasthan Assembly.



Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot makes a victory sign before the media after calling on the Governor in Jaipur on Tuesday. PTI

"Our doors are open for Sachin Pilot. Anyone who wishes to join the party and embrace its ideology, they are welcome. The BJP has become such a large party because people from different walks of life have joined us and believed in our ideology," Mathur said.

On being asked about Sachin Pilot's wishes to become the Rajasthan Chief Minister himself, Mathur said the Chief Minister is chosen by the party legislature.

He also said that the dispute between Sachin Pilot and Ashok Gehlot is an internal

matter of the Congress and went on to add that the party has not done right with a leader like Sachin Pilot.

The remarks by the top leader of Rajasthan BJP comes even as Congress decides to take disciplinary action against Sachin Pilot and his camp of MLAs who skipped the second Congress Legislature Party (CLP) meeting on Tuesday despite repeated calls by top leaders of the party.

Sources said Sachin Pilot has the support of 16 Congress MLAs and three independent legislators while Ashok Gehlot

has the support of 102 MLAs.

Gehlot, whose tally has slipped into the breakeven point held a Cabinet meeting late in the evening which saw the Congress left with 100 MLAs, the half-way mark in the 200-member Assembly, after three MLAs left his camp this morning.

Before Sachin Pilot's rebellion, the Congress had 107 MLAs besides the support of 13 independents and five members from smaller parties. That number has now come down to 90 Congress MLAs, seven independent members and three to

five from smaller parties.

Sachin Pilot has at least 20 MLAs on his side — 17 Congress and three independent legislators. The BJP, which has 73 MLAs, needs the support of another 35 to take power in Rajasthan.

One Congress ally, Bhartiya Tribal Party (BTP), which has two MLAs in the Rajasthan Assembly, has withdrawn support to the Congress. One of its MLAs, Rajkumar Roat, posted a video alleging that the police had stopped him from leaving Jaipur and had taken his car keys thus he felt humiliation.

AICC sources said now Gehlot is banking on Sachin Pilot and other rebels being disqualified, which will bring down the half-way mark and fortify his numbers if he has to face a test of strength.

The Congress during the last two days made several attempts to reach out to Pilot but a decision to sack him from party posts was taken after a meeting between Congress chief Sonia Gandhi and party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi with no signs of any overture by former party chief Rahul Gandhi.

Rahul did not make any attempts to even stop Jyotiraditya Scindia from leaving the Congress who was instrumental in toppling the Congress Government in

Pilot camp claims support of 20 MLAs, in touch with BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Determined to topple the Ashok Gehlot Government on a day when majority of Congress MLAs backed the incumbent Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, the camp led rebel Congress leader Sachin Pilot has claimed to have support of 20 MLAs and is in touch with the BJP. Pilot will address a press conference on Wednesday.

A 10-second video has surfaced showing 16 MLAs sitting together in a circle. Pilot was not seen in the video tweeted by Rajasthan Tourism Minister Vishvendra Singh with the caption "Family".

Sources close to the rebel leader say at least 20 MLAs are with him — 17 Congress and three independent legislators. Two of the Congress MLAs backing him are sacked Rajasthan Ministers. The BJP,



Sachin Pilot speaking at a press conference.

likely to share his future course of action on Wednesday when he will for the first time address the media after remaining incommunicado except for taking to Twitter to express his feelings on Tuesday by an one liner "truth can be disturbed but not defeated."

Pilot also tweeted, "heartfelt thanks and gratitude to all those who have come out in my support today."

In his first reaction to his sacking, he said in a tweet, "Truth can be rattled but not defeated."

Pilot dropped his designations from his Twitter bio soon after he was sacked as Deputy Chief Minister of Rajasthan and Congress president in the State.

SANJAY JHA SUSPENDED FROM CONG PARTY FOR 'ANTI-PARTY ACTIVITIES'

New Delhi: Congress leader and former spokesperson Sanjay Jha has been suspended for "anti-party activities and breach of discipline", Maharashtra Congress chief Balasaheb Thorat declared in a statement on Tuesday.

The entrepreneur-turned-politician's suspension from the Congress comes weeks after he wrote a newspaper article critical of the country's oldest political party. Soon after the article, he was suspended as party spokesperson.

Congress has no place for capable leaders: Scindia

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

On the treatment meted out to his old party colleague Sachin Pilot by the Congress party, BJP Rajya Sabha Member Jyotiraditya Scindia here on Tuesday stated he had already said that Congress party has no place for capability.

"This is happening in all the States," said the BJP leader referring to Sachin Pilot being removed as Deputy Chief Minister and PCC chief in Rajasthan. He however fended off further queries on the matter saying he has said what he has to, to the media and on twitter.

He was talking to the media persons at the residence of senior BJP leader Uma Bharti here on Tuesday.

A couple of days ago, when reports of Sachin Pilot having a troubled time in his own party in Rajasthan were pouring in from the neighbouring State, Scindia had tweeted, "Sad to see my erstwhile colleague, Sachin Pilot too, being



BJP leader Jyotiraditya Scindia interacts with media persons after meeting senior leader and former Union Minister Uma Bharti at her residence in Bhopal on Tuesday. Pioneer photo

side-lined and persecuted by Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot. Shows that talent and capability find little credence in the Indian National Congress."

Later speaking to the media, Scindia slammed his former party colleagues — Kamal Nath and Digvijay Singh.

The public is disenchanted from Congress party after the party engaged in trade and corruption in 15-months of Governance, he claimed. "Last time when I came to Bhopal I had said I was silent for 90 days as the entire world was battling corona pandemic.

Continued on Page 3

Online classes: HRD Min caps screen time for students

NEW DELHI

The HRD Ministry on Tuesday announced guidelines for online classes by schools and recommended a cap on duration and the number of sessions in a day.

The guidelines have been framed by the Ministry, following concerns raised by parents about schools conducting online classes like regular schools, which has increased children's screen time after the Covid-19 pandemic mandated a shift from classroom teaching to online learning.

In the guideline called "Pragyata", the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has recommended that the duration for online classes for pre-primary students should not be for more than 30 minutes. For classes 1 to 8, the HRD Ministry has recommended two online sessions of up to 45 minutes each while for classes 9 to 12, four sessions of 30-45 minutes duration have been recommended.

Detailed report on P4

Iran drops India from Chabahar rail project over funding delay

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a major loss of face for New Delhi, Iran has decided to move ahead with the construction of a railway line from Chabahar port to Zahedan without any assistance from India due to a delay in funding.

India has been dropped from the strategic infrastructure project along the Iran-Afghanistan border four years after the project was finalised as part of a broader trilateral agreement.

The move comes as a major economic intelligence failure after the agencies here failed in generating inputs on biological intelligence (Tablighi Jamaat congregations in Malaysia defying Covid guidelines) besides political intelligence (lack of inputs on the introduction of six bills by European Parliament against CAA) and diplomatic intelligence (negligence (introduction of a bill amending the map



and including Indian territories and subsequent passage by Nepalese Parliament).

The now aborted deal between India and Iran was inked in May 2016.

The development comes against the backdrop of China finalising a 25-year strategic partnership deal with Iran worth \$400 billion. The aggressive Chinese deal with Iran is also important as tension between New Delhi and Beijing is at an all-time high due to border stand-off between the two countries in Eastern

Ladakh.

India has invested \$ 500 million in the Chabahar project in Iran, which will connect the country with Afghanistan and Central Asia, bypassing Pakistan. The first phase of the strategic project was inaugurated in December 2017.

Reports said the entire railway project would be completed by March 2022 and that Iranian railways will go ahead without India's assistance. Iran will now use about \$ 400 million from the Iranian National Development Fund.

CAPSULE

DELETE FB ACCOUNT OR QUIT ARMY: HC TO LT COL
New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Tuesday declined to grant any interim relief to a Lieutenant Colonel, who has challenged the Indian Army's recent policy banning armed forces personnel from using social networking platforms like Facebook and Instagram, saying he has to either abide by the mandate of the Army or put in his papers.

OPEN BOOK UG EXAMS FROM AUG 10: DU TO HC
New Delhi: Delhi University will hold final year undergraduate online Open Book Examinations (OBE) from August 10-31, the Delhi High Court was informed on Tuesday. The students left out of online exams will be given an opportunity to appear in physical examinations, to be held sometime in September.

VIKAS DUBEY ENCOUNTER: SC MAY CONSIDER PANEL
New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday said it may consider appointing a committee headed by a former judge to enquire into the encounters of gangster Vikas Dubey and his associates as well as the killing of eight policemen in Uttar Pradesh.

Bihar BJP infected by coronavirus, 24 test +ve at party HQ

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The virtual rallies unleashed by the BJP in Bihar since June under the shadow of the coronavirus pandemic has affected party's Bihar unit with 24 of its leaders, including an organisational secretary, a general secretary and a vice-president, testing positive.

An estimated 75 BJP leaders and staff at the party headquarters have reportedly been found to be infected with the coronavirus. Reports suggest that the leaders could have assembled at one place from where they caught the dreaded infection.

Most of them were actively involved in organising the party's virtual rallies, including that of Union Home Minister Amit Shah. The mass infection of BJP leaders could give the

party a rethink on the timing of holding the State election, scheduled in October-November this year.

Samples of more than 100 leaders and staff working at BJP HQ in Patna were collected on Monday.

However, Bihar BJP president Sanjay Jaiswal said, "Only 24 samples are positive. These reports are of preliminary rapid tests and we are still awaiting the results of the comprehensive QT-RPR. None of those who have tested positive are having any symptoms. Yet, by way of abundant caution, they have all quarantined themselves at home"

"Samples of 110 people were collected. These included not just party functionaries but all staff members hired for running errands," he said.

Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL CASES: 9,36,368
DEATHS: 24,314
RECOVERED: 5,93,013
ACTIVE: 3,18,652



STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	2,67,665	10,695	1,49,007
Tamil Nadu	1,47,324	2,099	97,310
Delhi	1,15,346	3,446	93,236
Karnataka	44,077	846	17,391
Gujarat	43,723	2,070	30,555
Uttar Pradesh	39,724	983	24,981
Telangana	37,745	375	24,840
Andhra Pradesh	33,019	408	17,467
West Bengal	32,838	980	19,931
Rajasthan	25,571	524	19,169
Haryana	22,628	312	17,090
Madhya Pradesh	19,005	673	13,575
Bihar	18,853	143	13,019
Assam	17,808	51	12,174
Odisha	14,280	96	9,864
Jammu & Kashmir	11,173	195	6,223

Complete lockdown in Bihar from July 16 till month end

Patna: There will be a total lockdown in Bihar from July 16-31 to contain the spread of Covid-19, Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi on Tuesday announced. On his official Twitter handle, Modi said the 15-day lockdown will remain in force at all municipal, district, sub divisional and block headquarters level and that guidelines were being prepared. The move comes close on the heels of recent spike in positive cases which had necessitated lockdowns.

J&K BJP CHIEF COVID +VE; MADHAV, JITENDRA IN SELF-QUARANTINE

New Delhi: Union Minister Jitendra Singh and BJP general secretary Ram Madhav have gone into self-quarantine after party's J&K unit president Ravinder Raina, who had accompanied them to the residence of a slain party leader, tested positive for coronavirus on Tuesday. "Have gone into self-quarantine with immediate effect, after receiving the news about corona positive test of J&K BJP President Ravinder Raina who had accompanied us from Srinagar to Bandipora on 12th July," Singh tweeted.

UP, Bihar, Bengal, HP among 7 States flouting daily test norm

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

At least seven States, including populous one like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, and West Bengal, are not conducting daily coronavirus tests as per the WHO parameters (140 people per day, per ten million), considered necessary to mitigate the spread of the deadly virus. The other violators are Jharkhand, Odisha and Himachal Pradesh.

Incidentally and alarmingly too, these are the States which have reported less number of cases compared to Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Delhi and Maharashtra, which leads both the testing numbers and are Covid-19 cases.

"As per the WHO, if you're testing 140 people per day, per 10 lakh, that would be indicative of comprehensive testing," informed Union Health Ministry OSD Rajesh Bhusan at a presser here.



"We advise the States/UTs to increase testing to meet the WHO criteria," he said pointing out that increased testing means early identification and hence early treatment.

Bhusan further said the number of labs has increased. At the start of the pandemic, the country had 101 labs, but now it has 1,206 labs and 280 stations for rapid antigen tests. "We have been stressing on increasing testing and clinical management should be

ensured to save the lives. It is also important that house-to-house surveys are conducted for testing.

The States need to focus on the containment zone, identify the cases and if needed take the patients to the care centers to avoid the spread of the disease," he said.

India, with over 9 lakh infections, is the third worst-hit country in the world after the United States (3,363,056) and Brazil (1,884,967).

Govt not considering total lockdown, says Narottam

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Home Minister Narottam Mishra claimed that no proposal was under consideration to impose total lockdown in the State and it was upto District Crisis Management Committees which takes the decision locally.

Presently we are not considering permanent lockdown in Madhya Pradesh, clarified the minister amid rampant speculations on social media which claimed that the lockdown could return to the state anytime amid rising Novel Corona virus cases.

Since unlock has been implemented in phased manner in Madhya Pradesh, fresh cases of infections have hit rooftop especially in the month of July.

Meanwhile, Gwalior administration has ordered total lockdown since July 14 evening. A decision to this effect was taken in the district crisis management committee meeting led by collector Kaushlendra Singh on Monday. The collector has said that

arrangements are made to ensure that services like medical emergency and essential commodities are taken care of amid lockdown. All kinds of social, religious and political programmes have been banned in this period.

Cordoning will attract penal provisions and district borders shall remain sealed, the order from the administration said.

With 111 and 193 cases of infections on Sunday and Monday respectively, the positivity rate had reached 18% in Gwalior, prompting the authorities to clamp down prohibitive measures.

Sources claimed that the district administration in Bhopal is also considering limited lockdown in parts of the state capital and a decision will be taken in the meeting of district crisis management group shortly. SDMs have urged the collector Avinash Lavania to clamp curfew in areas worst affected by covid19.

The state government seems to have braced up for a long fight with the virus as on Monday the administration

issued fresh guidelines for covid19.

According to these norms, public has been asked to celebrate upcoming festivals like Ganesh Chaturthi, Durga Puja and Bakra Eid at home and not gather at public places.

Home minister Narottam Mishra has urged artisans to prepare small idols of lord Ganesha as no pandals or public functions will be allowed in the wake of corona threat.

Let's install idols of Ganesha and goddess Durga at our homes, he said in a video message. He also urged Muslims to observe Bakra Eid festival at home.

Participation of guests has also been revised at marriages, last rites and more than 20 people can't participate in these functions.

Maximum ten persons will be allowed to take part in family functions, said Dr Mishra on Monday after a meeting with Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on covid19 review.

As per the guidelines, more than five people won't be allowed to gather at any religious place.

IGRMS initiates Arishta Van programme, to plant 300 neem trees on its premises

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sanghralaya has initiated several innovative programmes by the museum's director Praveen Kumar Mishra to meet the challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic. Under this, along with week's exhibition, online exhibition, there will be a new series by the name Arishta van, visitors can benefit from the different properties of the tree, fresh n clean air being one of them as they walk through it.

On the occasion, Praveen Kumar Mishra, Director of the Museum said that Neem's Sanskrit name is Arishta which means relief from illness. Margosa tree is also its other name.

Neem is found in almost all parts of India. It is said that planting neem trees in the house is a sure path to heaven. Its leaves are applied at the main gate to keep away from evil spirits. The bride takes a bath in water filled with neem leaves.

Newborns are placed on neem leaves to give them a protective aura. Neem gives more oxygen than other trees. Keeping in mind the visitors of the museum and the health of the people

working here, a good number of neem trees are being planted here. In this Arishta van, visitors can benefit from the different properties of the tree, fresh n clean air being one of them as they walk through it. Describing the importance of neem plant during this program, Section Officer of Horticulture Section Dheer Singh said that this neem plant absorbs most of the carbon dioxide in 24 hours and its leaves, seeds, bark - all have medicinal values and are used in the treatment of various diseases.

Today on the inaugural day, Joint Director (Administrative n Security) of the museum Dilip Singh, Head of the Office D S Rao, Administrative Officer J A



HMSL's Digital Road Safety Awareness prog spreads to 50 cities

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

As India unlocks to the New Normal, Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India Pvt. Ltd. (HMSI) is once again spreading awareness on India's safety on roads, but with a unique twist. With social distancing being the new norm of Covid-19 era, Honda 2Wheeler India has now introduced Digital Road Safety Awareness Training initiative - 'Honda Road Safety E-Gurukul' across India.

Since its start in May'20, Honda's digital road safety campaign has now spread to 50 cities across 19 States and U.Ts. Creating more awareness on road safety, Honda has digitally educated over 23,000 people including 8,500 kids of 230 schools, 43 colleges & 137 corporate offices spread across India.

Speaking on this latest initiative, Mr. Prabhu Nagaraj, Senior Vice President - Brand & Communications, Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India Pvt. Ltd. said, "Road safety is a matter of grave concern and

Honda has been committed to spread road safety awareness in India. Being a socially responsible corporate, we are now actively reaching out to citizens digitally for effective spread of road safety awareness to all age groups. Together, with the support of civil society, Honda is making all efforts to ensure that Indians are safer on roads as India continues to unlock further in the times to come."

Honda's road safety instructors are utilizing the age appropriate Road Safety Learning Programs to enhance the retention of Road Safety awareness among all age groups through digital training programs.

These trainings explain about the importance of safe riding etiquettes, safety gears, road rules, traffic signs through an engaging mix of theory, fun videos, case studies etc. The 45-60 minutes long interactive video session is conducted daily on multiple digital platforms. Each session is followed by a Question & Answer session for resolving queries on various topics.



BMC employees demolished illegal construction of a city based daily Hindi newspaper owner, allegedly involved in a sex racket in Bhopal on Tuesday. Pioneer photo

'Patriarchal mindset main obstacle for women in Army'

Says (Retd) Lt Gen Dushyant Singh in web lecture

PNS ■ MHOW

A special web lecture was organised on importance of increasing number of women in the army by Lt Gen Dushyant Singh, PVSM, AVSM (Retd) under the one month long Web Academic Activities at B. R. Ambedkar University of Social Sciences, Ambedkar Nagar, Mhow. Lt. Gen. Dushyant Singh in

his Lecture stated that Social and cultural invisible issues are responsible for the low number of women in the armed forces. Male domination and patriarchal society is an obstacle in making a favorable environment for women in the Army. Efforts were made globally for the role of women as officers and soldiers. But women have not found a place in the Combat Unit. Social and family pressure, the male mentality of women being considered physically and mentally weak are the biggest challenge in strengthening the position of women in the army.

Problems such as posting, insecure environment, inadequate experience in remote areas have to be resolved. A safe functional environment can

'Social and family pressure, the male mentality of women being considered physically and mentally weak are the biggest challenge'

be provided through change of mindset and training including sensitive leadership. Social media and behaviour are bringing positive changes, including better values and ethics.

Delivering the presidential address, Prof. Asha Shukla, Vice Chancellor of the University said that due to

bravery and physical standards, women have not got proper place in the Defence Forces. There is a challenge to the strong role of women in this field due to the double standards of the society and the perceived mindset about the virtues given by the nature to men and women. She further said that the topics of gender sensitivity should be included in the courses conducted by the army so that women can play their role in Indian Army by removing the inequalities and gender discrimination.

Welcome address was delivered by Prof. DK Verma, Dean and Chairperson, IQAC and vote of thanks was offered by Prof. Kishor John, Dean, School of Law and Social Justice.

AISECT to begin webinar series from today

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A webinar series is being inaugurated by AISECT on the occasion of World Youth Skill Day. The United Nations, at its General Assembly in November 2014, declared 15 July as World Youth Skills Day.

In 2020, our World Youth Skills Day activities are part of the #skillkeepmoving campaign, a global initiative to recognize the work of essential skilled workers during the pandemic.

All webinars will be held daily from 12 am to 1 pm

One highlight of our activities will include a focus on skilled, young people at the World Youth Skills Conference Talk.

The one-week webinar series will begin on the occasion of World Youth Skill Day, in which experts from disciplines will express their views on various aspects of the Indian skill ecosystem.

The webinar will feature experts from NSDC, CII, SSC's, PSSCIV, industry and other sectors as keynote speakers and discuss the future of the skill ecosystem.

This includes July 15 - Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Post Covid-19, July 16 Unlocking Skills - Discovery on India Skill and World Skill, July 17 Career Opportunities Post Covid-19.

On July 18 Vocational Education in Schools, July 20 Prenticeship Training for Career Development, July 21 Gender Equality in Skill Development - How to Find a Balance, on July 22 Skills for Future will be discussed. All webinars will be held daily from 12 am to 1 pm.

Min of Renewable Energy Dept Hardeep Singh assumes office

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Minister of New and Renewable Energy Department, Hardeep Singh Dang assumed office in the State Mantralaya on Tuesday.

After assuming office, a meeting was held by the Minister with the officials of the Department of New and Renewable Energy, in which information was received about the schemes of the Department.

Subsequently, it was directed by him that there is a need to work in this area at a greater pace. He instructed to develop major schemes of renewable energy in his constituency Suwasra which could benefit the general public as a first model.

Under these schemes, under the Chief Minister Solar Pump Scheme, farmers in the area should be motivated to install solar pumps for maximum irrigation by providing information about the scheme.



In the same area, the government offices, district collector offices, government hospitals, colleges, health centers etc., and giving priority to the establishment of the plant under the solar rooftop scheme, were instructed to start work at the earliest.

On the occasion, Principal Secretary of New and Renewable Energy Department Sanjay Dubey, Managing Director of MP Energy Development Corporation Deepak Saxena and other officers of the department were present.

CM unveils statue of Ex-CM Kailash Joshi

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan unveiled the Statue of the Former Chief Minister Late Kailash Joshi in Hatpipalya of Dewas district on Tuesday. On this occasion, he announced that the Bagli tehsil of Dewas district will be made district.

He also announced that the micro irrigation project of 96,800 hectare irrigation capacity costing Rs. 2,540 crore in Hatpipalya and Nal-Jal Yojana worth Rs. 241 crore too for 103 villages will be approved soon. Members of Parliament V.D. Sharma and Jyotiraditya Scindia also addressed the programme.

The Chief Minister distributed forest right lease deeds (pattas) to the beneficiaries and presented cheque of Rs. 10,000 to each beneficiary of the Street Vendors scheme. Recollecting the memories of the Former Chief Minister Late Kailash Joshi, the Chief Minister said that he will always guide us. Hatpipalya was not only his Janmabhoomi but it was also his Karmbhoomi.



BJP leader Jyotiraditya Scindia, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and BJP State President VD Sharma unveil the statue of BJP stalwart leader and former Chief Minister late Kailash Joshi in Hatpipalya, Dewas district, Madhya Pradesh on Tuesday. Pioneer photo

Paying respect to the wish of Late Shri Joshi, Chouhan made the announcement to upgrade Bagli tehsil into a district. He mentioned that we all together will make Madhya Pradesh number one state once again. Chouhan said that the previous government had put the burden of interest on the shoulders of farmers, we will relieve the farmers from this burden. All forest dwellers will be made

owners of land by providing pattas to them.

The Chief Minister further stated that pension has been deposited by the government in the accounts of elderly. Rs 1,000 has also been deposited in the accounts of each migrant labourer.

At present, three months ration has been distributed to poor. Free ration will be given to all poor till November. The

Kolar Police nab 2 vehicle lifters, seize 14 bikes worth ₹7 lakh

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Kolar police have nabbed two vehicle-lifters from Gehukheda and Lalita Nagar and recovered fourteen two-wheelers worth ₹7 lakh from their possession on Monday.

According to the police, acting on a tip off a youth was detained and when he was asked details regarding the vehicle he failed and confessed that the scooter bearing registration MP04S Z6130 was stolen from Gurukripa towers in Kolar. The nabbed accused was identified as Jitendra alias Bittu (24). In the initial inves-

tigation Jitendra confessed stealing vehicles from different parts of Bhopal and hiding them at different spaces.

Later in the investigation he provided details of two stolen two wheelers parked at Dmart parking, three motorbikes at Semri Nahar and two motorbikes parked at Vishal Megamart parking Kolar.

Police found using the Vehicle Detection Portal that six vehicles were stolen from Kolar and one from Piplani.

The accused has been booked by Gadawara police three theft in the past. From the money obtained from selling

vehicles accused bought two cars and in which Maruti swift bearing registration number MP04CQ1566.

Accused sell the vehicles and those who are involved in helping in the disposal would be investigated. Meanwhile, other team of Kolar police nabbed a vehicle lifter from Lalita Nagar and recovered six two wheelers on Monday.

The accused identified as Jitendra Ahirwar (30) of Awadhपुरi was nabbed with a scooter bearing registration number MP04SH3186 which was stolen from Bairagarh.

Koh-e-Fiza Police arrest two miscreants for robbery

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Koh-e-Fiza police have nabbed two miscreants from Royal Market who were involved in robbery at Lalghati on April 14, 2019 from a woman; robbed purse and motorbike used in the crime were recovered. According to the police, acting on a tip off, regarding youths who were involved in robbery and when they were quizzed they confessed robbery of purse from a woman near Bank of Baroda Lalghati in the month of April.

The two miscreants were identified as Mukesh Ahirwar (27) and Shivam Ahirwar (19)

The nabbed miscreants works as vegetable sellers and targeted Kusumlata Jain who was with her son Anuj when she was on her to Hamidia hospital with Anuj. Accused snatched purse she was carrying which was having mobile phone, Aadhaar card, pan card and keys of the house and escaped the spot.

Police said that the miscreants used to target the people at deserted areas and other crimes would be investigated. The victim lodged a complaint with the police and based on the complaint a case under section 392 of the IPC was registered.



Prachi Sharma and Kritika Mansukhani, who secured 96 per cent and 95.4 per cent respectively in the CBSE 12th Board exams, called on Protem Speaker Rameshwar Sharma at his office on Tuesday. Pioneer photo

Electricity meters must be installed in all houses: Min

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Transformers and meters must be purchased only as per requirement. Stores of all the distribution companies must be inspected.

Energy Minister Pradyuman Singh Tomar gave these instructions during the review of departmental schemes at Mantralaya.

Tomar said that electricity meters should be installed in cent percent houses in cities. Along with this, their readings must also be taken every month. While this will satisfy the power consumer, the company's income will also increase.

Energy Minister Tomar said that to reduce losses related to electricity, a target of 90 days must be set. During this period, every small and big flaws must be analyzed and efforts must be made to remove them.

He said that patrolling must be enhanced to stop power theft. Officers of all lev-



elms must go to the field.

Tomar said that VRS should be given to the officers-employees, who are negligent and not performing their duties. Shri Tomar said that the material kept in stock in the store should be sent to the field and the requirement of the material must be assessed in a better manner. Unnecessary material should not be purchased.

Energy Minister Tomar said that all people should jointly provide better services to consumers. He said that we will not

let anyone offend your honour.

He said that in some places the pillars are tilted, while elsewhere the wires are swinging, such problems should be resolved immediately. Officers and employees should be honoured for good performance and punished for negligence.

Principal Secretary Energy Sanjay Dubey gave information about departmental schemes in the meeting. During the meeting, Secretary Akash Tripathi, O.S.D. S.K. Sharma and other officials were present.

Shriyadita Srivastava tops NDPS Indore in 12th exam

PNS ■ MHOW

Shriyadita Srivastava of SMhow Cantt has topped NDPS, Indore in her 12th class Board Exams scoring 97.4%. She obtained 100% in Economics and 99% in Political Science and Geography.

Born on July 18, 2002, Shriyadita is the second child of Brig Sharad Srivastava and Chitrakala Srivastava. The conscientious child has been a persistent performer.

An all rounder, Shriyadita is a good swimmer, an excellent orator and a good cook. The child in her 10 class also had scored 100% in Social Studies. She aspires to pursue her higher studies in Law. Brig SK Srivastava is presently posted as Brigadier In charge



Administration at the prestigious Army War College, Mhow.

Mrs Chitrakala Srivastava presently a home maker is a post graduate in Pol Science

from Allahabad University. Shriyadita's brother, Shrey is an engineering student in Electronics & Communication.

Actor Akhilesh Mishra talks about his life at 'Baaton Baaton Mein'

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Known for his role in The Legend of Bhagat Singh, Gangaajal and Lagaan, actor Akhilesh Mishra talked about his struggles and his life during a talk show.

A talk series 'Baaton Baaton Mein' is being held everyday on Instagram. Hosted by renowned art critic Sunil Mishra, the series is being held for the art lovers.

He also played the character of Arjan in the Academy Award nominated film Lagaan. He played the demon king Ravana in the 2008 television adaptation of the Hindu epic Ramayana.

Mishra wanted to be an Engineer but his interest in acting encouraged him to enter the film industry. He started doing theatre at a very young age and did his first role in a Bhojpuri drama 'Gauna Ki Rat' which was based on child marriage.

Akhilesh Mishra is an Indian film and television character actor best known for his

role as Kroor Singh in the 1990s Doordarshan fantasy television series Chandrakanta. His other notable works include the character of Mirchi Seth in the 1999 critically acclaimed film Sarfarosh.

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Bootleggers held with liquor worth ₹1.5L

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The MP Nagar police have nabbed two bootleggers and recovered illegally transported 111 litres of county-made liquor worth ₹1.5 lakh which was transported in two cars on Monday. According to the police, acting of a tip-off, a man in a car bearing registration number MP04CQ4259 was trapped in MP Nagar zone II and when the car was checked 74 bottles of liquor in 7 were recovered from their possession.

The accused was identified as Abhinav Shrivastava (27) of Shahjehanabad. Police said that the accused carrying liquor failed to produce licence regarding the liquor and was nabbed. The liquor was worth ₹77300. The source from which the accused obtained the liquor and where it was scheduled to be delivered would be investigated.

A case under section 34 (2) of the Excise Act was registered

Rains with thunder likely for next 48 hrs in State

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

State is witnessing rainfall at several places and would witness same pattern in the next 48 hours. The State capital witnessed dense cloud and light rainfall in the day and in the next 24 hours thundery activities are likely to be witnessed.

According to the Met department a cyclonic circulation lies over the Bay of Northwest Bengal and adjoining Gangetic West Bengal and another lies over southeast Uttar Pradesh and adjoining areas. The maximum temperature in northwest Madhya Pradesh is likely to fall by 3-4 degrees Celsius during the next 48 hours.

There is a possibility of heavy to very heavy rainfall in the next 24 East Madhya Pradesh with rain in many places and light to moderate

rain in some places in western Madhya Pradesh with the possibility of heavy rainfall.

In the next 24 hours thunderstorms with lightning and thunderstorm accompanied with thunderstorm are likely at some places with rain at most places in Madhya Pradesh. During this period, heavy to very heavy rainfall is expected in East Madhya Pradesh along with heavy to very heavy rainfall in West Madhya Pradesh.

There is a possibility of heavy rains with heavy to very heavy rainfall at most places in western Madhya Pradesh during July 16 and rain at many places in eastern Madhya Pradesh.

After two days there is a possibility of heavy rains with rain at many places in Madhya Pradesh and later, light to moderate rains are likely at some places in Madhya Pradesh.



Several shops in MP Nagar Zone-1 were sealed by the district administration officials for not maintaining Standard Operating Procedure amid Covid-19 lockdown in Bhopal on Tuesday. Pioneer photo

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

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A case under section 34 (2) of the Excise Act was registered



and further investigation has been started.

The other bootlegger was nabbed from MP Nagar and Honda Amaze car bearing registration number MP04CY4446 was seized which was carrying 75 bottles in 7 cartons. The accused was identified as Sanjay Gaur (40) of Teelajamapura. The liquor bottles were in the car which were recovered from the spot. The liquor was worth Rs 75300. Crime record of the nabbed accused would be investigated in the further investigation. The cars would be stolen as in such cases accused use stolen cars to commit crime. The details of the cars would be investigated in the further investigation, said police.

Congress has no...

From Page 1

However, Kamal Nath ji and Digvijaya Singh ji were only milking the situation for political mileage.

They did not undertake a single public service work amid this pandemic, said Scindia claiming they (Nath-Digvijay) did in 90 days what they were doing in 15-months of Government. And I am here to offer them replies, affirmed the Rajya Sabha MP.

Earlier, Scindia went to the residence of former Chief Minister Uma Bharti who greeted him with aarti and blessed him for win in by-polls. The two leaders had close door consultations for around 20 minutes. "I am here to seek blessings of Uma Bharti as senior party leader," said Scindia. While Bharti claimed that she has been in cordial relations with Scindia family for long. I wish he shines in upcoming by-polls like his name, she added.

Lehron Ka Rajhans screend at online theatre festival

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The play Lehron Ka Rajhans was featured at Online Theatre Fest on Tuesday. It marked the fourth day of the festival. The play was directed by Sharad Sharma from Ujjain. The play is a story written by Mohan Rakesh.

The Lehron Ka Rajhans reveal the contradiction between the relationship between men and women. The artificial and charged conflict between the love and credit of life is the story and seed of this drama. The expression of the promise of selection in dual-

ty is 'Lehron Ke Rajhans'. The precarious, unsteady and skeptical Nanda's position in Sundari's look is also interesting and shocking. The 'Lehron Ke Rajhans' occupies a special place in the creations of Mohan Rakesh's glory.

The play is about Gautam Buddha's younger brother Nanda and his wife Sundari. After Gautam Buddha, his wife Yashodhara has also become a monk. Dhamma Sharanam is a buzzing environment in the atmosphere.

At the same time, the duality of Nanda is what they should do. On the one hand,

there is extra affection for the beauty, and on the other hand, the brother's Dhamma is reclusive. They swing like a pendulum. The narrative of the mutual duality of worldly pleasures and spiritual peace comes to the fore through Nanda and Sundari.

Many of the play's dialogues enter the psyche like the immortal utterance. Like Nanda says, everyone has the right to think, however good to say. At the same place, the monk Anand Nanda says, you have a room, a garden, but there is no home, where your soul may get satisfaction.

Hry records its biggest single-day spike with 699 fresh Covid cases

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

With 699 fresh COVID-19 cases, Haryana on Tuesday witnessed its biggest single-day spike in 24 hours. The state count crossed 22000-mark touching 22628 positive cases.

The COVID-19 has claimed four more lives in the state. Two deaths in Gurugram and one each in Rewari and Palwal were reported in Haryana in the last 24 hours taking the total toll to 312.

Earlier, the state had on July 8 witnessed its biggest single-day spike with 691 COVID-19 cases. 658 positive cases were reported on July 12 and 689 cases on July 13 in the state.

With 160 fresh cases reported in Gurugram, the worst-affected place in Haryana, the positive cases have now crossed 7000-mark in the district. The situation also remains grim in other two worst-affected districts Faridabad and Sonapat reporting 115 and 55 fresh infections respectively.

"The total number of cases in Gurugram stood at 7126 and 109 fatalities have been reported so far in the district. Faridabad has recorded 5665 cases and 101 deaths while Sonapat has reported 2104

cases and 24 deaths," stated Haryana Health Department's evening bulletin.

According to the bulletin, "With continuous spike in fresh cases, the case-doubling rate in Haryana stood at 21 days, COVID positive rate increased to 5.90 per cent, recovery rate declined to 75.53 percent. The fatality rate recorded was 1.38 percent."

"Out of 699 fresh cases, Gurugram reported the highest number of 160 cases. 96 cases were reported in Rewari, 46 in Ambala, 43 in Mahendragarh, 40 in Rohtak, 26 in Jhajjar, 23 in Palwal, 19 in Sirsa, 18 in Nuh, 15 in Karnal among other cases," the bulletin stated.

Till date, the state has reported 17090 recoveries including 453 patients recovering in the last 24 hours and being discharged from hospitals. There are a total of 5226 active cases in Haryana. 3.88 lakh samples have been tested till date in Haryana. The report of 5141 samples is awaited, the bulletin added.

Vij HINTS AT IMPOSING STRICTER CURBS IN NCR AREAS

With Haryana's districts falling in the national capital region witnessing a surge in

COVID-19 cases in the past few weeks, Home Minister Anil Vij on Tuesday hinted at imposing stricter curbs in the worst-affected areas to stem the spread of the virus. "We are considering imposing curfew in four districts which are close to Delhi and have reported 80 percent of Haryana's total COVID-19 cases," said Vij while talking to the mediapers-

Anil Vij, who is also state's Health Minister said that Gurugram, Faridabad, Sonapat and Jhajjar are witnessing a surge in cases due to their close proximity with the national capital - Delhi. It is not possible to test everyone from Delhi coming to Haryana hence we are considering imposition of curfew in these four districts to contain the spread of COVID-19, Vij said.

Of the over 22,000 cases in the state, three districts alone - Gurugram, Faridabad and Sonapat, all of which fall in the NCR, contributed to nearly 15,000 of the cases and also to nearly 75 per cent of the total fatalities. Earlier two months ago, while citing a sharp increase in positive cases in Haryana districts adjoining Delhi, the State Government had ordered sealing of borders with the national capital.

244 more test Covid-19 positive in Jharkhand, Death toll jumps to 36

PNS ■ RANCHI

Jharkhand witnessed the highest ever single-day-spike in Covid-19 cases on Tuesday as the number of fresh cases reported in a day crossed the 200 mark for the first time, government data revealed.

As per a bulletin released by National Health Mission (NHM), at least 244 fresh cases of Covid-19 infection, including 59 from Ranchi alone, surfaced from 23 of 24 districts on Tuesday. The Covid death toll in the State jumped to 36 on Tuesday as three patients, one each from Dhanbad, East Singhbhum and Ranchi, lost their battle against the lethal virus, government figures highlighted. All three deceased, officials said, suffered from some of the other comorbid condition.

While Jharkhand's Covid recovery rate has witnessed a fall this week, the mortality rate in the State has seen an upward trend. As per government figures, Jharkhand's recovery rate on Tuesday dropped to 57.44 per cent, which is below the national average of 63.02 per cent. The mortality rate in the State was 0.85 per cent on Tuesday.

Tuesday's findings take the total count of Covid cases in Jharkhand to 4225 and the number of active cases to 1761,



in the locality and it is not a containment zone anymore, officials said.

A second wave of Covid-19 cases hit Jharkhand with the return of migrant workers. At least five lakh migrants returned to the state since the imposition of lockdown, and more than 2000 of them tested positive for Covid-19, officials said.

Jharkhand has witnessed a surge of more than 100 in Covid cases almost every day in July so far, health officials said, adding that non-migrants too were testing positive for the virus in non-containment zones this month.

The Government has so far collected samples of around 2 lakh suspects for Covid tests and tested around 1.89 lakh of them. Around 2.74 lakh people have been put in home quarantine in the State and around 24,000 people have been put in institutional quarantine.

The first Covid-19 case of State was reported from Hindipiri on March 31. A Malaysian woman, who had attended the Tablighi Jamaat congregation in New Delhi, became the first Covid patient here. Soon, a flurry of cases in Hindipiri haunted the Government, and the locality was sealed. However, the cases have now reduced considerably

Covid count surges to 3686 in U'khand

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The infection of the novel Coronavirus (Covid-19) in Uttarakhand is continuing to increase at a fast pace. On Tuesday the state health department reported 78 new cases of the disease which increased the count of the Covid-19 in the state to 3686. The health department reported the death of one patient on Tuesday which increased the death toll to 50 in the state.

On the day 11 patients of the disease were discharged from different hospitals of the state. A total of 2867 patients have so far recovered from the disease which puts the recovery rate to 77.78 per cent in the state. The authorities reported

the death of a 37 year old female patient at Susheela Tiwari government Hospital, Haldwani, Nainital on the day. This patient was positive for Covid-19 and had died on July 13. Udhm Singh Nagar continued its sudden surge in the number of Covid-19 patients as 34 more patients were reported on Tuesday. Incidentally in the last five days 167 out of the total 382 cases reported in the state are from Udhm Singh Nagar district.

It clearly shows that the district is emerging as a new hot spot of the disease. On Tuesday 22 patients were reported from Haridwar district while 12 cases surfaced in Dehradun. In Tehri five



patients were reported while three and two patients were reported from Pauri and Uttarkashi districts respec-

tively. In Nainital 11 patients of the disease were discharged after their recovery.

The state now has 736 active patients of the disease admitted in different hospitals. Udhm Singh Nagar is at top of table in the list of Covid-19 active cases with 254 active cases of the disease.

Dehradun with 173 active cases are at second position and Nainital with 129 active cases is at third spot. Haridwar has 86, Pauri 22, Uttarkashi 21, Champawat 17, Tehri 16 and Almora eight active cases of Covid-19. Pithoragarh has five active cases of the disease; Bageshwar and Chamoli have two active cases each while Rudrapur has one active case each of the disease.

मध्य प्रदेश मध्य क्षेत्र विद्युत वितरण कंपनी लिमिटेड
(म.प्र. शासन का उपक्रम)
कार्यालय उच्च महाप्रबंधक (सिविल), मोती झील, ग्वालियर 474010
फोन : अफिस : 0751-2448200 फैक्स : 0751-2448280
ई-मेल : ecivilgwallor@yahoo.com
No. DGM/Civil/Gw/2020-21/475 Gwallor, Dt. : 13.07.2020

E-TENDER NOTICE
Online tenders in the prescribed form are invited for under mentioned works on the basis of PWD Schedule of rates (wef 01.08.2014) with amendment up to Date for Civil works including electrical works from the appropriate registered contractors of M.P.M.K.V.V.Co.Ltd./MPPWD having EPF registration.

Tender Specification	Name of work	Probable Contract amount (in Lac)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)
ET/2020-21/05/10	Construction of Control Room building with toilet and other civil work at 33/11 KV S/S Dholpur Road (Jour) under O & M Circle Morena.	15.00	20,000/-

Terms & Conditions and key Date on Website : <http://www.mptenders.gov.in> and portal.mpcz.in
M.P. Madhyam/97914/2020 **DY. GENERAL MANAGER (CIVIL)**

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ
E-Tendering Tender Notice
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (T.D.) N.C. Railway, Jhansi for and behalf of President of India invites sealed "Open Tender" through on Line (E-Tendering) for the following work:

E-Tender No.	Description of work	Approx Cost	Earnest Money
JHS/TD/2020/06R	Hiring of diesel driven breakdown Non-AC vehicle (minimum 6+1 seating capacity) for ADEE(TD) BANDA for a period of 34 months	13,42,521.62	26,900/-

Cost of Tender Form : ₹ 2100.00, Date of closing Tender: 29.07.2020 15:00 pm., Date of completion/period from issue acceptance letter: 34 Months. (1) Tender on line can be submitted up to 15:00 hrs on 29.07.2020 (2) For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov.in. 77/20 (SP)

North central railways @CPNCR

Karnataka Bank Ltd NOTICE U/S 13(2) & (3) OF SARFAESI ACT 2002
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(1) M/s Mahak Foods & Milk Chilling Centre, Represented by its proprietor: Mr. Vinay Jain, At: 14 E Industrial Area Nazgiri, Ujjain - 456010.
(2) Mr. Vinay Jain S/o Dhannalal Jain (3) Mr. Dhannalal Jain S/o Bansilal Jain
(4) Mrs. Alka Jain W/o Vinay Jain (5) Ms. Mahak Jain D/o Vinay Jain,
No. 2,3,4 & 5 are residing at: 74-A, Abhilasha Colony, Dewas Road, Ujjain-456010.
The Over Draft A/c No. 8077000100004001 for Rs.15.00 lakhs availed by you No.1 M/s Mahak Foods & Milk Chilling Center, Represented by its proprietor Mr. Vinay Jain is the borrower and you no.3 Mr. Dhannalal Jain is the guarantors and Term Loan A/c No. 8077001600004901 for Rs.11.00 lakhs availed by you No.2 Mr. Vinay Jain S/o Dhannalal Jain, You No.3 Mr. Dhannalal Jain S/o Bansilal Jain and You No.4 Mrs. Alka Jain are the borrowers and You No.5 Ms. Mahak Jain is the guarantor at our Ujjain Branch has been classified as Non Performing Asset on 11.05.2017 & 29.05.2017 respectively and that action under SARFAESI Act has been initiated by issuing a detailed Demand Notice under Section 13(2)&(3) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 by the Authorised officer of the Bank on 03.10.2019 to all of you. The said Demand Notices sent by speed post with acknowledgements to all of you but has been returned undelivered. Hence, we have published the contents of the Demand Notice by way of this Notice by observing the procedures laid down in the SARFAESI Act 2002. The aggregate balance as on 02.10.2019 is Rs.28,05,429=50 i.e Rs.23,06,895=50 under OD A/c No. 8077000100004001 with future rate of interest @ 11.65% compounded monthly with effect from 01.10.2019 and Rs.5,98,534=00 under TL A/c No. 8077001600004901 with future rate of interest @15.00% compounded monthly with effect from 29.09.2019. You are called upon to pay the same within 60 days from the date of this paper publication.

Brief description of Assets:- All that part and parcel of Leasehold Residential land property measuring 106.40 Sq.mt. bearing House No.27 LIG Along with single storied house built thereon situated at Civil Line Colony, Dewas, M.P. Please note that I, the Authorised Officer of the secured creditor Bank intend to enforce the aforesaid securities in the event of failure to discharge your liabilities in full on or before the expiry of 60 days from the date of this publication.

Further, your attention is drawn to the provisions of Section 13 (8) of the Act, wherein the time for redemption of mortgage is available only up to the date of publication of notice for public auction or inviting tenders.

Place: Mumbai Date: 14.07.2020 **Chief Manager & Authorised Officer**

Too many countries in wrong direction: WHO



US, Brazil, India remain worst affected with coronavirus infection

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the number of coronavirus cases around the world increased by a million in just five days, the World Health Organisation (WHO) warned that the pandemic is worsening globally and that "there will be no return to the old normal for the foreseeable future as COVID-19 cases globally going past the 13 million figure. Without taking any names, WHO said "too many countries are headed in the wrong direction" with the pandemic and some were not taking the proper steps to curb infections. The United States, Brazil and India remain the worst-affected of virus infections. WHO, in its latest briefing also said that it won't be wise to expect a vaccine to solve our problems.

Speaking at a virtual briefing in Geneva, WHO director general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said, "Let me be blunt, too many countries are headed in the wrong direction, the virus remains public enemy number one." "If basics are not followed, the only way this pandemic is going to go," Tedros said. "It is going to get worse and worse and worse. But it does not have to be this way," he warned asserting "there will be no return to the old normal for the foreseeable future... There is a lot to be concerned about".

Meanwhile, two WHO experts were in China for a mission to trace the origin of the pandemic. In a related development, representatives of 10 Tibetan associations met with the WHO and the United Nations (UN) officials in Delhi and submitted a memorandum, demanding a transparent investigation into the source of the infection. The Tibetan representatives demanded that China should make a public announcement that the scientists are studying the virus to comply with a WHO resolution to identify the zoonotic source of the virus and not so, at the invi-

Centre raises corona fund in view of rising cases

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the wake of Covid-19 pandemic which has infected over nine lakh people across the country, the Union Health Ministry has revised its fund requirements to ₹6.04 lakh crore during 2021-2026 as it identified new areas for support which include urban health, essential medicines, Diploma of National Board (DNB) courses and post-Coronavirus health sector.

The Ministry has submitted a revised proposal for fund requirement to the Finance Commission from the earlier demand of ₹4.99-lakh crore.

After a meeting with the 15th Finance Commission, the Ministry in a statement said it will require ₹6.04 lakh crore to fund healthcare during the five-year award period 2022-2026, to support new areas including post-Covid health sector reforms. The estimate increased by ₹1.05 lakh crore from the earlier requirement of ₹4.99 lakh crore.

The Commission held a meeting with Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan and

senior officials of the ministry on revising the State-specific proposals of the ministry in light of the Covid-19 experience. "Looking at the peculiar state of the pandemic, the commission's final report will have a separate chapter on health," said Chairman of the Commission, NK Singh.

The ministry pointed out that currently 35 percent of the public health expenditure is done by the Centre and 65 percent by the state governments. "The pandemic has established the importance of the need to strengthen the public health sector, surveillance and public health management, preventive and promotive health care with special focus on urban health." "The ministry also felt that there was a need to increase the allocation of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on a year to year basis," the statement said.

The meeting was held to discuss the specific issues of revising the State-specific proposals of the ministry in light of the Covid-19 experience, exploring the possibility of backloading in the light of fi-

cal strain and consideration of the suggestions of the High-Level Group of the 15th Finance Commission on health, the statement said.

The National Health Policy (NHP) 2017 targets include increasing public health expenditure to 2.5 percent of the GDP in a progressive manner by 2025. Primary Health Expenditure to be 2/3rd of the total health expenditure and increase state sector health spending to more than 8 percent of their budget by 2020.

The Commission agreed that there was a need to increase public sector health outlay and also to develop a professional cadre of health workers, the statement added.

For performance based incentives, the Ministry has proposed a composite health index to encourage States to improve performance on a year-on-year basis. It should have a weightage of 20 per cent in the performance linked pool.

It also sought State specific funds for setting up medical colleges attached with district hospitals.

Covid-19 pandemic may lead to surge in HIV, TB, malaria deaths: Lancet study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Disruption in health services due to deadly Covid-19 pandemic will have a ripple effect causing a surge in HIV, tuberculosis (TB), and malaria deaths over the next five years in some low and middle-income countries (LMICs), a study published in the Lancet Global Health journal has warned.

Some LMICs could see HIV, TB, and malaria deaths increase by as much as 10 per cent, 20 per cent, and 36 per cent respectively over the next five years due to services diversion to the ongoing outbreak and its response.

Modelling the public health impact of virus infection on HIV, TB, and malaria in LMICs over the next 5 years, researchers estimate the substantial disruptions by overwhelming already fragile health systems, or through response measures limiting routine programme activities and care-seeking, and interrupting medical supply chains.

"But maintaining core services for HIV, TB, and malaria—specifically access to antiretroviral therapy (ART), timely TB diagnosis and treatment, and early resumption of the distribution of long-lasting insecticide-treated nets (LLINs) and antimalarial treatment—could largely mitigate the broader health impact of the COVID-19 pandemic," researchers said.

However, the authors cautioned that predicting the true impact of the ongoing pan-

dem and its response on other diseases is fraught with difficulty, especially when so much remains unknown about the virus and the extent to which other disease programmes may be disrupted, and how this might impact population health.

Malaria deaths worldwide have reduced by half since 2000, but progress has stalled as mosquitoes and parasites gain resistance to treatment. Around "The pandemic and actions taken in response to it could undo some of the advances made against major diseases such as HIV, TB, and malaria over the past two decades, compounding the burden caused by the pandemic directly," said Professor Timothy Hallett from Imperial College London, UK, who co-led the research. "In countries with a high malaria burden and large HIV and TB epidemics, even short-term disruptions could have devastating consequences for the millions of people who depend on programmes to control and treat these diseases. However, the knock-on impact of the pandemic could be largely avoided by maintaining core services and continuing preventative measures."

He said, "Our findings underscore the extraordinarily difficult decisions facing policy makers. Well managed, long-term suppression measures could avert the most COVID-19 deaths. But if these interventions are not well managed, they could cause people to stay away

from hospitals and clinics and force public health programmes to be cancelled, leading to a large spike in deaths from other major infectious diseases that had been coming under control."

The greatest impact on HIV is projected to be from interruption to the supply and administering of ART, which may occur during times of high health system demand. The researchers suggest that offering individuals receiving ART multi-month prescriptions or home delivery could ensure they can access treatment even in periods of highest health system demand.

For TB, the greatest impact is predicted to be from reductions in timely diagnosis and treatment of new cases, which could result from long periods of COVID-19 containment measures limiting access to services.

The model predicts that the greatest impact on malaria burden could result from interruption of planned net campaigns, which usually take place every 3 years. In the worst case, with COVID-19 disruptions coinciding with the malaria transmission season and planned LLIN distribution, malaria deaths could increase by 36% over the next 5 years—equivalent to 474 additional malaria deaths per million population in 2020-2024," said co-lead author Dr Alexandra Hogan from Imperial College London, UK.

HRD norm for online classes: Max 30 min for preprimary, 90 min for I-VIII, 3 hrs for seniors

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With concerns being raised by parents about schools conducting online classes like in normal times, the Union HRD Ministry on Tuesday recommended a cap on the duration and the number of sessions in a day for students, extending not beyond a total of 180 minutes and not more than four sessions a day.

As per the guidelines, for classes 1 to 8, the HRD Ministry has recommended two online sessions of up to 45 minutes each and for classes 9 to 12, it is four sessions of 30-45 minutes duration. And the duration for online classes for pre-primary students should not be for more than 30 minutes.

The HRD Ministry has made the recommendations in the guidelines called "Pragyata".

Parents have been complaining about schools resorting to increase in children's screen time after the COVID-19 pandemic forced a shift from classroom teaching to online learning as schools continue to remain shut for over four months.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has led to closure of schools and has impacted over 240 million children of the country who are enrolled in schools. Extended school closures may cause loss of learning. To mitigate the impact of the pandemic, schools will not only have to remodel and reimagine the way teaching and learning

have happened so far, but will also need to introduce a suitable method of delivering quality education through a healthy mix of schooling at home and schooling at school," HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' said.

He said that the guidelines have been made with a focus on online education for students who are at home. "The guidelines have been developed from the perspective of learners, with a focus on online, blended, digital education for students who are presently at home due to the lockdown."

These guidelines on digital education provide a roadmap or pointers for carrying forward online education to enhance the quality of education," Nishank added.

PLFI terror funding: NIA arrests one

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested a PLFI Terror Funding case accused from Jharkhand. The People's Liberation Front of India (PLFI) is a banned Naxal outfit.

On Monday, the NIA arrested the accused Fuleswar Gope, 44, a resident of village Palkot Guma, Shanti Nagar, District Rohtak, Jharkhand.

This case arose out of Crime No.67/2016 of Police Station Bero, Ranchi that was registered under relevant sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and various sections of the Indian Penal Code besides provisions of Criminal Law Amendment Act and pertains to seizure of ₹ 25.38 lacs, belonging to Dinesh Gope, Chief of PLFI. The money was seized by the police

just before being deposited in SBI, Branch Bero, Ranchi on November 10, 2016 by the associates of Dinesh Gope.

The State police had arrested four accused persons on November 10, 2016 and the chargesheet was filed January 9, 2017.

After taking up the probe of the case on January 19, 2018, NIA arrested six more accused persons involved in the case, conducted searches and seized properties worth ₹90 lacs and other incriminating documents.

The bail of four accused persons was also cancelled and the first supplementary chargesheet in the case was filed on October 21, 2019 against ten arrested accused persons and one absconding accused person Dinesh Gope.

During further investigation, Hira Devi and Sakuntala Kumari, both wives of Dinesh

Gope were arrested on January 30, 2020 and two associates of Dinesh Gope—Jaiprakash Singh Bhuviya and Amit Deswal were arrested on March 2, 2020.

Investigation also revealed that Fuleswar Gope had conspired with accused Dinesh Gope and formed a dubious company namely, Shiv Shaktisamidhi Infra Pvt. Ltd, in partnership with Hira Devi (first wife of Dinesh Gope), for channelizing the extorted levy amount into legitimate means by depositing it in the bank account of the said dubious company, the agency said.

Shiv Shaktisamidhi Infra Pvt. Ltd, became a front company to legitimise levy amounts collected by Dinesh Gope and to invest the same in properties. The profit earned by the said company was intended to be used for furtherance of terrorist activities of PLFI.

Vikas Dubey encounter: UP to file status report, SC to hear pleas on July 20

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Uttar Pradesh Government told the Supreme Court Tuesday it would file a status report detailing the steps taken by the authorities on encounter killings of gangster Vikas Dubey and his associates.

A bench headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde said it may consider appointing a committee headed by a former judge to probe the encounters of Dubey and his aides as also the killing of eight Uttar Pradesh policemen by the gangster.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for Uttar Pradesh, told the bench that he would file the status report by

July 16.

The apex court said it would hear on July 20 the pleas seeking court-monitored probe into the encounters of Dubey and his associates.

Eight policemen, including DSP Devendra Mishra, were ambushed in Bikru village in Chaubeypur area of Kanpur when they were going to arrest Dubey and fell to bullets fired from rooftops shortly after midnight on July 3.

Dubey was killed in an encounter on the morning of July 10 when a police vehicle carrying him from Ujjain to Kanpur met with an accident and he tried to escape from the spot in Bhauti area, the police had said.

'Employee Welfare Scheme' launched in honour of late Arun Jaitley

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha on Tuesday launched its "Employee Welfare Scheme", named after former Finance Minister and BJP stalwart late Arun Jaitley.

Jaitley's wife, Sangeeta Jaitley, has donated the family pension for the betterment of the Group C employees of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat. The scheme will be called 'Arun Jaitley Financial Assistance for Group C employees' scheme.

Children of the Group C employees will be rewarded with this welfare scheme, pro-

viding them three scholarships for higher technical/professional education in the fields of Engineering, Medicine and MCA/MBA/LLB. Along with this, families of Group C employees will be supported with a financial cover in case of death and medical emergency.

The family pension of Arun Jaitley at the present rates comes to over ₹3 lakh annually and his wife, Sangeeta Jaitley has already transferred the amount to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat for the period after Jaitley's death last year.

The family had refused to

accept the former finance minister's due pension last year on the grounds of Jaitley's "philanthropic past".

In a letter written to the chairman of the Rajya Sabha and also marked to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, following the death of Arun Jaitley, Sangeeta Jaitley had asked that the pension due be offered to Class IV Rajya Sabha staff.

According to the Salary and Allowances of Members of Parliament Act, a former MP is entitled to a minimum pension of ₹20,000 per month and an additional pension of ₹1,500 per month for every year served as member of either House for a period exceeding five years.

Jaitley has been a Rajya Sabha member since 1999 which qualified him to receive an additional ₹22,500 per month. The total monthly pension entitled to Arun Jaitley would have been around ₹47,500.

However, Family pension to spouse or dependent of a member or ex-MP is equal to 50 per cent of the pension otherwise sanctioned to such departed member/ex-MP. Thus, Arun Jaitley's family was eligible to get about ₹25,000 per month or ₹3 lakh per annum as pension.

The BJP stalwart breathed his last on August 24, 2019, at AIIMS after suffering from a prolonged illness.

Twitter row between Priyanka, Union Minister over Lodhi Estate bungalow

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

A Twitter row erupted between Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Union Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Tuesday over the Lodhi Estate bungalow. Dismissing claims that she had requested for an extension of the tenure beyond August 1 to vacate her government bungalow, Priyanka clarified that she would be vacating her government accommodation by August 1. This prompted the union minister Hardeep Singh Puri to counter her by stating that a "powerful Congress leader, a political advisor, had indeed made such a request on her behalf."

In a response to a news report, Priyanka tagged the news report and tweeted, "This is FAKE NEWS. I have not made any such request to the government. As per the eviction letter handed to me on the 1st of July, I will be vacating the government accommodation at 35 Lodhi Estate by the 1st of August". The news report claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has agreed to a request to allow Priyanka Gandhi Vadra to retain the 35, Lodhi Estate Bungalow for some time. The report also claimed that "when the matter [of Priyanka's bungalow] was brought to Modi's notice, he said



that her request most certainly be accepted".

The MoHUA had served an eviction notice to Priyanka to vacate her 35 Lodhi Estate bungalow she had been staying in since 1997 on the grounds that she was no longer eligible for a bungalow after her security cover was downgraded last year.

Puri retorted: "Facts speak for themselves! A powerful Congress leader with much clout in the Party called me on 4 July 2020 at 12:05 pm to request that 35, Lodhi Estate be allotted to another INC MP so that Priyanka Vadra can stay on. Let's not sensationalise everything please."

Reacting to the Puri's tweet, Priyanka replied: "If someone called you Mr Puri, I thank them for their concern, and thank you for your consideration as well but it still does not change the facts: I have made no such request, and I am making

extension in good faith", he tweeted. "Would only request you to first sort out these issues within your own party before venting in public. Streak of entitlement and playing victim don't go well together," the minister further added.

The Minister's tweet did not go unchallenged. Priyanka's husband Robert Vadra also tweeted, "This is completely incorrect!! We have not asked for any extension of stay. We were sent a notice on the 1st of July to leave in 30 days. We at a time of "Covid" have packed our entire household, and will leave a week before time."

Congress leader Randeep Surjewala tweeted: "Priyankaji fights for the cause of people and needs no favours from your ilk. So stop bragging unwarrantedly. The issue is closed. And so that all know, did you allot 35, Lodhi Estate to a Congress MP or BJP Spokesperson? So please stop sensationalizing your lies."

no such request. As I said, I will be vacating the house by the 1st of August. as required in the eviction letter."

Puri's reply came shortly afterwards and he left little to imagination as he described the so-called powerful Congress leader who he claimed had called him.

"The leader who called me, & many others, is at the very top of the Congress hierarchy...the same political advisor who speaks and acts on your family's behalf. It was when he requested that we decided to give a two month

PUBLIC NOTICE

That I, Akash Kamal aged about 34 yrs, S/o Shri N.S. Kamal R/o 1/394, Sector-1, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, UP-201010 do hereby irrevocably, unconditionally and irreversibly declare and state that I had disowned my sister from his inheritance absolutely and forever hereto due to her unacceptable and irresponsible behavior which was beyond the control and supervision. And whosoever will deal with her, will be doing so at his own risk and responsibility and I shall not be liable for any act of my sister i.e. Ms. Sakshi Kamal.

Nishant Bhadoria
(Advocate)

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to all concern that JYOTAN CHADHA D/o Mahip Singh & W/o Shri N.S. Kamal R/o 245, Gallagers road, Glen Waverly, 3150, Melbourne, Australia, presently at D-328, Defence Colony, New Delhi-110024 is the allottee of Flat No. 1104, 11th Floor, Hibiscus, Paramount Floraville, Sec. 137, Expressway, Noida, Distt. G.B. Nagar (UP) has sold the said property on GPA basis to the following person (s). GPA was executed in favour of Ganvi Panjraht Dio Mahip Singh & W/o Col. Indrajit Singh Panjraht resident of D-328, Defence Colony, New Delhi-24 on 4.2.2017.

That the said flat is going to be transferred in favour of Kapil Awasthi S/o Braham Kumar Awasthi R/o House No. 127/361, W-1 Block, Saket Nagar, Juhu Colony, Kanpur, UP. If anyone has/has objection he/she may file his/her objection along with the sufficient proof in the Residential Group Housing Dept. of the Noida Authority within 15 days from the date of Publication of the notice.

Ganvi Panjraht

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General Public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male Namely Vijay S/o Unknown, R/o Unknown, Age: Approx 33-35 years, Height: 5'5", Face: Round, Built: Normal, Hair: Black, Wearing: Blue coloured shirt, gray coloured pant and brown belt, was found in decomposed condition at RZD-25, Gali No.5, Mahavir Enclave, New Delhi on 12.10.2019 at 09:38 AM. In this regard a DD No. 31A dated 13.10.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Palam Village, New Delhi.

If any one having any clue about deceased male may kindly inform the undersigned and contact on following numbers.

SHO
P.S. Palam Village, New Delhi
Ph.No.: 011-25365980-81, 25362243
Mob.: 7065036227

DP/1192/SW/2020

POLICE HEADQUARTERS JAMMU & KASHMIR JAMMU

Phone/Fax No.: 0194-2443031/2443032 (Sgr), 0191-2459029/2459255 (JMU)

Website :- www.jkpolice.gov.in, E-mail :- phqjk@nic.in

e-NIT No: 29 OF 2020
DATED: 10.07.2020

Online e-tenders in two cover system (Technical & Financial Bid) are hereby invited from original manufacturers/authorized dealers (having specific authorization from their original manufacturer/s to quote against this tender (as per format provided in Appendix-I) for finalization of rate contract for supply of Stationery Items to J&K Police as detailed in Annexure A to this NIT. (as indicated in the detailed SBD and BOQS). The download of NIT shall start on 11.07.2020 at 1300 hours. Tenders shall be submitted online on J&K e-Procurement Portal www.jktenders.gov.in before 25.07.2020 upto 1600 hours. The samples shall be submitted at Police Central Store, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu before closing date of submission of e-tender. Samples received after the prescribed date or time shall not be accepted. The tenders (technical bids only) will be opened online on 27.07.2020 at 1100 hours at Police Headquarters J&K/Jammu/Srinagar. In case of unforeseen circumstances, the date of opening will be next working day. Detailed tender documents (SBD) with terms and conditions are available on J&K State e-Procurement Portal www.jktenders.gov.in. No: DIP/J-237/20 Dated: 13.07.2020

Sd/- (Rayees Mohammad Bhat)-IPS, AIG (Provision & Transport), For Director General of Police, J&K Srinagar

J&K BJP chief +ve, several leaders quarantined

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Several senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders, including national general secretary Ram Madhav and MoS PMO Dr Jitendra Singh, were advised to stay in home quarantine immediately after Jammu & Kashmir unit chief Ravinder Raina tested positive for coronavirus on Tuesday.

These senior BJP leaders had visited Bandipora on July 12 to meet the family members of the slain BJP leader Sheikh Wasim Bari to offer their condolences.

MoS PMO Dr Jitendra Singh himself tweeted, "Have gone into Self-Quarantine with immediate effect from 4 PM

today, after receiving the news about #Corona positive test of J&K BJP President Ravinder Raina who had accompanied us from Srinagar to Bandipora on 12th July".

Wishing speedy recovery to Ravinder Raina, Ram Madhav also took to twitter and posted a message, "Am quarantining myself for a few days since my colleague n BJP J&K President Ravinder Raina tested +ve for Corona today and I was with him 48 hrs ago in Srinagar. I tested -ve for Corona 4 times during travel in the last 2 weeks. Yet taking precautions to ensure safety of me and others".

In Jammu, soon after the test reports confirmed the



BJP leaders meets family members of the slain BJP leader Sheikh Wasim Bari in Bandipora on July 12

results Ravinder Raina also posted a message on his twitter handle saying, "I spent five days in Bandipora/Kashmir after the killing of BJP leader Sheikh Wasim Bari. I was feeling feverish and went for Covid screening. Tested positive.

There were no other symptoms".

Raina was shifted to a dedicated Covid-19 facility at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspecialty hospital, Kakryal near Katra. Senior BJP Vice President

Avinash Rai Khanna, organisation secretary Ashok Kaul, former MLC Vibodh Gupta, former MLC Sofi Yousaf were among others who accompanied these leaders and participated in different events during their stay in Kashmir valley. Raina stayed in Kashmir for a period of five days and returned to Jammu on Monday.

BJP, National General Secretary, Ram Madhav had also addressed a separate condolence meeting in an auditorium while MoS PMO had chaired a high level review meeting with senior officers to take stock of the measures adopted to contain coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir. Several

party workers and media persons had come in close contact with these leaders and interacted with them to record their comments.

According to official sources, on their arrival in Jammu senior BJP leaders were subjected to mandatory screening at the Jammu Airport on Monday.

The test results of Avinash Rai Khanna and Vibodh Gupta tested negative while Ravinder Raina tested positive.

Official sources in Jammu told The Pioneer, "efforts were on to shortlist all the contact persons who may have come in close contact with these leaders in the last couple of days".

GOLD SMUGGLING CASE — Ex-Principal Secy to CM quizzed over link with Swapna

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Gold Smuggling through Diplomatic channel busted by the Customs officials at Thiruvananthapuram Airport took a new turn on Tuesday as M Sivsankar, the former principal secretary to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, was questioned by Customs officials. A team of officials from the Customs Department called on Sivasankar at his residence in the capital city and was issued a notice asking him to present himself for questioning in their office at the Air Cargo Complex.

The Customs officials summoned Sivasankar for questioning amidst reports aired by TV news channels that the latter had telephonic conversations with the accused in the gold smuggling case Sarith and Swapna Sures, who are in NIA custody now.

The questioning was continuing at the Customs Office at the time of going to Press. This is the first time in the history of Kerala, a senior official in the CMO is questioned in a gold smuggling case by the Customs, pointed out political commentators.

In another development, news channels aired that K T Jaleel, Minister for Higher Education and a leader of the banned SIMI, had telephonic conversations with Swapna Sures many times.

But Jaleel told reporters that he spoke to Swapna as per the directive of the UAE Consul General in connection with the

distribution of Ramzaan relief materials. Though Swapna was working as an executive of the Kerala Government owned Space Park, the Minister said he spoke to her in her capacity as the executive secretary at the UAE Consulate.

Jaleel said he was unaware of the phone calls between his staff member and Swapna.

The Minister also avoided the question why should he, as a Minister, speak to the executive secretary of the Consul General when a staff members in his office could have attended to the disbursement of Ramzaan relief materials.

PC George MLA and leader of Jana Paksham, said whatever has been reported as gold smuggling through diplomatic channel was just the tip of the iceberg.

"This issue will lead to the resignation of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan who has been literally caught with his pants down. Vijayan should quit immediately owning up the responsibility for the immoral activities of his principal secretary," said George.

But Chief Minister Vijayan scoffed at these allegations and said let the investigating agencies come out with concrete proof of the involvement of officials in this scam.

"A team of officials led by Chief Secretary is looking into allegations that Sivasankar was having liaison with persons associated with gold smuggling. Let them come out with the report and we will see what should be done," said the CM.

Tamil Nadu records 4,526 cases, 67 deaths on Tuesday

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

On Tuesday, Tamil Nadu Health department diagnosed 4,526 new patients with Covid-19 pandemic while 67 persons succumbed to the disease during the last 24 hours.

Except for a small fall in the number of positive cases diagnosed in Chennai, rest of the State gave an impression that things are going out of control.

Alarmed over the continued increase in the number of cases, Tamil Nadu Government has resorted to Yoga and Naturopathy to cure Covid-19 patients, according to Health Minister Dr C Vijaya Baskar.

Yoga and Naturopathy treatment is being provided in all Government Medical Colleges in the State and more than 61,000 persons have been benefited by this treatment," the minister said in a statement.

Chennai, where the coronavirus cases were hovering in the 1200-1100 marks for the last one week saw the numbers coming down to 1,078 on Tuesday. But the information from the prob-

lematic three neighbours of the capital city was a cause of concern for medical professionals.

Chengalpattu (264), Kancheepuram (117) and Thiruvallur (360) recorded higher number of covid-19 cases on Tuesday.

Adding more concern was the report from the other districts in the State. Madurai tested 450 positive patients on a single day while Virudhunagar had 328 covid-19 cases. Sivaganga, the home district of Congress strongman P Chidambaram tested 113 positive cases.

Chief Secretary K Shanmugam has sent a directive to the district collectors to replicate fever camps experiment which was found to be successful in Chennai. Out of the 67 deaths reported on Tuesday, 65 has co-morbidity problems.

There is no let up in Tamil Nadu in testing the population as 106 laboratories across the State tested 39,776 persons on Tuesday. This took the total number of persons tested till date to 1.6 million.

Situation in Kerala grim, says CM as 608 more +ve

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The Covid-19 pandemic in Kerala could be brought under control only by the year-end and the situation in the State is really grim, according to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

Kerala saw 608 new cases of Covid-19 on Tuesday, the highest number of positive cases tested on a single day which made Vijayan repeat throughout his interaction with the media that community transmission could set in any time from now.

While the number of persons diagnosed with the pandemic recorded the highest number, there was equally worrying information the chief minister shared with the public. Tuesday saw 720 persons afflicted with the pandemic get-

ting admitted to hospitals. This includes the persons who were tested positive during yesterday and last week.

The Chief Minister said that he was equally worried over the number of persons afflicted with coronavirus through social contacts. The day saw 396 persons getting infected through social contacts, he said.

"It is almost sure that the disease could be brought under control by the year-end. So all we can do is to observe the mandatory guidelines and take enough precautions," he said.

According to Vijayan, a sense of ennui has set in among health workers and officials because of the prolonged work and the repetitiveness of the job. "This is further aggravated by the complacency shown

by the general public," said the Chief Minister.

"The situation is very serious. We are tightening the rules and the police have been too to take stringent action against those who violate covid-19 rules. They are already registering cases against those who fail to wear face masks and violate social distancing norms," he said.

Vijayan also came down strongly on the local body governments and councillors for their lethargic attitude. "The situation could be controlled only with the cooperation of the general public," said the Chief Minister.

Thiruvananthapuram (201) and Ernakulam (70) led the table of districts with high number of covid patients in the State on Tuesday.

Ahead of 100th b'day, fully recovered retired teacher discharged in Mumbai

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ NMUMBAI

In a heartening development that came a day ahead of his turning 100 years, a retired teacher was discharged from the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)-run Hindu Hriday Samrat Balasaheb Thackeray Hospital at Jogeshwari in north Mumbai on Tuesday afternoon, after he fully recovered from Covid-19.

Shortly before he was discharged, Arjun Govind Naringrekar -- a retired ashram school -- had a pleasant surprise when he was wheeled to the hospital's reception area where nurses and other staff members celebrated his birth centenary in advance and in their own way.

The hospital staffers helped the to-be centurion cut the cake and placed a piece of it into his

mouth. Born in Naringre village of Sindhudurg in coastal Konkan region on July 15, 1920, Naringrekar had been admitted to the HHSB Thackeray Hospital on July 1, after he was diagnosed with Coronavirus a few days earlier.

Naringrekar had initially developed pneumonia, after some of his family members tested positive for Covid-19. Later on, he himself had tested positive for the pandemic -- a development that had shattered his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren who were preparing to celebrate his birth centenary at home.

At the hospital, Naringrekar -- who was the senior-most patient -- was treated with utmost care by doctors, nurses and other staffers during his two weeks' stay there.

BJP MLA's death due to hanging: Preliminary reports

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Amid intensified protests by the BJP against what it called a "cold-blooded" murder of its party MLA from Hemtabad in North Dinajpur district postmortem reports -- made public by the State Government a day after the Legislature's unnatural death -- indicated at his having committed suicide.

Suggesting suicide as the most probable cause of the BJP leader's death Bengal Home Secretary Aalpan Banerjee on Tuesday said, "other than the ligature mark around the deceased's neck and one pressure abrasion encircling his left hand, no other injury mark was found on the body. Preliminary findings and evidences have suggested Roy's death was an act of suicide".

Roy, a CPI(M) MLA who had defected to the BJP post 2019 general election was on

Monday morning found hanging from a bar outside a shop about a mile away from his village house. His family members and the new party claimed that he had been murdered possibly by his political rivals even as BJP president JP Nadda slammed the Trinamool Congress Government for perpetrating "Gunda Raj" in the State.

A senior officer from the district said "prima facie it seems a matter of suicide because had it been a murder by strangulation with a rope then the ligature mark would have been continuous around the neck ... but here the autopsy surgeon's report says that it was non-continuous ligature mark which indicates that the MLA committed suicide by hanging". However, he said that the chemical reports and other supporting evidences were being waited for.

Meanwhile, stray violence marred the dawn-to-dusk North

Bengal bandh called by the BJP to protest against the alleged "murder" of the MLA. Angry protesters pelted stones at buses at Coochbehar, and torched motorcycles at Toofanganj. A nearby TMC party office was also torched, sources said.

The bandh had a partial impact in Malda, North Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri, Alipurduar and Coochbehar districts while in South Dinajpur its impact was not felt, sources said.

Meanwhile, one person was arrested from English Bazar area of Malda in connection with Roy's suicide sources said adding the deceased MLA had named two persons in his suicide note holding them responsible for his taking the extreme step. The second person was being looked for, police said.

Sources said the MLA who had recently sold a few bighas of his land to fight financial crisis in his family might have been duped by these two persons.

BJP team meets Prez, Shah, seeks TMC Govt's dismissal

New Delhi: Demanding dismissal of the Trinamool Congress Government in West Bengal because of the "political killings" there, a BJP delegation met President Ram Nath Kovind on Tuesday and also sought a CBI probe into the mysterious death of party leader Debendra Nath Ray.

The delegation, which included BJP general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya, Union minister Babul Supriyo, party MP Raju Bista and nominated Rajya Sabha member Swapna Dasgupta among others, told President Kovind that Ray's "murder" is another one in the long series of "political killings" in the state.

The delegation later met Home Minister Amit Shah and presented him with similar demands. The body of Hemtabad MLA Ray was found hanging from the ceiling of a verandah outside a shuttered shop near his home in Bindal village in North Dinajpur district on Monday.

"Democracy has been hanged in West Bengal. Political workers were being killed so far, and now elected leaders are being murdered and shown to have committed suicide. Anarchy prevails in the state, and its government has no right to be in power.. We have demanded that the assembly be dissolved," Vijayvargiya said after meeting the President.

He claimed that over 105 people associated with the BJP have been killed in the state in the last three years.

Bista alleged that the state police and other agencies were being used by the Mamata Banerjee government to "harass" her political rivals, and that a CBI probe was necessary to bring out the truth.

Dasgupta said "political murders" in the state have just gone on for too long, and Ray's alleged killing was not an isolated incident. "We have seen a series of them... There is also harassment of political rivals in violation of all democratic norms," he said.

Supriyo said the memorandum submitted to the President contained details of the "murder of Hemtabad BJP MLA Debendranath Roy and also 105 BJP workers & supporters who were killed in the last 3 years". Agencies

Kerala's worst month has become Ramayana Month

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Come Thursday and for the next 32 days the Hindu homes in Kerala would reverberate every mornings and evenings with stanzas from the great epic Ramayana.

The family head, preferably grandma or the lady of the house would sit in front of a lighted traditional oil lamp and recite/read Ramayana starting from 'Bal kaand'.

This Thursday marks the beginning of Karkkadaka (the last of Malayalam month) and the month itself is known in the State as Ramayana Month, a unique distinction.

The Ramayana Month would conclude on the 32nd day when the readers last wind up the book by reading Yudha Khanda, that marks the return of Lord Rama to Ayodhya with Sita after killing the demon king Ravana and installing Vibheeshana as the King of Lanka.

Though literary world is agog about the thousands of Ramayana in vogue, Hindus in Kerala read Adhyatma Ramayana, authored by Thunchathu Ramanujan Ezhuthachan, rated as the Father of Malayalam and the Primal Poet of Malayalam. It is not known when was the Ramayana Month came into being but Prof C I Issac, member of Indian Council of Historical Research is of the view that it has been in practice in the State for more than thousands of years.

"Karkkadaka is the month of uninterrupted rain as the South West Monsoon would be in full flow. That was the scenario much before the dense rainy forests were destroyed under the pretext of building dams and extending cultivation of cash crops," said Prof Issac.

He said the rains forced the people to confine to their homes as no farming operations could be done during this period and they turned to God to ward off hunger and diseases that always accompanied the down-

pour. "Ramayana authored by Thunhathu Ezhuthachan came in handy because the poet had used Bhakthi (devotion to God) as the basic theme in this work," said Issac.

Swami Chidanandapuri, head of Kulathoor Advaithashram, who is the spiritual guru of Hindus in the State, says the recitation of Ramayana in Kerala was there since time immemorial.

The monk said there are no other books in Malayalam which had influenced readers like the Adhyatma Ramayanam authored by Thunchathu Ezhuthachan. "It is in pure Malayalam and an average reader does not require any interpreter to explain the message. That is the secret behind the success and popularity of Ezhuthachan's Ramayanam in which Lord Rama is portrayed as incarnation of God," he said.

It is interesting to note that how a work became an obsession in a State where the Progressive Writers under the auspices of CPI(M) had given a call to burn Ramayana terming it a literary work of Fascists.

"The Virat Hindu Meeting held at Kochi in 1982 was the turning point and since then Ramayana became a part and parcel of the Hindus, cutting across caste barriers," said R Sanjayan, director, Bharatiya Vichar Kendra, a national level think-tank.

Even as the sloka "Sree Rama Rama Rama, Sree Ramachandra Jaya.." reverberates across Kerala, the person who wrote the book is yet to get recognition in his birth place or in Kerala. "There are no statues of Thunchathu Ezhuthachan anywhere in Tirur, his place of birth. We Muslims who are a majority here are against statues because it is un-Islamic to install statues," said Ali Akbar, noted movie maker and writer.

Adhyatma Ramayanam remains as the top seller Malayalam book in Kerala even after 500 years after it was written!

Mumbai cops bust int'l fake social media profile creation racket

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ NMUMBAI

With the arrest of one key person, the Crime Branch sleuths of the Mumbai Police on Tuesday ripped the lid off an international racket involving creation of fake profiles on social media and fraudulent activities in social media marketing business.

Acting on a complaint made by Bollywood playback singer Bhoomi Trivedi that a person had created a fake profile of Instagram, the crime branch officials used analytical Techint and also through sources to arrest one Gauri Shankar from Kurla in north-central Mumbai.

Shankar was produced before a city court which remanded in the crime branch's custody till July 17. The investigations have revealed that Shankar was allegedly a part of a larger international fraud racket. "The racket involves creation of fake identities on various social media platforms. The fraudsters create fake performance statistics such as fake followers, fake comments and fake views in order to inflate influencers' performance statistics," a senior crime branch official said.

Shankar had allegedly created "5 lakh fake followers for total of 176 profiles in Instagram, Tiktok, Facebook and other social media platforms" in order to fraudulently project them as influencers. The investigations have revealed that the fake followers were created either manually or by cer-

tain illegal softwares (mostly called as bots).

By manipulating the existing system of respective social networks, these racketeers post such fake followers etc. "There are estimated more than 100 such portals involved in such rackets across India. The arrested accused was working for one of such portals viz. www.followerskart.com," the crime branch officer said.

This is for the first time that such a racket which has international ramifications, been busted in India.

The investigators have found that these types of fake profiles and followers are being used to create rumours and panic amongst the society.

The perpetrators behind the racket are found operating through Indian as well as foreign internet networks and servers. 54 such Indian portals have been duly identified by the Crime Branch and efforts are on to bring the culprits to justice.

The Crime Branch sleuths are working in tandem with almost all the social media platforms in order to curb the menace of such fake influencers' fraud racket. Realising the scale of such illegal business growing exponentially, a Special Investigation Team (SIT) of CIU and Cyber Cell has been set up under the supervision of DCP Detection Nandkumar Thakur to investigate and curb the malpractices.

6,741 fresh infections, 213 die in Maharashtra

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ NMUMBAI

In not so significant fluctuation in the Covid-19 graph, Maharashtra on Tuesday witnessed 6,741 fresh infections and 213 new deaths in various parts of the State.

With the new positive cases and fatalities, the total number of positive cases in the state mounted to 2,67,665, while the total number of deaths rose to 10,695.

Of the total 213 deaths, Mumbai alone accounted for 70 deaths, while neighbouring Thane recorded 64 deaths.

With the new deaths, the total number of deaths in Mumbai went up from 5,335 to 5,405, while the number of infected cases in the metropolis rose by 954 cases to touch 95,100..

With 65,324 infected cases and 1769 deaths, Thane continued to be the second worst hit dis-

trict in Maharashtra.

Pune, which has emerged as the third worst affected district in terms of spread of the pandemic, has recorded 42,092 infections and 1152 deaths till now.

Meanwhile, the total number of patients discharged from various hospitals after full recovery since the second week of March this year touched 1,49,007. The recovery rate in the state stood at 55.67 per cent. The mortality rate in the state is 4 per cent. The state health authorities pegged the number of "active cases" in the state at 1,07,665.

Out of 13,72,939 samples sent to laboratories, 2,67,665 have tested positive (19.49 per cent) for Covid-19 until Tuesday.

Currently, 6,98,854 people are in home quarantine while 42,350 people are in institutional quarantine.

Locust control steps taken in nearly 3 lakh hectare across 9 States so far: Centre

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the locust menace continues, the Centre on Tuesday said control measures to stop the spread of the crop-threatening pest have so far been carried out in about three lakh hectare area across nine States, including Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

India has been battling with the locust problem since April. In its latest update, the Agriculture Ministry said swarms of immature pink locusts and adult yellow locusts

were active in Barmar, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Bikaner, Jhunjhunu, Sriganaganagar, Alwar and Churu districts of Rajasthan.

They were also active in Bhiwani and Mahendragarh districts of Haryana, while in Sitapur and Gonda districts of Uttar Pradesh, it said.

The control measures are still continuing and were carried out in 33 places in three states -- Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana -- in the past two days, it added. From April 11 to July 12,

the ministry said the control measures were taken in about 3 lakh hectare, which includes those in 1.60 lakh hectare across nine states -- Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana -- by locust circle offices (LCOs).

The control operations in the rest of the 1.36 lakh hectare area in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Haryana and Bihar were carried by state governments, it added.

PAPER WITH PASSION

Pilot sacked

The fact that Congressmen across the spectrum sympathised with him and not Gehlot after his dismissal is proof of his worth



ASHOK K MEHTA

In the end, the Congress has chosen to waste away wilfully rather than renewing itself to make sense in contemporary politics. And perhaps it is reconciled to the idea of natural destruction rather than carrying on its tired self. Its central leaders, namely the Gandhis, have decided to go by their known playbook, even if it is hopelessly out of sync with the times. So instead of addressing the anxieties of younger leaders, who were crafting a new party and rebuilding it with one State election after another, the high command has decided to be content with its old courtiers, who themselves are well past their prime and as directionless and confused about the party's future as the central leadership. But mutually serving each other, they could last for a while, existing but not functioning. And so it is that the party sacked Sachin Pilot for revolting against the high command-endorsed Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot. And the sad part is like Jyotiraditya Scindia, he did everything right, strengthening the grassroots matrix of the party, scoring electoral wins and attracting a younger demographic that has a more social than political vision, all of which were interpreted as political overreach. Needless to say that both have been true blue Congressmen, sons of fathers — Madhavrao Scindia and Rajesh Pilot — who have been dynamic and forward-looking leaders of their time and were quite indispensable to the party. Nobody is saying that experience should be overlooked or not valued but when all the old guard did was to ensure stasis, the Young Turks did move and shake things around and had only wanted their rightful place and accommodation. Both Scindia and Pilot had even agreed to junior positions if not the chief minister's posts in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan but were not made use of or allowed to function. Both wouldn't have rebelled against the party they called home if they were given space to grow. Besides, the Congress rout in the 2019 general elections, especially in the three States which it had won just six months before in the Assembly polls, was an embarrassment for both Gehlot and Kamal Nath. Gehlot's son even lost from Jodhpur. Still they were prized for past loyalties, their propaganda that they had the state units in their grip and their veiled sabotage threats if denied primacy.

Yes, Gehlot has played his politics well. Fearing a Gujjar consolidation around Pilot and an erosion of his base, he had made the relationship between a Chief Minister and his deputy dysfunctional from day one. With constant provocations and clipping his powers, he pushed Pilot further away, who still held on with all his might. And when Pilot began questioning his own Chief Minister on sensitive issues like the Kota child deaths, Gehlot got busy praising Priyanka Gandhi Vadra for taking on UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. He has encashed that obsequiousness now and by serving Pilot police summons for conspiracy to topple his Government, he got him in the exact spot where he wanted. Pilot, who had been approached by a watchful BJP informally for some time, burst forth, making it easier for Gehlot to justify his junior's breakaway tendencies and demand action from the central leadership. And unlike Kamal Nath, he prepared himself, herding a majority of legislators, securing his bargaining position and isolating Pilot. Even if the latter has 30 odd MLAs, he cannot ensure his political survival without the BJP. So yes, Gehlot is more skilled in the art of political entrapment. But Pilot has the popular perception, of a leader who staked his life in Delhi to work the ground in Rajasthan. And the Congress leadership, particularly Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi, would be seen as untrustworthy simply because they didn't even bother to defend their peerage in the public eye. This is their defeat as legacy bearers, unless they are happy that their surname will anyway ensure their continuity, friends or not. The BJP has been subtle about its Operation Lotus attempt this time around as Pilot, unlike Scindia, was not particularly inclined to swing in extremes. As parties ready for a floor test, the Congress has the support of 107 MLAs, one MLA each from CPI(M) and the RJD, and that of 13 Independents, six more than are necessary to remain in power. It may woo back some MLAs from the Pilot camp, threatening disqualification that would leave them with no gains. This would bring down the halfway mark to around 92-94, a number that suits Gehlot. He is also reshuffling his Ministry to humour some. BJP has 72 MLAs and its ally RLP three. Pilot may be the lone wolf now and may have to fight a pack in the avaricious BJP if he joins it. But if he continues working the way he has, he would soon turn into an asset anywhere. Even Scindia, who broke away with 23 MLAs, is still getting more Congress legislators into the BJP. Some rebel Congressmen have emerged mighty successful in the BJP like Himanta Biswa Sarma. The fact that Congressmen across the spectrum sympathised with Pilot and not Gehlot after his expulsion is proof that dedication is the bigger political capital.

Problem of plenty

With a record percentage of meritorious students, how will colleges accommodate them despite raising cut-offs?



If the CBSE Class XII results brought relief to students, given the uncertainty over their declaration and forward career planning, they have thrown up a new challenge. Due to the revision in the marking scheme necessitated by the Corona-induced exam disruptions, the pass percentage has touched an all-time high of 88.8 per cent and there is a glut of meritorious students. Presenting universities and colleges with a problem of plenty, the number of students scoring 90 per cent and above has breached the 1,00,000-mark. The number of high scorers has gone up by 63,000, from 94,299 in 2019 to 1,57,934 this year. The number of students scoring 95

per cent and above has also more than doubled to 38,686 from last year's 17,693. Lucknow girl Divyanshi Jain has got a perfect score of 100 in six subjects. The CISCE, too, has seen similar stupendous results and 96.84 per cent of students have cleared them.

Colleges and universities are already considering increasing the cut-offs for undergraduate admissions. In fact, these institutions have suggested that as the percentage of students in the high-scoring bracket keeps increasing each year, the marking system at the school level be re-evaluated. But this year might see the pressure easing off premier universities and colleges due to the pandemic as many students might opt for studying in their home States. If this happens, then it might give meritorious local students the chance to get admissions in hard to enter premier institutions. We need to worry about the bigger picture though, that of imposing an unrealistic performance pressure on the younger generation, considering that only a skimming layer of five to 10 per cent students will get into good colleges. Are we building an unfair expectation of deservedness among our young and not preparing them for a failure in a realistic competitive scenario that's not based on marks or grades but application of imbibed knowledge? While there is much debate going on about CBSE's marks moderation policy, which allows grace space to students, and a demand for a more equitable assessment code, question is the status of the average students who may not have breached the 90s' barrier but aren't too bad either. Clearly, standardisation marking protocols are building up more complexities in the system of higher education. Testing methods are being simplified and made more objective without factoring into account analytical ability or subjective assessment, the last being the preserve of humanities. The problem with such a format is that it encourages learning by rote rather than priming creative thinking or challenging teaching quality. In the process, merit, too, is being compromised as two students with different real capacities, maybe one 80 per cent and the other higher, are being flat-planed on a performance graph.

Muddling through

The actual situation along the LAC is by no means what is being depicted. This is where the battle of narratives is either compromised or lost when we should be calling the shots



Deciphering the statements made by India and China after the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) meeting (July 10) is instructive. In the Indian statement, there is no reference about restoring status quo ante as on end of April/May 5. Instead, it calls for full restoration of peace and tranquility in accordance with border protocols, "urging both sides to honour and respect the Line of Actual Control (LAC)." It does not reiterate claim over the Galwan River Valley or blame China for the clash. On the other hand, the Chinese statement emphasises: "Disengagement and de-escalation" be done in a timely manner, leading to peace and tranquility (which is a historical Chinese formulation first made in the 1993 Peace and Tranquility Agreement). China has not used the word LAC but "border area."

It justified its stand during the Galwan clash by indirectly blaming India while pontificating on the rights and wrongs of the clash. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told National Security Advisor Ajit Doval on July 5 that both India and China have strategic interests and do not pose a threat to each other (another historic formulation after India named China as the reason for its nuclear tests). Chinese Ambassador in India, Sun Weidong, posted a video saying that China is not a war-like State and that both should meet each other halfway and not fall into the conflict trap. He stressed on the risks of decoupling India-China trade from bilateral relations. Chinese statements have to be taken with a pinch of salt as they can only be judged by deeds, not their words.

On the ground, except for one categorical report of breakdown in talks between local military commanders on mutual disengagement in Galwan (PP14), Hot Springs (PP 15) and Gogra Heights (PP17 A), all other sources have called the first phase of disengagement a success and according to Foreign Minister S Jaishankar, "a work in progress." The dissenting report confirms disengagement only from Galwan but to India's disadvantage, where concessions have been made on the alignment of LAC. Indian

troops have withdrawn from their own territory. Military commanders met this week to deal with Pangong Tso (Fingers area), where some thinning out has taken place and Depsang, where troops are confronting each other dangerously. The People's Liberation Army (PLA) is trying to shift the LAC westwards towards the Shyok River to provide strategic depth to the G219 Highway from Xingjiang to Tibet via the Aksai Chin.

The Government of India is not making any assertions of the actual situation along LAC but using sources to disseminate information. For example, the use of DMZ/buffer zone, suspension of patrolling and other disengagement details are coming from journalists, who are attributing the information to "sources," who are Army officers leaking information. Independent journalists are crediting "my sources" for information. They are also presumably Army officers. Last time even Army Chief Gen Naravane got it wrong when he reported disengagement from Galwan when the PLA was waiting in ambush.

The Government is constrained because it is not sure about the PLA's sincerity. The actual situation along the LAC is by no means what is being depicted by "sources." This is where the battle of narratives is

either compromised or lost when we should be calling the shots.

This is, therefore, neither a case of breakdown nor breakthrough but muddling through towards some disengagement. Galwan, which was deemed to be the tough nut, appears to have been frozen. The Fingers area is very complex and has been the bone of contention for years where the PLA has made creeping territorial gains. Depsang is not a new intrusion site. Still, Government supporters are attributing the implementation of disengagement to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's muscular message in Ladakh ("Modi calls China's bluff") and Doval's conversation with his counterpart Yi.

Facts are different: The first phase of disengagement had been worked out by military commanders on June 30 and was to be completed by July 4 and verified by July 5, much before the claimed political intervention. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh already knew on the morning of July 5 that the troops had started withdrawing from Galwan, much before Doval spoke to Yi.

Lt Gen SL Narasimhan of the National Security Advisory Board (NSAB) has categorically stated in an interview to *The Wire* that claims of Chinese build-up, incursions and forti-

fications are "exaggerated and none is true." He even said that during the clash on June 15, some Indian soldiers may have crossed over to the Chinese side and when the clash ended, no Chinese troops were on the Indian side of the LAC. This lent weight to Modi's statement to the all-party meeting on June 19 that Indian land was safe and not violated. Overall, he squarely blamed the journalists for inaccurate reportage due to impatience and competition to report first. By creating an illusion of strength, the Government is misleading the nation.

Assuming it is indeed the Government's coercive diplomacy that led to the PLA starting a faithful disengagement from LAC, why did Modi blink first? Reason: He neither wants a limited conflict nor another skirmish like Galwan, given the military's operational unpreparedness. Modi has not named China anywhere and apparently not wished the Dalai Lama on his 85th birthday this month. His thundering from Leh served another purpose: Boosting the morale of the Indian soldiers, who are periodically driven into fire brigade actions along the LAC in Ladakh and Bhutan because India has not developed a usable conventional deterrent.

As for Government failures for enabling multiple intrusions

along LAC in Ladakh, 144 veterans have appealed to the President to hold the people accountable. These intrusions are happening on a regular basis where the Army and ITBP are being caught off guard. Let us not forget the lessons from the 73-day stand off at Doklam. After disengagement (India was made to pull back first) from Doklam, the PLA returned after three months in this area, where they had built enormous military fortifications and continued building the road to Jampheer Ridge through a circuitous route but across territory disputed by India and Bhutan. India did not invoke Article 2 of the India-Bhutan Treaty of 2007 to intervene as it had done earlier and let China have its way. Unfortunately, we are repeating the mistake of Sumdorong chu, too. In 1995, when our posts overwhelmingly dominated the PLA intrusion at Wangdung along Sumdorong Chu, they were ordered to pull back. Question was then asked: Why are we quitting our own territory? We are doing the same now when the intruder should be pulling back.

(The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander IPKF South, Sri Lanka and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff.)

SOUNDBITE

The high command was compelled to take the decision because since a long time BJP was conspiring and resorting to horse-trading. We knew it was a huge conspiracy.

Rajasthan CM
—Ashok Gehlot



My music was being heard all over the world, regardless of the language. I could high five God, but I wasn't living to the fullest. I was sad. I was depressed.

Singer
—Ricky Martin



We have been culturally deceived as India has distorted facts. Sita was not given in marriage to an Indian prince. Ram came from what is present-day Nepal, as did Sita.

Nepalese PM
—KP Sharma Oli



Because you're Virat Kohli, your standards are high. Watching you on TV, I don't expect you to just play well against Australia. I expect you to win.

BCCI chief
—Sourav Ganguly



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Declining fortunes

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Piloting a revolt" (July 14). It is unprecedented in Indian political history that a Chief Minister has sent a secession notice to his own party colleague. Though the relationship between Sachin Pilot and Ashok Gehlot was frosty since the party formed the Government, Pilot's sacking from his party post was the final nail in the coffin. He had worked hard to ensure the Congress' victory in the 2018 Assembly polls. The Gandhi family's ostrich-like approach never helped the party in the past nor will it in the future. The Congress-led Government in Rajasthan may survive for now but if the party leadership does not learn lessons, it will have no one else to blame.

Bal Govind
Noida

Drugs shortage

Sir — The shortage of game-changing drugs Remdesivir and Tocilizumab is resulting in chaos at private hospitals. With huge demand and less supply, these

Congress must balance the old and young

This refers to the editorial, "Piloting a revolt" (July 14). Rumbblings in the Rajasthan Congress unit have the potential to dislodge the Ashok Gehlot-led Government. The developments followed close on the heels of what happened to the Kamal Nath-led Government in Madhya Pradesh. In both these States, injuries to the grand old party were self-inflicted. Both Jyotiraditya Scindia and Sachin Pilot, sons of towering figures in the Congress under Rajiv Gandhi, are now being flushed out from the party. With the Congress yet to overcome the leadership crisis, it is but natural for younger leaders to seek opportunities in a bid to sustain their political lives and grow further.

It's no secret that both Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and Pilot were at loggerheads when the latter was to be rewarded with the Chief Minister's post but the former's hold over the party came as a stumbling block. The current situation in the Congress explains how the power tussle between the old guard and the Young Turks has peaked. Lacking mass support, the Congress leadership is on a sticky wicket



and is unable to have a hold over party legislators. The back to back drubbing in general elections discounted the political face value of Sonia and Rahul and also evaporated the little gains made in a few State elections. The present state of affairs can lead to implosion as voices are now being aired from the likes of senior leaders like Kapil Sibal, who have blamed the party management. The Congress must retain young and talented leaders in the party.

N Sadasiva Reddy
Bengaluru

Leadership crisis

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Piloting a revolt" (July 14). Sachin Pilot's defiance is another wake-up call for Congress president Sonia Gandhi after Jyotiraditya Scindia's exit from the party. This shows there is

something wrong with the party. Entrenched nepotism, leadership vacuum, lack of efforts aimed at democratisation of the rank and file are now putting paid to the hopes of an early resurgence of the Congress. Unless the central leadership issue is resolved, there can be no hopes for revival for the party.

Rashmi
Via email

Focus on the economy

Sir — RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das has outlined how the Corona pandemic has severely affected the supply of goods and services and movement of capital and labour across the world. Das has made it clear that growing the economy is his priority. The RBI's measures such as a reduction in interest rates and the supply of cash have brought relief to the general public. Thanks to this, the financial stability in the country has been maintained.

Bhupendra Singh Ranga
Haryana

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Break this toxic nexus, now

If we don't stop electing criminals as our *netas*, then we are just getting the Government we deserve



KALYANI SHANKAR

Recently, the BJP president, JP Nadda, while addressing a virtual rally observed, "Criminalisation of politics has scaled new heights. Now we all hear about cut money in Bengal. We need to cut to size these leaders who demand a cut. We need to restore Bengal's glory and remove this Government lock, stock and barrel." He was so right in his observations that what followed a week later confirmed the need for checking criminalisation of politics.

Last week's encounter killing of Uttar Pradesh-based don Vikas Dubey by the State police brings into focus once again the nexus between politicians and criminals and has sparked off a wider debate. Dubey was shot dead on July 10 by the UP Police, who claimed that he was trying to flee after the vehicle carrying him from Ujjain skidded and toppled over. Prior to that, on July 3, Dubey and his henchmen had killed eight policemen in a shoot-out in Kanpur amid allegations that some politicians and police officers had been shielding him. Both, his arrest and the encounter, have raised several inconvenient questions. The Opposition parties in UP have accused the BJP-ruled Yogi Adityanath Government of shielding him, forgetting that many other parties which ruled UP over the years helped him to grow as a don. UP leaders, right from Mayawati, Akhilesh Yadav to Priyanka Gandhi Vadra have demanded a probe, alleging that the gangster who was trying to join the BJP, was killed to protect leaders in the UP Government.

Former DGP and a distinguished ambassador Julio Ribeiro has put it succinctly in an opinion piece: "How did Vikas Dubey, a local hoodlum whose territory did not extend beyond a couple of districts in Uttar Pradesh, lose all respect for the police and authority of the State? The answer is not difficult to formulate. All the classical signs of decay of the judicial system, because of the politicisation of the institutions of governance, were long visible to even those outside this system."

With a criminal career spanning over three decades, Dubey is a classic case of how a small-time goon grew to head a major criminal network with the help of the corrupt system. Dubey's death marks the 118th encounter killing since March 2017, when Yogi Adityanath took over as the Chief Minister of UP. Unfortunately with the encounter death, the truth is now lost as the don was needed alive and not dead to know the names of his backers. Many say that the killing was outside the law and an encounter death is not real punishment as he needed to go through the judicial process. The judicial system was equally to blame as with about 60-odd criminal cases against him, Dubey had managed to remain outside prison, on bail.

The criminalisation of politics has often been debated in public fora. This nexus between the *netas* and criminals saw an upward trend from the 80s onwards. While the politicians used criminals earlier, the latter saw that they themselves could get into Parliament. The Supreme Court and the Election Commission of India (ECI) — the two constitutional bodies — have since undertaken some commendable steps to reform the electoral process. The February judgment of the apex court in this regard will have a far-reaching impact as the court has asked for "reasons for such selections, as also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates." If implemented, for the first time the political leadership will be answerable for criminalisation of politics. In the last four elections, there has been an alarming trend of increased criminalisation of politics. Interestingly the judgment also noted that, "In 2004, 24 per cent of the Members of Parliament (MPs) had criminal cases pending against them. In 2009, that went up to 30 per cent; in 2014 to 34 per cent; and in 2019 as many as 43 per cent of MPs had criminal cases pending against them." The first test of implementation of this judgment will be the Bihar elections, although successive judgments barring criminals have done little good. Under the current law, only people who have been convicted at least on two counts can be debarred from becoming candidates. What is needed are urgent judicial reforms, police reforms and electoral reforms, which are long overdue. For instance there have been a number reports on electoral reforms, including the Dinesh Goswami committee, that are lying unused. They need to be dusted out and their recommendations implemented. The Election Commission needs to be provided with more powers. The nexus between the criminals, police and politicians needs to be broken and checked.

Interestingly, many criminals have entered politics and become lawmakers. Nearly half of the newly-elected Lok Sabha members in 2019 have criminal charges against them, a 26 per cent increase as compared to 2014, according to the Association of Democratic Reforms. Many Governments have talked about these reforms but nothing concrete has been done. What is lacking is the political will and the support of all parties to bring legislations to address these issues. The public, too, should not elect criminals. If we don't stop electing criminals then we are just getting the Government we deserve.

(The writer is a senior journalist)

POINT COUNTERPOINT

THERE IS NOTHING IN PILOT'S HANDS, IT IS THE BJP WHICH IS RUNNING THE SHOW. THE SAME TEAM WHICH WORKED IN MADHYA PRADESH IS AT WORK HERE.

—RAJASTHAN CHIEF MINISTER ASHOK GEHLOT



OUR PRIORITY IS THAT THIS GOVERNMENT LOSES ITS POWER. WE ARE VIGILANT AND WILL DECIDE OUR STRATEGY AS THE SITUATION UNFOLDS.

—RAJASTHAN BJP PRESIDENT SATISH POONIA

Future mortgaged for food

Tax collections are far from adequate to pay for free food and the Govt is borrowing heavily to make up for the shortfall, thereby imposing an unsustainable burden on the future generation of taxpayers



UTTAM GUPTA

To shield millions of poor from the devastation caused by the COVID-19, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced that the Government would give five kg of rice or wheat per person per month for "free" to around 80 crore people through the Public Distribution System (PDS) for three months. It would also give for "free" one kg of pulses per household for three months. This was in addition to five kg of cereals per person per month that 80 crore beneficiaries are already getting at a heavily-subsidised price of ₹3 per kg rice, ₹2 per kg wheat and ₹1 per kg under the National Food Security Act (NFSA).

As the deadline for the free supplies ended on June 30, the same day the Prime Minister announced extension of the scheme for five months till November 30. This time, the Government will also provide one kg grams free to each family per month.

Enumerating a spate of festivals during the extended period, when the demand normally increases, Narendra Modi exhorted that it was necessary to continue with additional supply (albeit for free) to ensure that people are not hard-pressed. He also thanked farmers for producing the required quantity of food and the taxpayers for helping the Centre garner resources to facilitate supplies to the poor, free of cost.

But what Modi didn't say is that collections from tax are far from adequate to pay for free or subsidised food supplies and that the Government is borrowing heavily to make up for the shortfall, thereby imposing an unsustainable burden on the future generation of taxpayers. Let us check out some facts.

Under the NFSA, the supply of wheat, rice and coarse cereals to the beneficiaries/consumers at ₹2/3/1 per kg is a fraction of the cost of procurement, handling and distribution (e.g. 1/12th in case of wheat). The supplies are made by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and other State agencies on behalf of the Centre who reimburses to them an amount equal to "the difference between the cost and the sale price multiplied by the quantity sold." This reimbursement amount is known as food subsidy.

In recent years, food subsidy has increased to frightening levels. During 2019-20, against an already high Budget Estimate (BE) of ₹1,84,000 crore, the actual spend during the year was ₹2,19,000 crore. Of this, the Revised Estimate (RE) was ₹1,09,000 crore even as the balance ₹1,10,000 crore was borrowed by the FCI from the National Small Savings Fund (NSSF). For 2020-21, the expenditure was estimated to be ₹2,53,000 crore, including ₹1,16,000 crore as BE and likely borrowings of about ₹1,37,000 crore by the FCI.

That was before the COVID-19 crisis. It does not include the impact of free food given during April-June, (₹60,000 crore) and promised by Modi for July-November (₹90,000 crore). With this additional expenditure of ₹1,50,000 crore, the total spend on food subsidy during the current year will cross the ₹4,00,000-crore mark (in case, the scheme is extended beyond November, that will further inflate the bill).

Given the highly-fragile resource position (due to a steep fall in tax collections on the one hand and COVID-19-related hike in expenses on the other), the Government is unlikely to provide any extra amount over and above the Budget

“ UNLESS THE FOOD SUBSIDY IMBROGLIO IS ADDRESSED AND PAYMENTS ARE BROUGHT DOWN TO SUSTAINABLE LEVELS, INDIA RUNS THE RISK OF FALLING INTO A DEBT TRAP. BROADLY, THERE ARE THREE MAJOR FACTORS BEHIND HIGH AND EVER-INCREASING FOOD SUBSIDY VIZ HIGH COST OF SUPPLY, LOW ISSUE PRICE AND AN OCEAN OF BENEFICIARIES ”



allocation of ₹1,16,000 crore. This means that all of the incremental amount, ₹1,50,000 crore, will be borrowed by the FCI. Together with the ₹1,37,000 crore initially budgeted, the total borrowings by the FCI during 2020-21 will be ₹2,87,000 crore.

Add to this figure the cumulative borrowings of ₹2,00,000 crore as on March 31, 2019 plus ₹1,10,000 crore borrowed during 2019-20. The total amount owed by the FCI to the NSSF would be close to ₹6,00,000 crore by the end of the current fiscal. Though staying on the balance sheet of the FCI, the fact remains that this mammoth debt is entirely the liability of the Union Government and will need to be serviced from the latter's tax collections in the future.

In the past, thanks to inadequate allocation in the Budget, the Government had been making short payments to the FCI, forcing the latter to borrow from banks to sustain operations. When the FCI started taking loans from the NSSF in 2016-17, the Centre had committed to release the subsidy arrears to enable it to pay back in subsequent years. But that was not to be. The subsidy arrears kept mounting and the FCI kept on borrowing more and more from the NSSF.

The Indian food subsidy regime remains fundamentally vulnerable. The COVID-19 crisis has only aggravated this vulnerability. The irony is that despite spending mammoth sums, even the poor are not getting full justice. The supplies under the NFSA at five kg per person per month barely cover 50 per cent of the requirement of a person which is 10 kg per month, as estimated by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO).

This forces him/her to buy the bal-

ance quantity from the market at a much higher price, which in the case of rice, is at least ₹35 per kg, being linked to the cost of supply. For buying 10 kg, the poor have to spend a total of ₹190 (five kg at ₹3 per kg plus five kg at ₹35 per kg). Thus, the effective price works out to ₹19 per kg instead of ₹3 per kg that s/he should be paying. Unless the subsidy imbroglio is addressed and payments are brought down to sustainable levels, India runs the risk of falling into a debt trap. Broadly, there are three major factors behind high and ever-increasing food subsidy viz. high cost of supply, low issue price and an ocean of beneficiaries.

The cost of supply includes the Minimum Support Price (MSP) paid to farmers besides the handling and distribution cost. While the former is computed as cost of cultivation plus 50 per cent of this as profit, the latter is reimbursed to handling agencies on "actual" basis. This system of paying on "actuals" devoid of any norm with regard to efficiency in operations lies at the root of both the MSP and handling and distribution cost being on a rising trajectory at all times.

The price at which foodgrains are issued to beneficiaries, i.e. ₹2/3 per kg for wheat and rice, are almost close to "zero." This means that almost the entire cost of supply is subsidised. In case of rice, with ₹35 per kg being the cost, ₹32 comes from the Government as subsidy. In such a scenario, rampant misuse of subsidy is inevitable.

Finally, the beneficiaries getting food at near zero price are over 80 crore or nearly two-third of the population. Is India home to that many poor? There is something seriously amiss as the official word on the number of poor is no more than 25-30 per cent. Yet, if over

80 crore people are eligible for food virtually for free, the subsidy bill is bound to become unsustainable.

In early 2015, a committee under Dr Shanta Kumar, a senior BJP leader, had examined these issues. It recommended a cut in beneficiaries from 67 per cent to 40 per cent. It also proposed restricting the benefit of ₹12/3 per kg only to the poorest of poor people under the *Antyodaya Anna Yojana* while increasing the supply to seven kg per person and making the rest pay 50 per cent of the MSP paid to farmers. That report is lying in cold storage.

The above recommendations can help in saving a good amount of money. But this is far from making a dent in the problem of a ballooning food subsidy. A sustainable solution won't emerge so long as the Government remains involved in procurement, handling and distribution of foodgrains; as then, all stakeholders will expect it to do all that keeps the subsidy bill rising all the time. Thus, farmers would want it to pay higher MSP; handling agencies won't rein in costs and more and more people would wish to come under the NFSA.

The Government should withdraw from buying and selling of food. Instead it should restrict its role only to giving subsidy directly to the poor using the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) option. This will also be in sync with its big bang reforms (announced on May 15) giving an unfettered role to the private sector in agri-marketing. The State agencies may continue but as a commercial entity at par with private players. Then only will we have real food security in the country without mortgaging the future.

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

Banks have yet to lend emergency credit

It is vital to implement the MSME loan package while balancing the interests of businesses and banks so that the financial system and credit cycle remain stable



APARNA RAMAM

The economic stimulus scheme for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), announced by the Centre on June 1, has still not been satisfactorily implemented, thanks to the ineffectual status quo process of credit approval and disbursement by commercial banks and specialised financial institutions such as the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI). Unfortunately, even a crisis of this scale has not been able to reform commercial lending practices, which continue to operate in the same manner, both in terms of how bankers assess and select MSMEs to disburse

loans. The data on credit offtake provided by the Finance Minister's office on June 18, almost a month after the stimulus announcement, clearly shows that out of the ₹3 lakh crore allocated for the collateral-free Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS), only about six per cent or approximately ₹52,000 crore has been disbursed.

Apart from the big Public Sector Banks (PSBs), namely the State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, Canara Bank and Punjab National Bank, the rest of the PSBs have fallen woefully short of both the sanctioned amount and disbursement target.

Private banks and small finance banks are yet to even participate in the ECLGS scheme. In the meantime, the cash flow situation of the majority of the over six crore registered MSMEs, including sole proprietorships, is already extremely dire, with several small businesses in shut-down mode and their owners on the

verge of personal bankruptcy.

The drastic decline in demand and the prolonged absence of workers have made it nearly impossible for the MSMEs to pass the regular credit checklist of lenders. As a matter of fact, those with existing debt on their books or having stressed balance sheets are struggling to stay solvent until credit approvals are processed and funds disbursed to their accounts.

In the face of fast-disappearing equity, most MSMEs now face a looming threat of existing creditors invoking the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest Act, 2002 and forcing them to declare bankruptcy.

The gravity of the situation that MSMEs find themselves in was recently brought to public knowledge by the Federation of Indian Micro and Small and Medium Enterprises, when its president, Animesh Saxena, sounded an alarm in an interview that

MSMEs were in the ICU and if not given working capital, they would not survive after another three to four months. The 2019 report of the RBI Committee on MSMEs estimated the difference between demand and supply of credit for them to be in the range of ₹20-25 trillion. The ongoing pandemic has increased this gap, making it harder for MSMEs to access credit than ever before.

Despite the Central Government's intention and the RBI's endorsement of the MSME rescue package, bankers still remain extremely wary of disbursing loans to those who need it the most. The ground reality is that lenders now view every MSME utilising the loan moratorium as a potential Non-Performing Asset with impaired repayment ability or inherent disability to service even short-term debt.

As far as the immediately borrowable amount of up to 20 per cent of outstanding debt is concerned, the

Credit Guarantee Funds Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) notwithstanding, the level of transparency and trust in lender-borrower relations has proved to be seriously inadequate to respond to the need for instant fund transfers to be implemented.

Based on an analysis of last month's reports in the Press, only PSBs have so far sanctioned emergency loans worth ₹8,320 crore to MSMEs in 12 States under the ECLGS, of which, ₹599 crore have been disbursed to 17,904 accounts. This is barely a fraction of the total number of MSMEs or of their total credit requirement.

Private bankers have also remained unwilling to increase credit exposure to their existing MSME clients due to the unprecedented uncertainty that has gripped the supply chains and manufacturing processes because of the pandemic. While on the one hand, bankers seek

to increase their customer base and diversify their loan portfolio, on the other, they are faced with the perennial risk of default and potential bad debts, which worsens the macroeconomic consequences of their confusion "to lend or not to lend" at such a time of crisis.

Since bank loans to MSMEs are classified as Priority Sector Lending and the RBI has recently exempted such loans from the statutory requirement of maintaining a Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) under Section 42(1) of the RBI Act, 1934, more liquidity will be available in the banking system and the balance sheets of the banks will not be under constant pressure throughout the year.

Since the recent revised definition of MSME removes the distinction between manufacturing businesses and service businesses altogether, and classifies them based on investment and turnover, they must now be given new financing options for growth and

expansion, separate from their day-to-day operational or working capital requirement.

It is vital to implement the MSME loan package while balancing the interests of businesses and banks such that the financial system and credit cycle remain stable and sustainable. Hence, the Government must remember that on the one hand, while it must create more entrepreneurs and employment, on the other, it must also take necessary steps to mitigate the risk to public deposits and the State's own investment in banks and financial institutions.

At the end of the day, the Prime Minister's clarion call for an *Atmanirbhar Bharat* and the *Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan* cannot be realised and become a successful pan-India model until and unless each and every MSME is made solvent as well as profitable in the long-term.

(The author is a lawyer and investment advisor)

China claims 1,000 years sovereignty over SCS

Denies US charges of building 'maritime empire'

Beijing: Refuting US allegations of building a "maritime empire" in the disputed South China Sea, China on Tuesday claimed its jurisdiction over the vast ocean existed for more than 1,000 years and accused Washington of attempting to sow discord between Beijing and the Southeast Asian countries.

In a major policy speech on Monday, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the world will not allow China to treat the strategically important South China Sea (SCS) as its "maritime empire" and vowed to support worried Southeast Asian countries against Beijing's "campaign of bullying" to control the resource-rich region.

Reacting to Pompeo's statement, Chinese Foreign Ministry



spokesman Zhao Lijian told a media briefing in Beijing that the secretary of state's remarks neglected the history and facts about the SCS.

His remarks also breaches the US government's open commitment to not taking position on sovereignty related issues of the SCS, Zhao said.

He disputed the US assertions that China has come up

with its nine-dashed line in the SCS in 2009 to beef up its claims.

"The US says China announced a dotted line in the SCS in 2009. It is not true. China's rights and sovereignty has a long history. Our effective jurisdiction over the relevant islands reefs and waters in the SCS has been there for over 1,000 years," Zhao claimed.

"As early as 1948 China had officially published the dotted line which is not questioned by any country in the region," he said, adding that China's rights have legal and historical basis.

About the judgement of an international tribunal in The Hague in 2016 which had rejected China's claims in the SCS and delivered a sweeping rebuke on Beijing's behaviour

including its construction of artificial islands, Zhao said the "arbitrary tribunal abused its mandate, breached the principle of consent."

The tribunal said China has no legal basis to claim "historic rights" to resources in the SCS and it has violated the Philippines' sovereign rights in the disputed waters.

The tribunal sided squarely with the Philippines, which brought the arbitration case "on almost all claims," Pompeo said. Zhao said, "the award was based on flawed evidence and unwarranted application of law. The US hyped up the arbitration to further its agenda, China will never accept that."

Zhao said that China is committed to resolving the issue with the concerned countries. The US is driving a wedge between China and the countries in the region, he said.

Pompeo had said that America stands with its Southeast Asian allies and part-

ners in protecting their sovereign rights to offshore resources, consistent with their rights and obligations under international law.

His comments came as two US aircraft carriers - USS Nimitz and USS Ronald Reagan - drilled together in the SCS last week, amid China's drills around Paracel islands of the SCS which Beijing claims as Xisha Islands.

Beijing claims almost all of the 1.3 million square mile South China Sea as its sovereign territory. China has been building military bases on artificial islands in the region also claimed by Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam.

Beijing has impeded commercial activity like fishing or mineral exploration by countries like Vietnam and the Philippines, claiming that the ownership of territory belonged to China for hundreds of years. **PTI**

US rejects nearly all Chinese claims in South China Sea

Washington: The Trump administration escalated its actions against China on Monday by stepping squarely into one of the most sensitive regional issues dividing them and rejecting outright nearly all of Beijing's significant maritime claims in the South China Sea.

The administration presented the decision as an attempt to curb China's increasing assertiveness in the region with a commitment to recognizing international law. But it will almost certainly have the more immediate effect of further infuriating the Chinese, who are already retaliating against numerous U.S. sanctions and other penalties on other matters.

It also comes as President Donald Trump has come under

growing fire for his response to the COVID-19 pandemic, stepped up criticism of China ahead of the 2020 election and sought to paint his expected Democratic challenger, former Vice President Joe Biden, as weak on China.

Previously, US policy had been to insist that maritime disputes between China and its smaller neighbors be resolved peacefully through UN-backed arbitration. But in a statement released Monday, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the US now regards virtually all Chinese maritime claims outside its internationally recognized waters to be illegitimate.

The shift does not involve disputes over land features that are above sea level, which are considered to be "territorial" in nature. **AP**

Oli's remarks on Ayodhya invites sharp criticism

Kathmandu: Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli's controversial remarks that Lord Ram was born in Thori near Birgunj and the real Ayodhya lies in Nepal on Tuesday invited sharp criticism, with a former premier saying it has "crossed the limit."

Several top Nepalese political leaders from different parties slammed Oli for making "senseless and irrelevant" remarks, and asked him to withdraw his controversial statement on Ayodhya.

"PM Oli's statements have crossed the limit. Extremism only creates trouble," former prime minister Baburam Bhattarai tweeted.

In his sarcastic remark, Bhattarai said, "Now let's hope

to hear the new Ramayan of Kaliyug from PM Oli."

"Such silly, unconfirmed and unproven remarks by the Prime Minister was not desirable. PM Oli's attention seems to have been drawn towards damaging Nepal's relations with India instead of improving them, which is not appropriate," said Kamal Thapa, former foreign minister and president of the pro-Hindu Rastriya Prajatantra Party.

Senior leader of the ruling Communist Party of Nepal (NCP) Bam Dev Gautam said that Prime Minister Oli should withdraw his controversial remarks on Ayodhya.

"The statement made by Prime Minister Oli was with-

out any evidence and it has only created controversy within and outside the country, so he must withdraw the statement and apologize for that," Gautam wrote on his Facebook page.

"There are large numbers of devotees of Lord Ram both in Nepal and India, and no one should hurt people's religious faith," Gautam said. "For a realistic communist it makes no difference whether Lord Ram was born here or there."

"Such senseless and irrelevant remarks made by a person of high position will damage the country's prestige," said Bishnu Rijal, deputy chief of the Publicity Committee of the ruling party. **PTI**

US carries out first federal execution in nearly 2 decades

Terre Haute (US): The US government on Tuesday carried out the first federal execution in almost two decades, putting to death a man who killed an Arkansas family in a 1990s in a plot to build a whites-only nation in the Pacific Northwest.

The execution came over the objection of the victims' family. Daniel Lewis Lee, 47, of Yukon, Oklahoma, died by lethal injection at the federal prison in Terre Haute, Indiana. The decision to move forward with the execution -- the first by the Bureau of Prisons since 2003 -- drew scrutiny from civil rights groups and the relatives of Lee's victims, who had sued to try to halt it, citing concerns about the coronavirus pandemic.

The decision to move forward with the execution -- and two others scheduled later in the week -- during a global health pandemic that has killed more than 135,000 people in the United States and is ravaging prisons nationwide, drew scrutiny from civil rights groups as well as family of Lee's victims. Critics argued that the government was creating an unnecessary and manufactured urgency for political gain.

"The government has been trying to plow forward with these executions despite many unanswered questions about the legality of its new execution protocol," said Shawn Nolan, one of the attorneys for the men facing federal execution. **AP**

Japan says coronavirus adds to security threat by China

AP ■ TOKYO

China is pushing harder to make territorial claims in the regional seas and even using the coronavirus pandemic to expand its influence and take strategic superiority, posing a greater threat to Japan and the region, Japan's government said.

The report highlighting the government's defence priorities was adopted by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's Cabinet on Tuesday, less than a day after the Trump administration rejected outright nearly all of Beijing's significant maritime claims in the South China Sea in a statement likely to deepen the US-China rift.

The Abe Government's Defense White Paper 2020 highlights what are potential Chinese and North Korean threats as Japan tries to further increase its defense capability. Under Abe, Japan has steadily increased its defense budget and capability and purchased costly American arsenals.

Defence Minister Taro Kono recently scrapped the deployment of a pair of costly US land-based missile intercepting systems due to technical issues, and Abe quickly announced his intention to revise Japan's defense guidelines, possibly allowing Japan to go beyond its conventional defense-only

role under the Japan-US security alliance, including discussing a possibility of acquiring a preemptive strike capability.

The White Paper accused China of using propaganda, including spreading disinformation, about the spread of the coronavirus.

"The COVID-19 pandemic may expose and intensify strategic competition among countries intending to create international and regional orders more preferable to themselves and to expand their influence," the report said. "We need to closely watch their move with serious concern affecting the national security." **AP**

US military Covid policy has multiple problems: Japan

Tokyo: Japan's defence minister said on Tuesday that officials have discovered "a number of problems" with US military measures to guard against the coronavirus among service members stationed in Japan after 95 Marines tested positive at several bases on the southern island of Okinawa.

Okinawan officials on Sunday said most of the cases since early July were at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, which is at the center of a relocation dispute. Others were at Camp Hansen, Camp Kinser and Camp McTearns.

On Tuesday, Kadena Air Base reported two positive cases. Combined with three cases at Kadena in March, the total among the U.S. Service members on Okinawa is 100, officials said.

"We have discovered a num-

ber of problems," Defence Minister Taro Kono said. "We need to more strictly scrutinise the situation with the U.S. Military in Japan."

Kono said the problems were discovered after Japanese officials requested information from the US Military. He refused to give details, but said the problems exist at US Bases throughout Japan, not just on Okinawa.

In a possible indication of one of the problems, Kono said Japanese officials are inspecting a hotel used by the US Military to house service members newly assigned to Okinawa from the US While they undergo a 14-day self-quarantine. Okinawan officials and residents have raised concerns about whether adequate safety measures are in place at the hotel. **AP**

'Hallmark immune system response in severe COVID-19 decoded'

PTI ■ LONDON

Scientists have identified a unique signature of immune system molecules in 50 critically ill COVID-19 patients, which they say may provide a strategy for combined therapeutic approaches against the disease.

According to the researchers, including those from the Pasteur Institute in France, severely ill COVID-19 patients experience a combination of deficiency in the response of an immune system molecule called interferons, as well as an exacerbated inflammation.

The study, published in the journal Science, assessed blood samples from 50 COVID-19 patients with symptoms ranging from mild to critical, and found this signature may provide a rationale for therapeutic approaches combining interferon supplementation, along with neutralisation of inflammatory response in the body. The scientists said COVID-19 is characterised by distinct patterns of disease progression depending on the patient, implying that patients exhibit different immune responses to the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2. Based on earlier studies, they said about five to 10 per cent of patients progress to severe or critical disease.

Nepal PM Oli, Prachanda hold fresh talks amid ruling communist party crisis

Kathmandu: Nepal Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli and co-chair of the ruling communist party Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda on Tuesday resumed talks after a six-day hiatus in a bid to save the party from a split in the wake of growing differences between the two factions led by them.

Prachanda's press advisor said that the "two chairs (of the Nepal Communist Party) have resumed discussions." The Kathmandu Post reported.

Their last time held one-on-one talks on Wednesday. The talks are taking place ahead of the crucial Standing Committee meeting on Friday which is expected to determine the political future of the 68-year-old prime minister who has previously alleged that his detractors were trying to remove him with India's help.

The key meeting is taking place days after NCP executive chairman Prachanda said he will not allow the party to split and any attempt from anywhere to weaken its unity would hurt the fight against the coronavirus pandemic and natural disasters.

Prachanda, addressing the NCP members in his hometown Chitwan on Sunday, said he was determined to keep the party unity intact as it is "natural to have differences of opinion, dispute and debate in a big party."

Top party leaders, including Prachanda, have been demanding Prime Minister Oli's resignation, saying his recent anti-India remarks were "neither politically correct nor diplomatically appropriate."

The differences grew further after Oli said that some of the ruling party leaders are aligning with the southern neighbour to remove him from power after his government issued a new political map incorporating three Indian territories. **PTI**

WHO ON CORONAVIRUS



Unrealistic to have a 'perfect vaccine' ready, WHO issues warning

There have been 13 million confirmed COVID-19 cases recorded globally and six months after, it is just as deadly and mysterious as before. There is no proper cure or treatment identified yet and work is in progress to develop a vaccine which could garner immunity against the deadly virus. Russian researchers too claimed to have found success in its human trials and are quite hopeful of launching the vaccine by August. Not only has the timeline been mooted by several epidemiologists and medical experts, WHO, in its latest briefing said that it won't be wise to expect a vaccine to solve our problems.

Can't pin our hopes on a vaccine alone, says WHO

Mike Ryan, executive director of health emergencies, WHO was also quick to admit that it would be wrong to pin all of our hopes on a vaccine alone. "And also, believing that magically we will get a perfect vaccine that everyone will have access to, is also not realistic." However, he did attest to the fact that despite everything, it is not impossible to develop a vaccine to combat COVID-19. "We can and will develop a vaccine, the question mark is: how effective will that vaccine be? And, more importantly, and more worryingly: 'who will get that vaccine?' And: 'will that distribution be fair and equitable?'"

What are the dangers we are facing?

After months of lockdown, several places have opened up with curtailed measures. However, there still are places where guidelines are not being followed. The US, for example, is recording a sharp rise in COVID-19 cases, which is now the worst affected nation by the pandemic. Following on the list are Brazil and India. Sharing light on this, Mike Ryan continued saying: "If people continue to frequent crowded places without taking the necessary precautions, if people aren't practising physical distancing, if people aren't practising hygiene, if people aren't wearing masks in the proper settings, then the disease will continue to transmit."

Coronavirus crisis may get 'worse and worse and worse'

In its latest briefing, the leading health body said that the situation has only been getting worse and worse. Even though we don't know for sure when will a vaccine be readily available, WHO mentioned that even with a vaccine, achieving immunity in the first go is a distant dream. According to WHO data, over seven groups have proceeded to conduct advanced phase II and II stages of their vaccine candidates, post which, regulatory checks can be expected. India too is seeing the development of two candidates, COVAXIN and another by Zydus Cadila.

Can a person be immune from COVID-19?

The briefing follows a sample study done by King's College, London, which found that antibodies, in recovered patients, begin to wane away in 3 months time and getting immunity is a far fetched dream. The WHO, also taking note of all developments said that while all of us continue to live in a new normal, the virus is here to stay. A statement said: "Expecting that we will eradicate or eliminate this virus in the coming months is not realistic."

Are there lessons we can learn from COVID-19?

Experts have long said that while pharmaceutical inventions and healthcare could help to an extent, in the nascent stage, simple measures like avoiding crowding, exposure, maintaining good hygiene protocols and most of all, wearing a mask could help curb the viral spread. It could also lessen the load on medical services and help them serve us better. The WHO official also added that government officials and authorities should use this pandemic as a lesson in managing public healthcare.

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that one person **Namely: Mohd. Tahneel, S/o Lt. Sh. Mohd. Yameen, R/o H.No. 2, Toot Sarai, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi.** Age : 33 years, Sex: Male, Height: 5'5", Built: Thin, Complexion: Wheatish, Hair: Black, Face: Long, ID Mark: Mentally weak and no fingers in right hand, Wearing: White colour kurta-pajama and golden colour slipper in feet. He has been missing from his house from the area of jurisdiction of P.S. Malviya Nagar, New Delhi since 09.06.2020 at 06:00 pm. In this regard a case vide **DD No. 101A Dated 11.06.2020** has been lodged at P.S. Malviya Nagar, New Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the person but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this person please inform undersigned. Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> E-mail Id - cic@cbi.gov.in SHO Phone: 011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Malviya Nagar, Fax No. 011-24368639 New Delhi DP/117/SD/2020 Ph. 011-26691861, 8750870822

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one male was found in unconscious condition near Theke Wali Red Light, Shastri Park, Delhi on 03.07.2020. He was admitted in Hospital, where doctor declare him brought dead. In this regard a **DD No. 45-A/u/s 174 CrPc, Dated 03.07.2020** has been lodged at P.S. Shastri Park, Delhi. The description of the dead body is given as under: Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: about 55 years, Height: 5'6" Feet, Face: Oval, Complexion: Shallow, Built: Normal, Wearing: Black and Red Colour T-Shirt and Lower. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the information about the dead male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one is having any information about this dead male please inform at website: <http://cbi.nic.in>, E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in or Fax No.: 011-24368639, Tel. No. 011-24368638, 24368641, Ext. 2101. S.H.O P.S. Shastri Park, Delhi Ph.: 011-22170120, 22170106 DP/206/NE/2020

WESTERN RAILWAY VARIOUS WORKS

Sr. No.	Executive No. & Date	Work & Location	Approx. Cost of work in ₹	EMD in ₹
1	Sr.DEN(N) BCT / 20-21/171 dtd. 13.07.2020	Virar- Surat Section:- Repairs to P.way under SSE(Palghar) Section for 12 months.	₹1,91,65,041.05	₹2,45,800/-
2	Sr.DEN(N) BCT / 20-21/172 dtd. 13.07.2020	Virar-Surat Sec:-Repairs to P.way under SSE(Dahanu Road) Section for 12 months.	₹1,79,02,457.54	₹2,39,500/-
3	Sr.DEN(N) BCT / 20-21/173 dtd. 13.07.2020	Virar-Surat Sec:-Repairs to P.way under SSE(Vapi) Section for 12 months.	₹1,97,43,614.55	₹2,48,700/-
4	Sr.DEN(N) BCT / 20-21/174 dtd. 13.07.2020	Virar-Surat Section:- Outsourcing of housekeeping staff at ZMC-BL for 24 months.	₹9,42,242.00	₹18,900/-
5	Sr.DEN(N) BCT / 20-21/175 dtd. 13.07.2020	Virar-Joravasan Section:- TRR(P)=9.228km & TFR=20.900km in connection of sanctioned track work (i) TRR(P)=14.503km (ii) TBR=65.587km, TFR=18kms & TFR=24.537kms.	₹1,37,44,980.83	₹2,18,700/-

Date & Time of submission : Sr. no. 1 to 4 : on 11.08.2020 till 15.00 hrs. & Sr. no. 5 : on 18.08.2020 till 15.00 hrs. Date & time of opening: Sr. no. 1 to 4 : on 11.08.2020 at 15.30 hrs. & Sr. no. 5 : on 18.08.2020 at 15.30 hrs. Regarding detailed nature of containing cost of tender document (Non-Refundable), EMD, Eligibility criteria, similar nature of work, detailed tender condition please visit www.irps.gov.in. Manual offer will not be considered. Like us on: [Facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly) Follow us on: [Twitter.com/WesternRly](https://twitter.com/WesternRly)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all through this Public Notice that my clients Mrs. Krishna Devi W/o Sh. Ishwar Chand and Mr. Ishwar Chand S/o Late Shri Hanuman Prasad R/o 1/6452, 2nd Floor, Gali No. 5, East Rohtash Nagar, Shahdara Delhi-110032 has severed off/disconnected all kind of their relations with their son Sh. Umesh Chand Aggarwal & his wife Mrs. Pooja Tayal @ Nishu. They also disowned & disinherited both of them (Son and his wife) from their hard earned moveable and immovable properties due to misbehavior of their son and wife of son. Any body dealing with them in any manner shall do the same on his own risk and my clients shall not be responsible for any act deed and omission of all of them. **ASHWANI KUMAR (Advocate)** Enrol. No. D-5310/2018 Ch. G-709, Lawyer's Chamber Block, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110032

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one female namely **Sarita Devi, W/o Praveen Kumar, R/o: Jhuggi No. AO-111, Near Prem Bari Pul, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi, Age: 28 years, Height: 5', Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Built: Thin, Wearing: Pink colour Suit, Pajama and Hawai Chappal in feet, has been missing from her house with 2 daughter girl namely 1. Sonali, Age: 6 years and 2. Nancy, Age: 3 years since 28.06.2020. In this regard a case vide **DD No. 51A, dated 02.07.2020** has been registered at P.S. Shalimar Bagh, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the female and her child but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about them please inform undersigned. Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in Fax: 011-24368639 Ph. No.: 011-24368638, 24368641 DP/246/NW/20 Ph.: 011-27495198, 27497179**

PV SALES PLUNGE 78% IN APR-JUN: SIAM

SLUMP FOR 9TH CONSECUTIVE QUARTER

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Declining for the ninth straight quarter, passenger vehicle sales in India plunged 78.43 per cent in the April-June period this year hit by the coronavirus pandemic, making it the longest slowdown in 20 years, auto industry body SIAM said on Tuesday.

The commercial vehicles segment also saw a decline of 84.81 per cent in sales during the period, the fifth quarter in succession of decline, which is also the longest period of slowdown the segment has witnessed in the last 15 years, according to the latest data by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM).

Passenger vehicle (PV) sales were at 1,53,734 units in April-June 2020 as compared to 7,12,684 units in April-June 2019.

In the past 20 years, the previous longest streak of decline of five quarters in PV sales was witnessed between 2013-14 and 2014-15 and between 2000-01 and 2001-02.

Similarly, commercial vehicles sales stood at 31,636 units in the period as against 2,08,310 units in April-June 2019. The previous longest period of decline in CV was witnessed for eight quarters between 2013-14 and 2014-15, SIAM said.

"Currently, we are going through a very difficult phase due to coronavirus... We have

been suffering hugely on the demand side since last year; but this quarter, the degrowth is due to COVID-19. It is going to be very harsh on the auto sector," SIAM President Rajan Wadhra told reporters in a video conference.

He said the outlook for the auto sector looks grim due to decline in sales expected to range in 26-45 per cent across various vehicle segments of the industry, and forecast of lower GDP growth coming from various quarters including the RBI Governor and ministers of the Government.

"Therefore, there is a need for a strong stimulus from the Government for the sector as was done in the past when the sector was hit by slowdown," Wadhra said.

He reiterated the auto industry's long-pending demand for 10 per cent reduction in goods and services tax

(GST) across all vehicle categories and introduction of incentive-based scrappage scheme to generate demand.

"The incentive for the scrappage scheme could be generated in the form of 50 per cent rebate in GST, road tax and registration charges," Wadhra said, adding the auto industry with an expected profitability of just around 3-9 per cent is not in a position to offer discounts anymore for scrappage incentive.

During the quarter, two-wheeler sales were at 12,93,113 units as compared to 50,13,067 units in April-June 2019, down by 74.21 per cent. Similarly, three-wheeler sales were 12,76,000 units as against 1,49,797 units in the year-ago period, a decline of 91.48 per cent, SIAM said.

Wadhra said SIAM members have resumed production, but it has not been smooth

due to supply chain issues owing to the health crisis due to continued restrictions in some places where supplier factories are located, non-availability of labour and delays in clearing of import consignments, besides COVID-19 cases emerging in and around production sites of some member companies.

He also said, henceforth, SIAM — which has been releasing monthly sales data across all vehicle categories — will be doing it only for passenger vehicles, two-wheelers and three-wheelers as commercial vehicle (CV) manufacturers have expressed their discomfort in sharing monthly sales data.

CV sales data will be shared on a quarterly basis along with grand total of all categories, Wadhra added. In June, passenger vehicle sales in India declined by 49.59 per cent in June at 1,05,617 units as against 2,09,522 units in the same month last year, SIAM said.

During the month, market leader Maruti Suzuki India sold 51,274 units, down 49.61 per cent from the same month last year. Hyundai Motor India post-



sales of 21,320 units, a decline of 49.25 per cent and Mahindra & Mahindra sold 8,075 units, down 54.54 per cent.

Two-wheeler sales were also down 38.56 per cent at 10,13,431 units as compared to 16,49,475 units in the same month last year. Motorcycle sales were at 7,02,970 units as against 10,84,596 units in June 2019, down 35.19 per cent.

Scooter sales were also down 47.37 per cent at 2,69,811 units as against 512,626 units in the same month last year.

Hyundai introduces new Tucson

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Carrying on with the trend of car launches taking place in the virtual world, Hyundai India on Tuesday launched the refreshed version of their large Sports Utility Vehicle, the Tucson. Available with a two-litre petrol engine producing 152PS and a six-speed automatic gearbox as well as a two-litre diesel engine with 185PS and an eight-speed automatic gearbox.

The latter is also available with an all-wheel drive option. Prices range from ₹22.3 lakh to ₹23.52 lakh for the petrol and ₹24.35 lakh to ₹27.03 lakh for the diesel.

Hyundai India Director, Sales and Marketing, Tarun Garg also took the opportunity to talk about how Hyundai has been coping with the lockdown and expressed optimism about the future.

He said that there had been over 45,000 bookings for the recently launched second-generation Hyundai Creta and over 56 per cent of them had

Prices range from ₹22.3 lakh to ₹23.52 lakh for the petrol and ₹24.35 lakh to ₹27.03 lakh for the diesel

been for diesel variants, with consumers who travelled long distances and requiring fuel efficiency still choosing the heavier fuel. He added that he expected the automotive market to recover even more sharply in July with sales expected to reach 90 percent of the total for July 2019 as the country emerges from the Coronavirus lockdown.

Another factoid also emerged that customers are choosing automatic variants of all vehicles in larger numbers, and to encourage that conversion, Hyundai India has come out with an 'intelligent' Manual Transmission (IMT) variant of the Venue which retains the traditional gear lever and eliminates the clutch pedal.

WPI inflation falls for third consecutive month

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

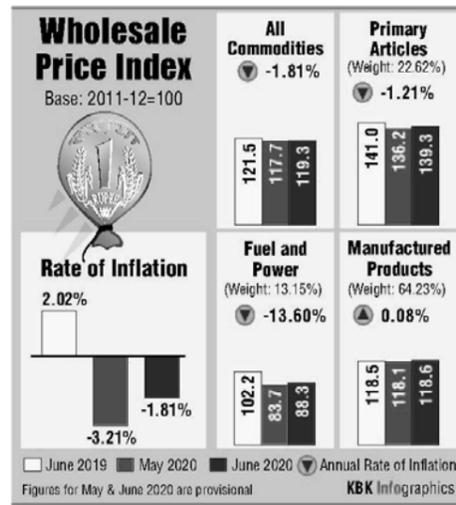
Prices in the wholesale market fell for the third straight month, declining 1.81 per cent in June, due to sharp decline in fuel and power items even as food articles remained expensive.

Inflation in May and April was (-) 3.21 per cent and (-) 1.57 per cent, respectively. In March it was 0.42 per cent.

"The annual rate of inflation, based on monthly Wholesale Price Index (WPI), stood at (-1.81 per cent) (provisional) for the month of June, 2020 as compared to 2.02 per cent during the corresponding month of the previous year," the industry Ministry said in a statement on Tuesday.

However, prices of food articles hardened with inflation at 2.04 per cent, as against 1.13 per cent in May.

While inflation in vegetables and onion stood at (-) 9.21 per cent and (-) 15.27 per cent, respectively; potato saw a spike in prices with inflation at 56.20 per cent. Pulses too saw rise in cost with inflation at 10.10 per cent, while the same for wheat was 5.17 per cent during June.



In the fuel and power basket, inflation stood at (-) 13.60 per cent in June, against 19.83 per cent in the previous month.

Manufactured products witnessed inflation of 0.08 per cent in June, against (-) 0.42 per cent in May.

Data released on Monday

with all the major sectors except minerals displaying a sequential uptick in their year-on-year inflation.

"The divergence between the food inflation at the wholesale and retail level narrowed considerably while remaining substantial in June 2020, pointing to the continued varied dynamics driving food prices as the country emerges from the lockdown," Nayar said.

With vegetable prices rising sharply in the recent weeks, she noted that the uptick in wholesale food inflation may continue in July 2020.

She said higher vegetable prices and a stabilisation of crude oil prices at moderate levels are expected to contribute toward a further narrowing of the disinflation in the WPI in July 2020.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) takes into account retail inflation while formulating monetary policy.

The monetary policy framework of the RBI targets to keep inflation at 4 per cent (+/- 2 per cent).

To boost economic activity, the RBI has cut interest rates by 250 basis points since February 2019.

Sensex, Nifty crash over 1.8% in line with global slump

Mumbai: Equity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty plunged over 1.8% on Tuesday, the biggest single-day decline in nearly five weeks, mirroring massive global selloffs amid simmering US-China tensions and mounting COVID-19 cases. The BSE gauge Sensex ended 660.63 points or 1.80% lower at 36,033.06; while the NSE Nifty closed 195.35 points or 1.81% down at 10,607.35.

Banking stocks continued to slump, crashing over 3 per cent; while metals and auto counters emerged as other major sectoral laggards, ending lower by 2.5% each. Shares of the HDFC duo led the fall on the indices, shedding up to 2.94%, after HDFC Bank said it has launched a probe into its auto lending practices following allegations against the conduct of a long-time executive who retired on March 31 this year.

IndusInd Bank, Axis Bank, Maruti, PowerGrid, Bajaj Finserv and SBI were among the other major laggards.

On the other hand, Titan, Bharti Airtel and Bajaj Auto were the gainers. Broader mid-cap and smallcap indices finished 0.95 per cent lower.

"Key indices corrected close to 2 per cent on weakness in financial and metal stocks. We witnessed profit booking in key auto stocks as their volume numbers are already known to the street for the first quarter," said S Ranganathan, Head of Research at LKP Securities.

Negative cues from global markets amid escalating US-China tensions and rising COVID-19 cases dampened investor sentiment here, traders said. The markets exhibited high correlation with the global markets and with the virus infections hitting day highs in India, the uncertainty caught up with the markets. Global markets were weak following rising infections in US and US-China tensions being back in the news," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public at large, on behalf of our client, **Mr. Dharaminder Singh s/o Mr. M. P. Singh, r/o A-31, Sector-33, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budha Nagar, UP. ("Owner")** Mr. Chokhey Ram acquired the leasehold rights from Noida by virtue of Lease Deed which was duly registered with the concerned Sub-Registrar-Noida, as Document no. 4638-4639, Book no. 1, Volume no. 589/591, Page no. 83/537-562 on dated 12.10.1988. (Lost document (like:- Allotment Letter, Possession Letter/Certificate, Lease Deed & Transfer Memorandum in favour of Mr. Mahendra Pal Singh)). (All Lost documents) is stated to have been lost and an FIR dated 13.07.2020 bearing FIR/NCR/LAR No. LR417720 was also lodged. Thereafter Mr. Chokhey Ram transferred the schedule property to Mr. Mahendra Pal Singh by virtue of Transfer Deed which was duly registered with the concerned Sub-Registrar- Noida, as Document no. 3320-3321, Book no. 1, Volume no. 2/53, Page no. 172/655-672 on dated 12.11.1993. Thereafter Mr. Mahendra Pal Singh died on 26.07.2018, Noida. Mutated the schedule property in favour of Mr. Dharaminder Singh vide Mutation Letter dated 17.10.2019. Public are warned not to deal with the Document and any person receiving or dealing with the said Document would do so at their own risk and responsibility (including criminal liability) and our client shall not be liable in any manner whatsoever for any loss incurred by such person (s) on account of any such unauthorized dealing, our client will proceed to take such action including applying to concerned authorities for issue of duly Certified Copies / Certified True Copies / Duplicate Copies of the Document.

Schedule Property

Residential Plot no. 31, in Block A, area measuring 165.60 Sq. meters, Sector -33, Noida, Tehsil Dabri, District Ghaziabad, (U.P.) Sachin Maheshwari Advocate

Khaltan & Khaltan

A-38, Kailash Colony, New Delhi-110048

Tel-011-49774545

Mob.-9911380328

DDA launches self-assessment scheme

New Delhi: DDA has launched a Self Assessment Scheme on its portal for benefit of all damage assesseses of 23 Nazul Estates. Public can access the portal through <https://www.dda.org.in/>.

Damage properties are those properties which have been existing on Govt. Land placed at the disposal of the erstwhile Delhi Improvement Trust (DIT) through the "Nazul Agreement" of March 1937, but occupied unauthorisedly by private persons, being unauthorised occupants of Government land. Such occupants are liable to pay Damage Charges to DDA under The Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act 1958, now Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971.

Through this Self-Assessment Scheme, all the assesseses can fill up the details of their properties on the said Portal viz., date of payment of Damage Charges, Area and date of transfer of occupancy rights and superstructure occupied by them and can also assess damage charges themselves through Damage Calculator in the Portal.

All the damage properties wherein occupancy details vary floor-wise, damage charges will be calculated during the self-assessment.

Delhi Development Authority holds meeting

New Delhi: The Delhi Development Authority held its meeting on 14.07.2020 through video conferencing under the chairmanship of Anil Bajjal, Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Delhi/Chairman, DDA which was attended by Anurag Jain, IAS, Vice Chairman, DDA and other Members of the Authority. The Authority placed on record its appreciation for the contribution made by Hon'ble Members Somnath Bharti, SK Bagga and OP Sharma during their tenure with DDA which ended on 11.02.2020. The Authority welcomed Somnath Bharti, OP Sharma and Dilip Kumar Pandey Hon'ble Members of Legislative Assembly NCT/DT who have been declared elected unopposed for representation in DDA as Authority Members.

As a relief measure in view of ongoing pandemic DDA extends time for making payment of additional FAR charges and use conversion charges for residential properties/Coop.

GM Northern Railway holds performance review meeting

New Delhi: Rajiv Chaudhry, General Manager Northern & North Central Railways held a performance review meeting with the departmental heads of Northern Railway through video conferencing from Baroda House, NR headquarter office in New Delhi.

He discussed the zonal railway's accomplishments and the issues during the covid-19 lockdown and post lockdown period. As the train operation was minimal during the period, all Departments and Divisions used this window period to focus on safety, maintenance of Track, Electrical, S&T and Rolling stock holdings. Other infrastructures enhancing activities were also undertaken in spite of staff and labour crunch.

In total 36,440 Km railway track over the zone was inspected.

568 level crossings were overhauled or repaired and 46Km track renewal was done. Sectional speed of 5 sections totaling 392 km has been enhanced.

UK imposes ban on China's Huawei

ALL 5G KIT TO BE REMOVED BY 2027

PTI ■ LONDON

Huawei will be completely removed from the UK's 5G networks by the end of 2027, the UK government announced on Tuesday after a review by the country's National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) on the impact of US sanctions against the Chinese telecommunications giant. In the lead up to this complete removal of all Huawei kit from UK networks, there will be a total ban on the purchase of any new 5G kit after December 31, 2020.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the UK's National Security Council (NSC) chaired by Prime Minister Boris Johnson, in response to new US sanctions against the telecom major imposed in May which removed the firm's access to products which have been built based on US semiconductor technology.

"5G will be transformative for our country, but only if we have confidence in the security and resilience of the infrastructure it is built upon," said Oliver Dowden, UK Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS).

AAI signs an MoU with BEL for cooperation in field of Civil Aviation

New Delhi: In what can be termed as a landmark event, Airports Authority of India (AAI) entered into an MoU with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) that will provide a platform for collaborative development and support for both the organizations to address the emerging airport business globally, including that of Asia Pacific region.

In furtherance of such cooperation, AAI, in the role of development partner, will render assistance to BEL in its domain of expertise to enable execution of the prestigious MEA projects outside India by BEL. Both the organisations will work in close cooperation with each other in the field of civil aviation in present and in future projects being handled by BEL.

The MoU was signed by Sanjai Kumar Singhal, General Manager (Business Development), AAI and Manoj Kumar, Executive Director (National Marketing), RO Delhi, Bharat Electronics Limited at AAI Corporate Headquarters on 14th July 2020 in the presence of Shri Arvind Singh, Chairman, AAI, M V Gowtama, CMD, BEL and senior management of both the organisations through video conferencing. Chairman AAI, addressing the experts from both sides exuded optimism that the partnership between the two organisations will be a game-changer in Indian aviation sector in the years to come. He also said that the manufacturing of Communication, Navigation & Surveillance (CNS) Equipment in India will reduce the cost substantially and will save foreign exchange outflow, making India Self-Reliant.

UJVVN Limited

H.O.: "UJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006

Telephone: 0135-2763808 & Fax: 0135-2763508

CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025886, Website: www.ujvvn.com

Date Extension Notice - 01

Due to unavoidable reasons the Date of Submission & opening of the NIT Nos. 04/EE/PCM-DKP/TN/2020-21 invited by the office of the Executive Engineer Project Civil Maintenance-Dakpathar is being extended as below:

Last date for submission of tender	Upto 15:00 hrs of 20.07.2020
Date of opening of tender	at 11:00 hrs. 21.07.2020

Other Terms & Condition will remain same. Information regarding Addendum/Corrigendum/Cancellation etc. of tender may be obtained from the website.

Full & Further Details of tender can be seen from the Nigam's website "www.ujvvn.com".

Executive Engineer
Project Civil Maintenance-Dakpathar

फॉन: 433 - 14 / 07 / 2020

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Shilpa, D/o: Deeap, R/o: H-1, Gali No. 8 near Sarthi Public School Naveen Vihar, Begumpur, Delhi** has been reported missing since 05.07.2020 from the area of PS Begumpur, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 52A, dated 05.07.2020 has been registered at P.S. Begumpur, Delhi.

The description of missing girl is as under:

Name: Shilpa, Age: 20 Years, Height: 5'3", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Hair: Black Long, Wearing: Blue colour Top, Blue colour pant and Black colour sandal in feet.

If anyone have any information about this missing girl please inform P.S Begumpur, Delhi.

Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in

Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639

SHO
Police Station, Begumpur, Delhi
Ph: 011-27579033, 8750870323

DP/227/RD/2020

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified body of a male namely **Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown** was found on 03.07.2020 H.No. WZ 63-64, Gali No. 8 in front of Narsingh Garden, Khyala, Delhi in unconscious condition. During the treatment the doctors declared him dead on 03.07.2020 in DDU Hospital, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 13A, dated 03.07.2020 has been lodged at Police Station Khyala, Delhi. Dead Body has been preserved in DDU Hospital, Delhi mortuary for 72 hours for identification. Identification of unidentified dead body of male is as under:

Name: Unknown, Age: 35-40 Years, Height: 5'6", Face: Long, Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Medium, ID Mark: A Tattoo OM on right hand, Wearing: Jamuni Colour T-Shirt and Slati colour Pant.

If anyone have any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be inform undersigned.

SHO
Police Station Khyala, Delhi
Ph.: 011-28335686

DP/147/WD/2020

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Binni D/o Lt. Daya Kishan R/o Jhuggi No.9, Block 8, Near A-229, Sangam Park Railway Line, Rana Pratap Bagh, Delhi** has been missing since 30.06.2020 at 10.00 AM from her residence. In this regard a DD No. 42A dated 05.07.2020 has been lodged at PS, Bharat Nagar, Delhi.

The description of missing girl is as under:

Name: Binni, Father's Name : Lt. Daya Kishan, Age : 24 years, Height : 5'4", Face : Long, Complexion : Fair, Built : Medium, Wearing : Green suit and salwar and slipper in feet.

If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned at following phone numbers.

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
e-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641

SHO
P.S., Bharat Nagar, Delhi
Extn.-210
Fax: 011-24368639

Ph. : 011-27301200, 27301400

DP/253/NW/2020



QUOTE OF THE DAY
No one has yet realised the wealth of sympathy, the kindness and generosity hidden in the soul of a child. The effort of every true education should be to unlock that treasure.
 — Emma Goldman

‘Study hard & work smart’

A class X student of Modern Academy Sr Sec School, Kavya Bajpai has made her parents proud by scoring 94.6 per cent in Board exams. Study throughout the year and understand the concepts instead of just cramming, work smart and not just hard, start your preparation as soon as the session starts, have realistic and determined goals — these were the simple strategies of success adopted by her. Her mother, Ritu Bajpai, says that Kavya didn't only study but also made time for her interests accordingly. She loves playing basketball. Her father, Abhishek Bajpai, added that he always believed in her and is extremely proud of her. He gave credits to her school for splendid teaching, Kavya also added she did not need any tuitions and thanked her school and parents. Kavya's favourite subjects are science and history and now she wants to pursue a career in the Medical field.



With the rise of the pandemic, situations across the globe have changed drastically in terms of academics, governance, corporate structures, supply chains, even to the extent of climatic conditions. As the saying goes, change is the only constant, and living up to that change is what humans need to be skilled at. Looking around we might wonder what really lies in the future? What can I look forward to as a stable income? How will I ever get through with this current situation? Hopefully by the end of this article you must be able to find most answers for our budding generation.

Apart from career options such as Doctors, Engineers, Accountants, Bankers etc. individuals are showing interest to make a career in other sectors, and thereby feel a need to accordingly upgrading their learnings to suit the newer job roles in the market. We now have domains like Tourism, Music, Designing, Theatre and a list to go on, which have been up to date and contemporary.

About a decade ago, seeing Music and Arts as a career was seemed taboo. Drawing was only seen up to the extent of becoming a painter and having paintings exhibited. The field of arts itself has boomed in a tremendous way, surrounding us with more colour, creativity and life. For instance, if your child has dance as their passion, apart from dance shows and competitions, there is place in the Hollywood/Hollywood industries as choreographers. There are universities which certify you as a Professional

PUT YOUR BEST FOOT FORWARD

Students are now interested in taking up unconventional career options. DHARINI UPADHYAYA lists courses that will help students to stand out in a clutter

dancer, where performance is also studied and practiced. Becoming a fitness trainer with dance and helping people live a healthy lifestyle is also another popular option. Similarly, for Music, apart from Music Directors and Singers, there are options of making Music for ads, for video game companies and even other tech companies like Apple. If helping the society is what you are looking for, Music Therapy is also one way where you can do your bit.

If we take Communications, it is also been a bridging gap for many roles. Highlighting Public speaking skills, where it becomes useful in being Hosts for events, Voice overs, auctions, etc. In these roles all it takes is to be confident and communicate the message well. While talking about communications, language is one more career, where it was just for fun and only for survival reasons in a foreign country. Whereas, now you can become a Translator, Journalist, Language Practitioner, even International tour guides, in which the hobby of exploring places and the skills

Becoming a fitness trainer with dance and helping people live a healthy lifestyle is a popular option. Similarly, for music, apart from music directors and singers, there are options of making music for ads and video game companies

of a Foreign language can help you earn good for a living.

Speech and Drama is one career where from being Actors to Poets is seen as an option. Acting is popular for Bollywood and Indie Soaps in India, but there is Theatre too, where you act in plays and stages, and not just on screen. You may also become Director, that is being behind the cameras, yet showing your piece of art through your guidance. Poetry again is something where you can publish and also Slam Poetry, where instead of writing you speak the poetry you have written. There are many institutes that promote these hobbies and help you find options.

The one thing common in all these fields are, sharing the knowledge learnt through educating others, that is by being Trainers. The field of teaching has grown subject-wise, where Music, Art, Drama and Languages, all of these can have a great career ahead. All we need is to curate the idea of sticking to one's ambitions and passions in life. Our young adults today, have been fortunate to be quite exposed to what lies behind books and out in the world. Aiding them with whatever is needed to make it to their destination, is what we need now focus on.

In the view of this thought, we have launched an array of courses that help children to take a step towards their hobbies and make it a career and most important, have fun. FSM Buddy showcases all the skills where one's Creative side is nurtured and developed. We mainly focus on the Right brain skill development, and have Online educators that have a vast experience and specialise in the respective fields.

Finally, in the words of Katharine Whitehorn, "Find out what you like doing best and get someone to pay you for doing it". If you have the passion and desire to fulfill your dreams in your life, there ain't no mountain high enough! Keep your focus on and your will high, you surely can achieve success in doing what you love.

The writer is Co-founder and Co-CEO Furtados School of Music

KIIT students shine

The students of KiiT International School (KiiT-IS), Bhubaneswar posted excellent result in the Class XII examinations conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), results of which were declared on July 13, 2020. The students excelled in all the three streams of Class XII CBSE Examination 2020.

The highest mark scored by Aman Patra in the Science stream is 98% with 30% of students having scored above 90%. The school which truly has International in its ethos has 25% of its students securing above 90% in the Commerce stream with the highest scores of Rishi Kedia and Adishree Pala shining at 96%.

The Humanities top score of Amrita Nanda remains to be 98% with a whopping 50% of the candidates securing above 90%. All students have secured first division in the examination.

The school which offers CBSE, IGCSE and IB DP curriculum has always excelled in academics and all co-curricular activities since the past 14 years of its inception. Congratulating all students for their success Dr Achyuta Samanta, Founder, KiiT & KISS said, it has possible only because of proper care and modern teaching methodology. He thanked Chairperson Dr Monalisa Bal, Principal Dr Sanjay Suar and other staff for their effort towards this success.

Enhance your analysing skills

Students have started to understand how People Analytics in HR would help them take data driven decisions while understanding employee behaviour, says DR PRATIMA SHEOREY

Business transformation has become a necessity in this fast and fluid world. Engaging and empowering employees through multiway communication channels has become an imperative. Over the past few years, we have seen a sharp rise in adoption of agile, design thinking, and other digitally oriented practices.

In the past, quantitative methods were applied to assess financial and operational scorecards, but it has always been difficult to employ Qualitative methods to evaluate people. Therefore, people analytics has certainly been a game changer. It has helped to evaluate behavioural data on what employees are working on, how behavioural changes can affect the financial performance of the company, what can affect employee behaviour in the organisation.

In their role as Human Resource Managers, MBA students have started learning the importance of People Analytics in their career. Students have started to understand how this specific domain in HR would help them take data driven decisions while understanding employee behaviour. This premise comes with the rapidly evolving field of people ana-



lytics that organisations are embracing as they use data to evaluate the journey of an employee in the organisation.

Following are the ways how this course is equipping the HR professionals for the industry:

Analyse employee behaviour effectively: One of the crucial aspects that an HR professional needs to ensure is to keep employee behaviour at optimised levels. Recognising an employee's efforts with fair compensation is directly related to the happiness and satisfaction of an employee. People analytics help HR professionals to

come up with new techniques of engaging with employees at all levels.

Transparent recruitment process: One of the most challenging tasks for HR is finding the right pool of talent suiting the needs of a particular department and identifying which department has gaps in terms of the kind of skills required. In such cases, People Analytics plays a key role in providing insights on the skills needed among talent, sorting through the profiles, transparent profiling metrics and talent development. When such data driven decisions

are taken it helps a company align its goals with their pool of talent.

Forecast potential business impact: Current trends and historic data are useful to gauge employee performance and the revenue generation for a business. An organisation can understand the impact on business trends over time. It is also possible to factor in the extraneous impact. All this can help to predict the appropriate people practises to be followed to ensure that the business is impacted in a positive manner.

Increase diversity in the organisation: Diversity is a powerful thing for any business. Across a company's employee lifecycle, People Analytics plays a key role in analysing the state of diversity. This also helps in identifying areas of unintentional bias and effectively addressing the problem areas.

People Analytics has emerged as a key differentiator in the HR domain and anyone who wants a more strategic work profile can certainly go for a specialisation in this field. Apart from making you a specialist, analytics will definitely help you in upskilling and make evidence-based decisions to improve and upscale organisations.

The writer is Director, SCMIHRD, Pune

Go for new age careers

Media is a field that is hugely influenced by new technologies and millennials are crafting a new future for themselves. VIVECK VASWANI lists few courses that make for lucrative career options

The growing impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) has opened up new ways for the millennials to earn their living. Startups for instance in every field today is an emerging trend that is being harnessed by Gen Z to become entrepreneurs and bring in a new wave of innovation in the industry.

Media is one such field that is hugely influenced by these new technologies and millennials are crafting a new future for themselves with unique opportunities like successful ventures in startups amongst others.

Showrunner: Web series on OTT platforms are created with a purpose to encourage viewers to binge watch on the internet. Making one season of a web series is equivalent to making five full-length feature films. Such scale of production for each project requires creative producers, line producers, writers and individual directors. The overriding authority of this process is the showrunner, who acts as the connecting medium between the platform, the financiers, various writers, producers, and actors.

The showrunner is a highly specialised job that demands expertise in production, direction, writing,



finance, marketing, and exceptional interpersonal skills. Typically, showrunners of popular web series earn as much as a top director of a big-budget Bollywood film.

Careers in film appreciation: Most of the people think that cinema is only about making films or acting in them. However, millennials who have a passion for cinema and are interested in studying & researching about the field have a myriad of choices in exploring new age careers. These career options always existed, but now they've become financially rewarding enough to be seen as independent career choices. These career choices include: curating in-flight entertainment for airlines, film museums, cinema archivists, historians, film critics, and creative heads at different film companies, pro-

duction houses amongst others.

Wedding photography: With time destination weddings have emerged as major events. Wedding photographer, who traditionally used to shoot on negative and sell prints to the family and guests, is now the star of the show. From stylized photoshoots with the use of drones, to digitally correcting the final photos, wedding photography has become a glamorous field. It is one of sought after profession which can pay as much as two lacs per day to the professional photographer. glamour photography, food photography, industrial photography, and corporate photography are equally flourishing.

Music producer: Traditionally, a film used to have one music director, who composed songs as well as the original soundtrack for the film. However, today the industry uses different composers, music directors, and lyricists for each song in a film. With this trend, it becomes vital to ensure that there is continuity and seamlessness in the soundtrack. To withhold this job, comes the role of music producers who take over and deliver the final soundtrack including various versions of the songs.

The writer is Dean, School of contemporary media, Pearl Academy

SRMJEEE cancelled

In the light of challenges posed by COVID-19, and taking into account the safety concerns of students and parents, SRM Institute of Science and Technology — SRMIST, has cancelled the SRM Joint Engineering Entrance Exam (SRMJEEE) for B.Tech admissions 2020, that was planned in 127 Indian cities and five overseas centres in Dubai, Doha, Muscat, Bahrain and Kuwait.

The B.Tech admissions for 2020 will now be based on +2/pre-university/equivalent marks in Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics/Biology. The new admission process will apply to all campuses of SRMIST-Kattankulathur, Ramapuram,

Vadapalani and NCR New Delhi; SRM University, AP — Andhra Pradesh; SRM University Haryana, Sonapat; and SRM University Sikkim.

Those who scored in JEE Main and SAT are encouraged to apply. The forms for providing the +2 /pre-university/equivalent marks and JEE (Main)/SAT Score are available on the university website — www.srmist.edu.in.

Applicants can swiftly update and complete their forms. In case the results of the Class XII Board Examination are not declared, the marks can be uploaded as soon as the results are known.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Changing another obstacle into opportunity Manav Sthali School under the guardianship of its visionary Director & Founder Principal Mamta V Bhatnagar an e-Book Week of its own kind was organised by Dipti A Bhatnagar. It commenced from July 1 and concluded on July 5, 2020. Each child of the school was asked to read a book during the month of June and to participate in activities based on his reading. Stories and books were meticulously handpicked to add to the knowledge of the child and to make him learn values.

Like in primary they read Needle Tree, The Honest Woodcutter, The Lion and the Fox, The Red Hen, The Mixed up Chameleon



and various other stories conveying a message to be content, not to be greedy, be naive, generous and good to others. In middle they were asked to read stories of Ruskin Bond, Harry Potter Books and the Classics like Alice in the

Wonderland. Autobiographies and Biographies were also picked up to reaffirm the faith in ones abilities and learn how to wade through the rough weathers. Volunteers of classes XI and XII were attached in to assist the librarian Achla Sahay and Primary Coordinator Neha Khanna to conduct virtual meetings and take rehearsals for their role plays.

It was fun to watch them transforming into lions and foxes, grasshoppers and ants, woodcutter and a *chai waala*. They displayed favourite characters from the famous stories of Ruskin Bond enacted their famous personalities also. It concluded with a great show by the volunteers and words of wisdom by Mamta V Bhatnagar, Director, Manav Sthali School.

VITEEE stands cancelled

COVID-19 pandemic has challenged the academic operations especially those aspiring for higher education. Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) has been conducting VIT Engineering Entrance Examination (VITEEE) for admission to various engineering programmes offered by VIT group of Institutions.

Conducting VITEEE-2020 in various cities with rising infections has become risky and dangerous. To keep the student and parent community safe, VITEEE-2020 stands cancelled. The admission will be based on Class XII/pre-university marks in Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics/Biology.

Those who scored in JEE (Main) will be given weightage. The forms for providing the marks are provided in the VIT Website www.vit.ac.in.

TAKE A LEAP

Online teaching has now become a strategic priority emphasising the need for value-based education and re-establishing standards of excellence, says DR JITIN CHADHA



Over the years, technology has been utilised to improve teaching and learning and help our students be successful. The concept of force multiplier when applied to technology allowed students access to online resources, assignments and assistance from teachers on-demand without the physical connection. It also expanded the school day by allowing them this access anytime and from anywhere with just an Internet connection.

Although design institutes amongst others have openly utilised this technological feature or outsourced it, it still formed only a part of the curriculum. The pandemic brought home the fact that our older business model was now in trouble as students and teachers remained confined within their homes. Thus as institutes, leaders, academicians, administrators, service providers, technological partners and students, we needed to up our game and adapt to a new normal, which involves understanding learning science and using technology as the intermediary to enable teaching and learning.

The core competency of any institute is the unique blend of imparting quality education and creating a conducive learning environment. Online teaching has now become a strategic

priority emphasising the need for value-based education and re-establishing standards of excellence. It has meant encouraging academicians to upskill, innovate and create learner-centric digital content, find newer interactive teaching methodologies and assessment mechanisms. The new understanding emphasizes that simply interchanging classroom teaching format onto the online medium as a notion of doing live classes isn't effective. It calls for a mindset change to create the correct interplay of synchronous and asynchronous teaching methodologies to influence learning outcomes, elicit interest and productively engage with students and cater to different learner groups without compromising on quality.

CHANGED MINDSET

The pandemic has brought about a changed mindset with regards to the age-old perception of the value of a teacher's physical presence in classrooms while simultaneously looking at how that value can be leveraged effectively online. There is a need now to clearly understand the workload of teachers as they combine offline and online teaching practices.

ONLINE EDUCATION

Online education has also put the ownership of learning

Institutes, academicians, service providers and students have to up their game and adapt to a new normal to enable teaching and learning. The core competency of any institute is to impart quality education and create a conducive learning environment

on to the students. Students learn best in an interactive and socially engaged environment. Teachers working closely with students help explore their difficulties and requirements leading to a better understanding of their learning journey and progress. It also supports that students have different learning styles some are self-motivated while others need the constant nudge to move ahead.

Art and design courses are inherently hands-on, experiential and participatory. As assessments and placements are evolving as key concerns, questions around how effective and valuable online education can be and how learners can apply their acquired learning to practical workplace scenarios need careful thought. This has therefore highlighted the need to relook and redesign our existing physical campuses while adhering to health and safety guidelines.

Reopening institutes call for streamlining processes that will help screen students and staff upon arrival, increasing cleaning and disinfecting the facilities, encouraging hand washing and sanitising and wearing face masks.

Within classrooms, social distancing can be created by strategically altering the existing space with clearly demarcated coloured markings so

desks are sufficiently separated. Flexible furniture and movable furnishings can also add to the space.

Social distancing can also be encouraged by making certain operational decisions like staggering class timings to limit students within a physical space and remove overcrowding, dividing students into groups and rotating their schedule so they have a mix of classroom teaching and home learning, limiting student movements by only allowing teachers to move between classrooms, restricting sharing of commonly utilised high-touch materials like sewing machines, library books, design tools, supplies and equipment.

Students should be encouraged to bring in their supplies to reduce the risk of physical contact. A combination of teaching methods, both offline and online also ensures students are not present within the facilities for extended periods.

Due diligence with regards to wireless connectivity within the physical campus need for setting up mobile hotspots, using mobile whiteboards and large writing surfaces for teachers, exploring electronic learning tools and devices are crucial to upgrade the educational facility.

The writer is director of Indian Institute of Art and Design

'Groom yourself to embrace change

It is important to keep a few guidelines in mind while choosing a B-school in order to reach the top of the ladder, says DR KULNEET SURI

Business management is one of the most sought-after career opportunities and a popular major for college students across the globe. Business management being the most lucrative career is acquiring more and more MBA aspirants every year and the student pool is consistently and dramatically broadening. The business management industry demands professionals who can keep up to the pragmatic, fast-paced race of the new era complexities, and hence taking up an MBA education programme now requires dedicated efforts more than ever before.

Only MBA seekers know how many aspects they need to keep in mind before racing into the constantly flourishing corporate world. Unlike other streams, MBA aspirants need to cope up and prepare themselves in an all-encompassing manner for the highly competitive platform. Besides, the changing paradigms of management education have brought about new ventures to its students and success will follow only if you groom yourself with the right understanding, outlook, and mindset. If you find the mentioned statements familiar and you are one of those pursuing education in MBA, you are at the right place. Listed below are some of the prevailing but potent pieces of guidance that will help you conquer the bigger picture as a new MBA student.

The idea of research might sound ordinary, but it is the foremost practical step to cut-off that nervous, shaky feeling on the first day of your B-school. Attending B-school is quite different from the rest of the streams, as you will need to be of the ongoing activities. MBA courses are mostly loaded with events, seminars, practical sessions, experiential learning, and industry visits and you can't seem to miss on even one.

This is the stepping stone to the active and swift business realm and every move counts. More than textbooks and theoretical knowledge, innovation, active participation, and embracing the dynamic opportunities will help you grow, and that is precisely how you need to start to avoid even the slightest regretful consequences. Moreover, you need to understand that institutions nowadays follow different trends of imparting education and a certain level of pre-research on your institution and course-structure will only ease you in settling you into your MBA life. Your personal and academic life will blend more than you assume. Now, this is a very tricky part that most of the students struggle to adjust with. An MBA course will require you to communicate, interact, and connect with



Dr Kulneet Suri
Senior Director, Institute of Management Studies, Noida

people, more than any other academic stream. Most of the projects will be divided into groups, and you can hence expect to spend ample time working with a team. This becomes a centralised issue for students who are of an introvert nature. However, remember that you do not need to be an extrovert to socialise and work efficiently in a team. These are some of the crucial and lesser discussed skills that you will learn to inherit during the course of your MBA programme that will further help you build the right attitude both for your academic and personal life. Apart from work, management students often need to be active in an extended classroom environment that involves college events, get-togethers, casual workshops, and webinars. You can always groom yourself to some extent to embrace the change, as it will always be fruitful for your career.

Last, focus on building valuable connections. Many of the MBA students get misguided by the idea of starting to take necessary steps like building connections, researching job availabilities, and grabbing additional opportunities after the completion of their MBA course. You need to keep spirits high when it comes to building a network and socialising with those who may contribute to your professional lives ahead.

However, a substantial part of skills and capabilities to attain the customs and practice depends on expertise of mentors. Hence, choosing the right institution is important.

Dedication towards work is driven by passion and interest and not through monetary needs. Employees should feel satisfied and get assistance to grow constantly to utilise the time at their workplace productively. For someone who does not aim to work just to make a living, shaping their hobbies into a career is the best way to begin.

Hobbies help us to attain mental and emotional peace and help in the development of social, interpersonal, and creative thinking skills. Students stuck at home during COVID-19 lockdown could utilise this time and polish their interests by enrolling in certified online trainings. If you are fond of doing any of the 3 things mentioned below during leisure time, you can learn these

professionally through online trainings.

Learning new languages: Your love for learning new languages has immense potential than just being a hobby. Enrolling in an online training such as the French language training can keep the complexities of learning during lockdown at bay. An official language of 29 countries, learning French can help you get an edge over your peers while applying for higher studies internationally. Through the training, one can learn to read, write, understand, and speak French in their everyday interactions. An in-built speech recognition engine allows you to practice your French-speaking skills and rectify their pronunciation mistakes. The training also features assignments,

MINDIT

assessment tests, quizzes, and exciting exercises. After getting certified in French language, you can work in MNCs, import-export houses, embassies, call centres, tourism and hospitality industry, and can take job roles like teaching and translator and interpreter.

Writing: Writing is a therapy for many. Those who love observing, have attention to details, and prefer to express themselves through write-ups instead of words, should enrol in a writing training program to enhance their skillset. Trainings such as

creative writing bring out your inner wordsmith and help you polish your short story, novel, features, news-stories, screenplay, advertising, or editing skills. The peer grading feature helps you to receive and give constructive feedback on the writing assignments. Your peers act as your readers and anonymously help you to rectify your mistakes and polish your writing skills. Reading their write-ups strengthens your vocabulary and allows you to explore different writing styles. Individuals professionally skilled in writing can find lucrative jobs in every industry. They can

work as copywriter, editor, journalist, speechwriter, technical writer, novelist, story writer, columnist, PR specialist, film critic, and social media specialist in industries such as education, entertainment, food, travel, hospitality, and healthcare.

Capturing moments: The integration of high-resolution cameras in our handsets helped a lot of people discover their passion for photography. Whether you love clicking the beautiful nature around you or have become the official photographer for every college outing, you could sharpen your skills of capturing emotions, storytelling, lighting and colour, framing concepts, and attention to detail by enrolling in an online photography course.

The course gives you a wide understanding of camera and lenses, white balance and exposure triangle parameters, camera metering and focusing, the art of composition and shooting techniques, and image post-processing. Along with a certificate, you also get placement assistance that helps you to find out the right career opportunities for you. After successfully acquiring the title of a certified photographer, one can work as a freelancer for travel, food, entertainment, and other industries, or could find lucrative job opportunities like a film set, pet, portrait, landscape, sports, product, fine art, fashion, architectural, and aerial photographer.

The writer is Sarvesh Agrawal, founder-CEO of Internshala

For further information contact
sbs.admissions@strath.ac.uk
Application deadline: September 1, 2020.

The Strathclyde Business School, Glasgow invites applications for its MBA Deans Excellence Scholarships for 2020. Candidates for full-time MBA programme in Glasgow will automatically be considered for these scholarships.

Number: 5
Value: £15,000
Subject: Accounting and Finance, Economics, Entrepreneurship, Human Resource Management, Marketing, Business, Strategy and Organisation, Hospitality and Tourism, Management, Management Science.

Eligibility: Candidates who are prepared to act as ambassadors for the Strathclyde FT MBA. Who can demonstrate through their ideas outlined in their application and interview how they would contribute to bring the class together through teamwork to create community, from the outset, in order to achieve the ultimate earning (and social)

How to apply: You need to take admission in an UG degree programme at the university.
Application deadline: The last date to apply is October 30, 2020.

The University of Melbourne is providing the Bachelor of Arts International funding for students in Australia. Participants from India can apply.

They can pursue a bachelor's degree programme in the field of Historical, philosophical, political and social studies; Language, literature and cultural studies at the university.
Eligibility: Apply as a full-time student. You need to complete the Victorian Certificate of Education or an equivalent qualification.

Language requirement: If your native language is not English, so you will be asked to satisfy the English language requirements of the university.

The fee education award provides 25 or 50 per cent fee remission, or a \$5000 bursary, to a select group of high-ranking international students.

HUMAN RESOURCES (HR) AT TOPHIRE

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹15,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/4583298
Deadline: August 6, 2020

DATA ENTRY AT INVICTA CONSUMER

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹8,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/4583300
Deadline: August 5, 2020

OPERATIONS AT ENETSTUDIOZ INCORPORATION

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹9,500-₹12,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/4583307
Application deadline: August 6, 2020

ADVANCED EXCEL (MIS) AT LABOTEK

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹8,000-₹15,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/4583308
Application deadline - 5th August 2020

MARKET SURVEY AT DTHISIGMA SYSTEMS

Location: Lucknow
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/4583309
Application deadline: August 3, 2020

QLT ASSURANCE/SOFTWARE TESTING AT WITSY

Location - Chandigarh, Mohali
Stipend - Rs. 5,000-8,000/Month
Link - internshala.com/i/4583310
Application deadline - 4th August 2020

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (SALES) AT URBANCLAP TECHNOLOGIES INDIA

Location: Bhubaneswar
Stipend: ₹8,000-₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/4583312
Application deadline: July 27, 2020

COPYWRITING AT 120 MEDIA COLLECTIVE

Location - Work From Home
Stipend - Rs. 10,000/Month
Link - internshala.com/i/4583304
Application deadline - 5th August 2020

STUDY ABROAD

'Keep yourself updated with latest policy changes'

There are three key points that students who have applied to study in foreign universities need to keep in mind, says EESHA BAGGA

The COVID-19 pandemic has devastated many sectors across the globe. The education sector too got overwhelmed by its might. Many universities like Stanford and Chicago have either suspended or canceled admissions until further notice. This has caused problems for those students who got their admission procedures cleared. So, if you were looking to apply for a programme in a foreign university then you must consider these three things before taking your final call:

Check country's current status report: The pandemic has affected different countries in different ways. Some are coming back on track while others are still suffering. Top universities in the UK like Cambridge and Oxford have asked their students to wait till they receive further notice from the Government.

Check for changes made in admission procedures: Almost all universities have closed their campuses until the circumstances get better and appointed different ways for admission. Like, the University of Kent which is admitting students online. They are also planning to start on-campus admissions from August. Also, some universities like the University of Louisville are arranging virtual visits.

Check for the changes in immigration policy: Countries like New Zealand have ill-advised foreign students to apply for a student visa because of the uncertainty in their immigration policies. They have recommended students to study online (if they are already admitted to any university in New Zealand).

Later a student can use it as proof of association and the New Zealand Government will consider it while approving or extending his/her visa. Many countries are making similar changes.

To be on a safer side you must keep yourself updated with the latest news on the country you are about to migrate to. The writer is Director, Partnerships & Alliances, Mindler

IN BRIEF

ISBF PARTNERS WITH KINGSTON BUSINESS SCHOOL

The Indian School of Business & Finance (ISBF) has announced a partnership with Kingston Business School, Kingston University (KU), London to bring to aspiring Indian students its acclaimed undergraduate programme in Business Management, at less than half the cost of pursuing it entirely in London.

This programme offers students the unique opportunity to undertake the first two years of this degree in India at ISBF, and then move to Kingston University for third year and graduate in London. Throughout the programme, all students

are full-fledged Kingston University students, with the curriculum and the final degree both also coming entirely from Kingston University.

All students of this programme progress automatically to Kingston University in their third year, without needing to appear for IELTS in doing so. They also enjoy the benefits of moving with an entire batch of classmates and friends, which helps significantly with making the transition easier. Transitioning students can also opt for hostel accommodation on campus at Kingston University, London.

WORKSHOP ON SCIENCE OF MUSIC

The KIIT World School organised a workshop on Science of Music. The workshop focused on how music plays an important role in our speech and how our language is scientific. Mayank Verma, a management consultant and corporate Acharya spoke about the science of music and its impact on our lives.

Verma said: "If we don't have the capability of sound, we will not be able to relate or identify any of our senses. Our Vedic science said, if we pay enough attention to listen to the sound around us, it can develop our faculty multifold. The sound makes the alphabet, the alphabet makes words and words make sentences which we use to express

ourselves. Listening is key to doing anything better and music does that beautifully. We can enhance our perception just by doing this." Neelima Kamarah, Principal KIIT World School said: "The science behind vowels is amazing. Our language is scientific and it's important as a teacher to understand these finer details."

TALENT SEARCH EXAMINATION FOR UG ASPIRANTS

The TIME is conducting its Talent Search Examination (TSE) for UG aspirants on July 19, 2020. Due to the current pandemic outbreak, students can write the test from the convenience of their homes in any one of the slots, 10 am or 6 pm. It as also taken the

initiative to provide an attractive fee waiver upto 100 per cent on CLAT/IPM/BBA/HM 20/21 courses. The fee waiver will be available based on their performance in this Scholarship Test. Here is the link for the aspirants to register: <https://www.time4education.com/local/articlecms/page.php?id=4211>.

As soon as the lockdown was implemented, TIME had announced its online classes for various courses like CAT, CLAT + IPM, Bank Exams, GMAT, GRE, and other. New courses are being launched every week.

Huge chance missed

Manchester United slip at the death to remain out of top 4

AFP ■ MANCHESTER

Manchester United missed the chance to move up to third in the Premier League on Monday after Michael Obafemi's 96th minute equaliser earned Southampton a 2-2 draw at Old Trafford in the latest twist in the race for a place in next season's Champions League.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's men were unable to take advantage of weekend defeats for Chelsea and Leicester to remain in fifth. United had become the first side in Premier League history to win four consecutive games by a three-goal margin, but there was no cruise for the Red Devils this time even after they responded to Stuart Armstrong's early opener.

Two goals in as many minutes from Marcus Rashford and Anthony Martial turned the game around, but United were caught out by a corner deep into stoppage time when substitute Obafemi turned home Jan Bednarek's flick on.

"It's the worst time to concede a goal but it happens in football. You have to be strong and take it,"



Southampton's Michael Obafemi, 20, celebrates after scoring his team's second goal against Manchester United on Monday

said United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer. "We've won so many games that way ourselves but it's all part of the learning for this team."

Manchester City's victory over UEFA in the Court of Arbitration for Sport earlier on Monday upped the pressure on United to continue their

impressive form with only a place in the top four now good enough for Champions League qualification.

Solskjaer will still be confident of achieving that goal as his side have closed an eight-point gap on Leicester, who they face on the final day of the season, since the Premier League's

restart. But two dropped points were a reminder that United are far from the finished article if they aspire to challenge Liverpool and Manchester City for the title next season.

"We didn't deserve three points today," admitted Solskjaer. "We never

got the rhythm in our passing today, especially after 2-1."

Ralph Hasenhuttl's side remain in 12th, but have lost just once in six games since the restart. "We are becoming more brave," said Hasenhuttl. "You can feel the guys really enjoy what they are doing."

Pep 'incredibly happy', but rivals brand Man City let-off a 'disgrace'

LONDON: Pep Guardiola on Tuesday said a weight had been lifted from Manchester City after their European ban was overturned by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), but rival managers Jose Mourinho and Jurgen Klopp criticised the ruling.

The court on Monday lifted a two-year ban imposed earlier this year on the Premier League club by European football's governing body UEFA over Financial Fair Play (FFP) breaches.

"I am incredibly happy for the decision. It shows all the people said about the club wasn't true," said Guardiola.

"People cannot understand how difficult it was for everyone as a club being under suspicion. Now we have proven it at the court, we go again on the pitch."

Tottenham manager Mourinho said the court's decision was a "disaster" and showed FFP, which limits club's spending in line with their revenue, is now dead, while Liverpool boss Klopp said City's reprieve was a bad day for football.

An initial fine of 30 million euros (\$34 million) imposed by UEFA was reduced to 10 million euros by CAS. However, the fine related only to City's failure to cooperate with UEFA's investigation rather than FFP breaches.

Mourinho said if they were guilty, City should be banned — but if they were innocent, they should not have to pay a penny.

"It's a disgraceful decision, because if Man City is not guilty then to be punished with some millions is a disgrace. If you are not guilty, you are not punished. By the other way if you are guilty you should be banned so it is also a disgraceful decision. In any case the decision is a disaster," said Mourinho.



Karim Benzema celebrates after scoring Real's second goal against Granada

One more win

Real will be crowned champions if they beat Villarreal at home tomorrow

AFP ■ GRANADA

Real Madrid need one victory to secure La Liga after they held off a second-half comeback from Granada on Monday to win 2-1 and move four points clear of Barcelona.

With two games left, Madrid will be crowned champions if they beat Villarreal at home on Thursday regardless of how Barca fare at the Camp Nou against Osasuna.

But they were made to sweat by a Granada team that are gunning for Europe and have been arguably the division's surprise of the season after being promoted from second tier last year.

Ferland Mendy and Karim Benzema looked to have set Madrid on course for a comfortable win at Los Carmenes but Granada were transformed after the break and Machis's 50th-minute strike gave them hope.

An increasingly nervous Madrid were clinging on by the end and needed Sergio Ramos to clear one shot off the line as Zinedine Zidane's side dug in for a ninth

consecutive victory.

"Our vision when we start every season is to win the league," said Zidane. "There are two games left. We are close but we're not there yet."

When the final whistle blew, Zidane roared with relief and Ramos clenched his fists after coming through their toughest test since the restart.

"We can't relax, we're a bit closer but we have to carry on," said Ramos afterwards.

"We let our guard down here a bit on the second half. We won the first half and lost the second and maybe that's a warning for us. We have to make sure we don't repeat that mistake."

Madrid could win La Liga for the third time in eight years at the Alfredo di Stefano Stadium on Thursday night. "It would mean a lot," said Ramos.

"We're in the race and hopefully on Thursday we can celebrate."

If Madrid slip up against Villarreal, they will still have a second chance on Sunday when they finish at Leganes while Barcelona visit Alaves.

Indian team hasn't yet figured out Pant's batting position: Kaif

NEW DELHI: Former India cricketer Mohammad Kaif has tried to decode as to why young wicket-keeper-batsman Rishabh Pant has been a hit with Delhi Capitals in IPL but has failed to put up consistent performances for Team India on the international arena.

Kaif, who is Delhi Capitals' assistant coach, has seen Pant from close quarters and stated his batting position hasn't been fixed by the Indian team management and that is why he hasn't been able to replicate his consistent IPL performance on the biggest stage.

Before coronavirus pandemic put a stop on cricket in March, Pant saw KL Rahul take over wicket-keeping duties in New Zealand in limited-overs formats as the southpaw was dropped following a string of underwhelming scores.

He, however, kept the gloves in the two-match Test series, which India lost against Kane Williamson's troops.

"Rishabh Pant is a free-flowing player. He is an attacking player and he should play attacking shots from ball one," Kaif told former India cricketer Aakash Chopra on his YouTube show *AakashVani*.

"At first, Dada (Sourav Ganguly), (Ricky) Ponting and I decided to send him early but then we figured out he has to play 10 overs. He should get 60 balls to play. This is something that Indian team hasn't done yet."

"An attacking player should get the role of a finisher. I feel they haven't been able to figure out on Pant's batting position in the Indian team. In IPL, we know we have limited-overs to make him play the last 10 overs. He plays his natural game in the IPL and that is why he does well," he added.

Up to 2nd

Nerazzurri come from behind to tame Torino

AFP ■ MILAN

Inter Milan put one foot in next season's Champions League on Monday after coming from behind to beat relegation-threatened Torino 3-1 and move up to second place in Serie A.

Antonio Conte's Inter moved above Atalanta and Lazio to go eight points behind league leaders Juventus thanks to two goals early in the second half from Ashley Young and Diego Godin and another from Lautaro Martinez just after the hour mark.

The Milanese club are level on 68 points with off-form Lazio, who slumped to a 2-1 defeat at Sassuolo on Saturday, and one ahead of flamboyant Atalanta in fourth.

However, with a first league title since 2010 unlikely, the most important statistic for Inter is the



Inter's Lautaro Martinez, right, celebrates after scoring his side's third goal

14-point gap between them and fifth-placed Roma with six matches left to play.

"It's important to win matches like this any way you can... I think we deserved to win," said Godin to *Sky Sport Italy*. "We're second now and we want to continue winning... let's see where we can finish, but it's difficult to get closer to Juventus."

Torino meanwhile still have to look over their shoulders following their fourth defeat since the league restart-

ed last month.

Moreno Longo's side are 16th, five points above the relegation zone.

Inter were dismal in the first period and the transformation after the break suggested they had been subjected to one of coach Antonio Conte's famous roastings at halftime.

"It was a very good performance with over 60% possession, 20 shots on goal, nine corners to two," said Conte. "The lads did well. That goal could have made us nervous but they stayed on their feet and kept playing and finding the goal."

Messi can play till 2025: Garcia

KOLKATA: Former Barcelona midfielder Luis Garcia feels the club's superstar forward Lionel Messi can easily continue playing till 2025.

The 33-year-old is currently contracted until the end of next season with Barcelona holding talks with the ace Argentina forward about an extension.

There is speculation that record six-time Ballon d'Or winner Messi is unhappy with the club's leadership.

"Why not? The way he is playing, adapting his style to the game is impressive. Every year he shows us something different but keeps up the same amount of goals, of assists," Garcia, who played for Barcelona in the 2003-2004 season, said during a video conference facilitated by LaLiga.

"Even getting more every year! He's adapting, he doesn't

spend so much time up front because he knows it's harder, so he drops a little more. He shows why he's so intelligent. He adapts his game to what the team needs in every game. I could see him playing in 2025, easily!" added the former Atletico Madrid and Liverpool winger.

Real Madrid are closer to winning the LaLiga title after their 2-1 win against Granada on Monday which took them four points clear of Barcelona with two games remaining in the season.

"There have been a couple of games where they have struggled. But they carry the momentum when even not playing well they are getting the results. (Federico) Valverde has been one of their best players so far. Key players have been Ramos and Benzema," Garcia said on Real Madrid.

IANS

Federer almost perfect tennis player: Edberg

IANS ■ STOCKHOLM

Former Swedish World No 1 Stefan Edberg said that Swiss great Roger Federer is set apart by the kind of all-round ability that he possesses. Edberg coached Federer between January 2014 and December 2015.

"Like I said to Roger, he looks so easy when he plays, he floats around the court. He's got grace, he's got power, he's got touch, he's got everything you wish for. He's almost the perfect tennis player as I see it—both on and off-court. So he's very special like we all know," Edberg told *Eurosport*.

Edberg said that Austrian Dominic Thiem is a player he feels is closest among the younger generation of men's tennis players who can match up to the incredible career stats of Federer, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic.

"He showed he could have won the Australian Open this year very easily," the Swede said about Thiem. "That was a big chance for him. If Rafa wasn't there, he's going to win the French Open one day. He's probably the closest one today, I would say."

"But at the same time, (Alexander) Zverev has shown a lot of potential, sort of lost track a little bit, but it doesn't take much to get back on the right track again."

"(Stefanos) Tsitsipas has shown some... He's definitely knocking on the door as well. I probably can add a few others. But Thiem, I would say at the moment."

Turner rates Kane ahead of Kohli in tough batting conditions

DUNEDIN: Former New Zealand captain Glenn Turner has rated current skipper Kane Williamson ahead of his Indian counterpart Virat Kohli when it comes to tough batting conditions.

Kohli and Williamson are regarded as two of the finest batsmen in modern-day cricket. As per the latest ICC Test rankings, Kohli and Williamson are placed at second and fourth spots respectively and have been leading their respective teams with great aplomb for a while now.

Turner believes Kohli's ability to play spin is second to none but he rated Williamson ahead



Virat Kohli in a batting stance

of him to bat in challenging batting conditions.

"Kohli is less likely to have been exposed early in his development to seaming pitches and the ball continuing to swing for extended periods, whereas Williamson will have experienced those conditions more

often," Turner was quoted as saying by *The Telegraph*.

"Kohli's greater exposure to pitches that take turn will have him more accustomed to playing spin better. Conditions less favourable for swing and seamers will also have allowed him more opportunities to become good at aggressively dominating that type of bowling."

"I would only say that under tougher batting conditions, I would back Williamson ahead of Kohli. Under good batting conditions, Kohli is likely to be more dominant, thereby providing his team with more time to get a favourable result," he added.

PTI ■ DUBAI

Jason Holder on Tuesday attained the highest rating points by any West Indies bowler in 20 years, reaching a career-best second place in the ICC Test Player Rankings after leading his team to a famous win over England at Southampton.

Holder, who picked seven wickets including a haul of six for 42 in the first innings, is now on a career-best 862 rating points, the best for any West Indies bowler since Courtney Walsh's tally of 866 in August 2000.

Indian cricketers, who have not taken the field since March due to the Covid-19 pandemic, have retained their positions in the top-10 of batsmen and

bowlers rankings.

Skipper Virat Kohli remains second in the batsmen standings behind Steve Smith while Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane remain seventh and ninth respectively. Jasprit Bumrah is the only Indian bowler in the top-10 at seventh spot.

Holder retained 35th position among batsmen after the first Test and has also reached a career-best tally of 485 points at the top of the all-rounders' list.

The competition at the top

promises to gain momentum as number-two Ben Stokes has also made huge gains to attain a career-best tally of 431 points, narrowing the lead from 66 to 54 points.

Stokes, leading the side in the absence of Joe Root, has equalled his career-high ninth position among batsmen that he achieved last November, after scores of 43 and 46 at the Aegaeas Bowl.

He is now only one place behind Root. Stokes has also risen three places in the bowlers' list to 23rd position with six wickets in the match.

Other England players to move up the

rankings include left-handed opener Rory Burns, who is in the top 30 for the first time after scores of 30 and 42, while middle-order batsman Zak Crawley is in the top 100 after accumulating 86 runs in the match.

For the visiting side, Shannon Gabriel has gained 46 points to reach a tally of 726 with a player-of-the-match effort of nine wickets, but risen only one place to 18th owing to the wide gap between him and Ravindra Jadeja (722) before the match.

Jermaine Blackwood's superb second-innings knock of 95 has helped him advance 14 slots to 58th position among batsmen while Shane Dowrich is at a career-best 37th position after scores of 61 and 20.

England coach backs under-fire Buttler

PTI ■ SOUTHAMPTON

England head coach Chris Silverwood has thrown his weight behind struggling Jos Buttler, saying he looked good with the bat in the first Test and will be given "the best chance to succeed" in the remainder of the series.

Buttler, a wicket-keeper batsman, has not scored a fifty in his last 12 Test innings and also dropped Jermaine Blackwood, who ended up scoring match-winning 95 for West Indies in the first Test.

Former England seamer Darren Gough believes Buttler's place in the team is under threat and he "has got two Test matches to save his career."



Jos Buttler in training session

"I'm not going to go down that road yet of putting Jos under pressure, because I don't think it's going to help him. So,

first and foremost, we want to give Jos the best opportunity to succeed," Silverwood said.

"(Jos) looked brilliant coming into this game, in practice and everything. He looked very good in the first innings. He just needs to go and make those big scores now, doesn't he? Which he knows as well."

The 45-year-old said it is all about giving Buttler the confidence with the hope that he will come good in the next match.

"From our point of view, it's just making sure that he feels confident in the environment he's in. We'll give him the best chance to succeed really. The rest of it is, he has a good day out, gets some runs, hopefully the rest will be history — he'll go on

from there."

Another player who struggled in the opening Test is top-order batsman Joe Denly and he might be dropped for the second Test with regular skipper Joe Root returning following the birth of his second child.

Denly scored 18 and 29 in the opening Test, while batting at No four Zak Crawley impressed with a top score of 76 in the second innings.

"We're all desperate to see Joe do really well. We can see he's trying hard, he's training hard. He's a great bloke hence why we all want to see him do well, but obviously he's under pressure a little bit, yeah," Silverwood said. "Zak is improving constantly. He certainly showed maturity

Gough suggests Archer, Wood rotation

LONDON: England should not be overly reliant on express pace in the next two tests against West Indies and must consider alternating Jofra Archer and Mark Wood, former quick Darren Gough has said.

England opted for the express speed of Archer and Wood and the experience of James Anderson in Southampton but lost by four wickets in the series opener.

"I've said from the start — rotate Archer and Wood," Gough, who played 58 tests between 1994-2003, told *Sky Sport Cricket*.

and the innings he played was very good.

"We'd have all loved to have seen him go on and get up to three figures but what we did

"We got a bit carried away, seeing Wood bowl really quickly in South Africa. We've seen Archer do it, but it's very hard to do it every single game."

Gough said England should also bring back Stuart Broad and Chris Woakes for the second test, which begins on Thursday at Old Trafford.

"I would rest Wood and Anderson at Old Trafford and bring in Broad and Woakes," Gough said. "That would be my plan then, with back-to-back Test matches, you bring Anderson and Wood back (for the third Test)."

Agencies



On July 14 last year, the entire world witnessed one of the most dramatic cricket games ever played. The World Cup 2019 summit clash between hosts England and New Zealand at the iconic Lord's in London became one of the most iconic and memorable World Cup finals of all time in the history of the tournament. England, led by Eoin Morgan, became the Men's Cricket World Cup champions after they defeated Kiwis on the account of their superior boundary count