

Congress produces audio tapes of horse-trading; BJP says CM office manufacturing evidence; Raj, Haryana Police face off in G'gram where 18 rebel MLAs camping

### DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI/JAIPUR/GURUGRAM

It was a day of high drama in Rajasthan politics, starting with leaking of sensational tapes revealing alleged linkage of two BJP MLAs and a Union Minister in "horse-trading"

filing of FIRs , and ending with a standoff between Rajasthan and Haryana Police in Gurugram where 18 MLAs of the Sachin Pilot groups are camping in two luxurious its two MLAs – Bhanwar Lal hotels under police protection. and Vishwendra Singh - and

A team of Special Operations Group of Rajasthan Police arrives at ITC Grand Bharat hotel where Congress MLAs are staying at

bid, arrest of two middlemen, Pilot feud reached Rajasthan High Court, Gehlot accused the BJP of attempting to deestabilise the State Government by poaching on MLAs.

On a day when the Gehlot- got an FIR lodged against

them. The Rajasthan Police also booked Union Minister Gajendra Shekhawat and BJP "What happened today was leader Sanjay Jain, accusing them of being involved in a conspiracy to topple the 18-month-old Congress Government.

The FIRs were registered on the basis of the complaint filed by Mahesh Joshi, the Congress chief whip of the Rajasthan Assembly, after the audio tapes surfaced on Thursday evening and went viral on social media amid the political turmoil in State.

They will now have to face the Rajasthan SOG probe which reached the venue they are lodged for last one week.

The police swung in action after Congress spokesman Randeep Surjewala demanded an FIR be registered against Shekhawat and Sanjay Jain, accusing them of being involved in a conspiracy to top-ple the Ashok Gehlot-led Congress Government .

'It should also be probed as to who arranged the 'black money' to bribe MLAs & who were given the bribe," Surjewala, who is also one of the Central Congress team member to resolve the Gehlot-Pilot tug of war, stated.

Reacting to Congress' allegations of trying to bring down the Rajasthan Government, Rajasthan unit BJP said the Rajasthan CM residence is becoming a centre of fake

assassination of leaders. "What happened today was shameful for the politics of Rajasthan that the Chief Minister's residence is becom-ing a centre of fake audio and attempting character assassination of leaders. Attempts have been made to drag central ministers in the matter," Poonia said.

Urging the SOG to initiate a detailed probe, Surjewala said a warrant should be issued against Shekhawat and he should be arrested if it is suspected that he could influence the investigation.

According to reports, audio clips in which Bhanwar Lal, who belongs to the Pilot camp, purportedly conspires to topple Gehlot-led Rajasthan Government under the influence of Pilot.

The suspended MLA, how-ever, refuted the allegations and termed the viral audio as "fake"

"The Officer on Special Duty to Chief Minister, Lokesh Sharma is trying to pressurise MLAs by getting fake audios made as Chief Minister Gehlot is in despair," Sharma stated in his defence. Pilot who has not relented

from his stand even after senior party leaders Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi, Ahmed Patel asked him to come back "home", on Friday spoke to senior leader P Chidambaram.

### PNS NEW DELHI

Calling for a "reformed United Nations" and an improved UN for "humancentric globalisation", Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said India was in the world body at "an important time" and seeks to get inte-grated with global economy with its own vision for "self-reliance" and resilience.

Addressing the United Nations, Modi said Covid-19 tested resolve of all nations and India made the fight against the coronavirus pandemic as people's movement where Government went hand-inhand with the civil society.

The Prime Minister was virtually delivering his address before the UN at the High-Level Segment of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), his first since India was overwhelmingly elected as a non-permanent member of the powerful UN Security Council, last month.

Modi said as always during the natural or other calamities, was born amidst Second World War, "the fury of pandemic India helped 150 nations with should lead to a second birth of the UN. He said India has been elected to UN in "important time" and provide full support "speed" and created SAARC help fund to battle out Covid-19 in the South Asia region and around. As in India, he said to the world body to bring equity in the world. Government reached home of poor and invested three billion dollar to "bring economy back" on the track. that India has a vision of "self-

"Be it earthquakes, reliance" and "resilience" with cyclones, Ebola crisis or any other natural or man-made in global economy. crisis, India has responded with speed and solidarity. In its 75th anniversary, Prime

Improved UN will be epicentre of human centric globalisation: PM



Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks at the high-level segment of ECOSOC via video conferencing in New Delhi on Friday

our joint fight against Covid, Minister said India believed in we have extended medical and multilateralism but it is through other assistance to over 150 a "reformed multilateralism' countries." He said India was that UN would be able to meet the first to respond to the the aspirations of the world and that an "improved" UN should be the epicentre of "human Covid-19 crisis and its grassroots health system helped it centric globalisation". He said India is very much the "best recovery rate" adding "other developing countries can learn from India". The PM said as the UN

mindful of its responsibility toward making a better world and referred to India's 38 million tonne reduction of carbon emission, electricity in villages and deliverance of clean fuel to 18 million people. He said India also aims to have 450 GB

renewal energy by 2030. "With our deep commitment to maintaining global harmony, to improving socioeconomic equity, and to preserving nature's balance, India will play its role in full support of the UN agenda", said the Prime Minister.

### CAPSULE

AISHWARYA, AARADHYA **ADMITTED IN NANAVATI** Mumbai: Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and her daughter Aaradhva Bachchan who were earlier tested Covid positive have been taken to Nanavati hospital Amitabh Bachchan and Abhishek Bachchan are already recuperating in the hospital.

**IITS TO RELAX ADMISSION** New Delhi: The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) has decided to relax admission criterion regarding class 12 marks this year in view of partial ancellation of exams by various boards due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank said on Friday

# Pilot, 18 Cong rebel MLAs get reprieve from HC

Rajasthan HC bars Assembly Speaker from disqualification action till Tuesday PNS NEW DELHI/JAIPUR

Manesar in Gurugram on Friday

complaint to the Speaker, the Congress had sought action Rebel Congress leader Sachin Pilot and 18 other Congress dissident MLAs on against Pilot and the other dissidents under paragraph 2 (1) (a) of the Tenth Schedule Friday got a four-day reprieve ov the Assembly Speaker on the disqualification notices served on them after the Rajasthan High Court extended its hearing on the issue to next week The division Bench, hearing the dissident MLA petition against the Speaker's notices, fixed the next hearing for 10 am on Monday. The counsel for the Speaker assured the court that no order shall be passed on the notice till 5.30 pm on Tuesday. Senior counsel Abhishek Manu Singhvi, who is also a Congress leader, represented



#### PNS NEW DELHI

Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on Friday rubbished allegations that he was part of an alleged conspiracy to topple the Ashok Gehlot Government in Rajasthan. The Rajasthan Police on Friday filed an FIR against Sekhwat and two Congress MLAs on the basis of an audio tape in which they are allegedly heard striking a deal

# None can take an inch of our land: Rajnath

PNS NEW DELHI\LEH

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday favoured dialogue to defuse tension at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh, but remained skeptical as to what extent the ongoing talks will help resolve the differences.

He made this point during Lukung near Pangong Tso visit to Lel

took place, Rajnath said the ongoing negotiations with China at the military and diplomatic levels should help resolve the border dispute. He, however, said he could not guar-antee to what extent the issues will be resolved. Addressing the troops at

stant verification" e of the foi sites, the Defence Minister said the fourth round of Corps manders.

first time since the face-offs talks were underway to end the Commander level talks face-offs at the earliest " but to what extent it will be resolved I cannot guarantee."

His sceptic remarks came day after the Army and the External Affairs Ministry said on Thursday the disengagement process is "intricate" and " complex" and needs " con-

between the two countries came in the backdrop of con-tinuing differences between the two Armies on Depsang and Pangong Tso. Though the Chinese have withdrawn from nearly all the friction points, the pace of pull back in Depsang and Pangong is not commensurate with the agree-

ment between t

Modi, however, reminded

Addressing the UNSC on

which it seeks to be integrated

The provision disqualifies MLAs if they "voluntarily" give up the membership of the

Constitution

the Speaker's office, while Harish Salve and Muku

Rohatgi, are pleading on behalf of the Pilot camp. The Pilot camp has

argued that a party whip applies only when the

Assembly is in session. In its

party which they represent in the House. The Congress claimed that this is the inference that can be drawn from the MLAs conduct. But the dissident camp said Pilot never indicated any intention to leave

the party. Salve said the petitioner has only raised his voice against the "dictatorship" of the Chief Minister and has nothing to break the party.

Covid-19

Government. Shekhawat said the voice in the purported audio clips did

not belong to him and that he was ready for a probe. It is not my voice. I don't know which Sanjay Jain they are talking about. I know many people by that name. If I had talked to someone, my number should be there. You can con-

duct a probe. I am ready for an investigation," Shekhawat said.

BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra too rejected claims made by the Congress.

STATES

Dalhi

Maharashtra

Tamil Nadu

and " intricate" complex" process of disengagement by the Armies of India and China.

Sounding this note of caution, Rajnath, without naming China, reaffirmed that India is not a weak country and no country in the world can touch even an inch of its land.

The tough statement came against the backdrop of more than eight-week stand-off between the two Armies after the Chinese intruded into India at four points. Touring Ladakh for the

DEATHS

11,452

2,315

2 571

RECOVERED

1,60,357

1,10,807

00 201

Defence Minister Rainath Singh, with officers, poses for a photograph at a forward base in Ladakh on Friday

### COPS FIRED AT DUBEY IN SELF DEFENCE: UP TO SC

New Delhi: The UP Government has informed the Supreme Court that the UP Police fired back at gangster Vikas Dubey in self defence after he tried to escape and that the case is diametrically different from the Hyderabad encounter case. In an affidavit, the LIP Government said "The facts of the present case are completely and diametrically different from facts emerging in an incident which took place in Hyderabad.

### Tirumala won't shut its door to devotees, says temple trust

PNS HYDERABAD

Despite as many as 140 employees of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD), including 14 archakas, having tested positive for coronavirus over the past one month, the temple management on Friday made it clear that it had no plans of stopping the general public from the darshan of Lord Venkateshwara. TTD Trust Board chair-

man YV Subba Reddy held a meeting with the archakas on Thursday to take stock of the situation and ensure the daily " kainkaryams" to Srivaru are not disrupted in case of any eventuality.

So far, 140 employees, including 14 archakas, potu workers and security staff, tested positive for the virus. Of them, 70 have recovered and some of them returned to work. Only one employee is in the ICU, and we are in touch with the SVIMS authorities and monitoring the recovery.

We have no plans to close the temple or stop darshan of the Lord," Subba Reddy said.

### TOTAL CASES: 10,38,727 DEATHS: 26,280 **RECOVERED:** 6,53,992 ACTIVE: 3,58,062



Deini	1,20,107	3,571	99,301
Karnataka	55,115	1,152	20,758
Gujarat	46,516	2,107	32,944
Uttar Pradesh	45,163	1,084	27,634
Telangana	42,496	403	28,705
Andhra Pradesh	40,646	534	20,298
West Bengal	38,011	1,049	22,253
Rajasthan	27,789	546	20,626
Haryana	24,797	327	18,718
Bihar	23,300	173	14,997
Madhya Pradesh	21,082	698	14,514
Assam	20,647	56	14,106
Odisha	16,110	109	11,330
Jammu & Kashmir	12,757	231	6,558

TOTAL CASE

2,92,589

1,60,907

1 20 107

#### Half of South Kashmir jail inmates test Covid positive Srinagar: Almost half of the inmates at a jail in south Kashmir have tested positive for COVID-

19, but their condition is stable, officials said on Friday, and stressed that spraying, fumigation and other steps to curb the spread of the virus were carried out at a number of prisons.

Superintendent of Anantnag District Jail Syroz Ahmad Bhat said, " Of the 190 inmates at the prison, 86 inmates have tested positive for the coronavirus infection?

Measures have been taken to contain the spread of the infection among other prisoners. We have isolated these 86 prisoners. Forty-eight of them have been shifted to a nearby facility at high ground, while the rest have been placed in two separate blocks within the jail complex," he told PTI.

### After US, India has done most Covid-19 tests: White House

Washington: After the US, which has carried out a record 42 million Covid-19 tests, India has done the second largest number of 12 million coronavirus tests, the White House has said. More than 3.5 million people have tested positive with the coronavirus and 138,000 died in the US. Globally, more than 13.6 million have tested positive and over 586,000 have died. "With regard to (the coronavirus) testing,

we've done more than 42 million tests. The second-highest number is 12 million from India We're leading the world in testing," White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany told reporters at a news conference here on Thursday.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan offers prayers at historical Mahakaleshwar temple during his visit in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh on Friday Pioneer photo

### **Another jolt for Cong** in MP as its Mepanagar **MLA joins BJP**



STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

Even after mass exodus of Congress MLA in Madhya Pradesh, a slow resentment continues in the State unit of Congress. Yet another Congress legislator from Mepanagar Sumitra Devi resigned from the State Assembly on Friday.

Days after Bada Malhera

MLA Pradyumn Singh Lodhi

Devi Kasdekar, an MLA from Nepanagar in Burhanpur, resigned from the membership of MP Assembly or

Friday. Lodhi was quickly given post of chairman of Food and Civil Supplies Corporation by the Shivraj Singh Chouhan Government.

**Continued on Page 3** 

had resigned as MLA, Sumitra



# Monsoon session postponed due to **Covid pandemic**



STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

The Madhya Pradesh Assembly's monsoon session, which was scheduled to begin here from July 20, has been postponed in light of the coronavirus pandemic, an official said on Friday.

The decision to defer the session was taken unanimously at an all-party meeting on Friday chaired by protem Speaker Rameshwar Sharma.

The meeting was attended by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Leader of Opposition Kamal Nath and Home and Legislative Affairs Minister Narottam Mishra, among oth-ers, he said. The decision will be forwarded to the Governor for

approval, he added. This decision also means that Rameshwar Sharma would continue as protem Speaker. As per rules, protem Speaker is appointed only upto the time when full-time Speaker is not elected in the first meeting of

the House With this, The election of new Speaker and Deputy Speaker has also been delayed. Earlier too, the first protem Speaker Jagdeesh Deora had remained on this post for over three months, before he was made Cabinet Minister in the Shivraj Singh Chouhan Government.

At present Rameshwar Sharma is on the post of Protem Speaker since July 2. the workshop.

**ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT** DHI organises online workshop on collaboration in manufacturing

#### **STAFF REPORTER** BHOPAL

 $T^{\rm owards \ developing \ self-reliance in manufacturing,}_{\rm the \ Department \ of \ Heavy}$ Industry (DHI), Government of India organised an online workshop 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat – Collaboration in Manufacturing'. This first of its kind event saw a cross-section kind event, saw a cross-section of Indian manufacturing organisations coming together to dwell upon the next steps for increased cooperation in indigenous manufacturing. The workshop aimed at fostering better utilisation of assets across industries to find solutions by collaborative R&D for development of technologies behind imports.

Chaired by Arun Goel, Secretary (HI), the workshop was attended by more than 120 participants, comprising senior DHI officers, heads and senior executives of CPSEs, Indian private sector companies and multinational companies engaged in manufacturing, as well as senior representatives of trade associations. India's leading engineering and manufacturing enterprise, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) made a presentation outlining its capabilities during

**Highlighting the** need for rapid growth in domestic manufacturing envisioned in the **Government of** India's target of **25% contribution** from

manufacturing sector to GDP by 2025, Secretary (HI) said that the workshop was an initiative for kickstarting regular interaction and collaboration **between various** Indian organisations to achieve an Aatmanirbhar Bharat

Highlighting the need for rapid growth in domestic manufacturing envisioned in the Government of India's target of 25% contribution from manufacturing sector to GDP by

2025, Secretary (HI) said that the workshop was an initiative for kick-starting regular inter-action and collaboration between various Indian organisations to achieve an Aatmanirbhar Bharat. Aatmanironar Bharat. Indigenous capabilities avail-able for design, R&D, proto-typing, manufacturing and test-ing in many of the CPSEs can be made available to all stakeholders for seamless co-oper-ation between the public and private sectors for which technology platforms were also being developed, he said. Chairman and Managing Director, BHEL, Nalin Shinghal, outlined the R&D, engineering, manufacturing and testing capabilities of BHEL and invited companies to associate with BHEL for achieving this important national mission. Participants from non-power sector com-panies, as also customers dependent on imported components/ subassemblies/ assemblies, who are looking forward to indigenising their supply chains, evinced keen interest in working with BHEL. CMD BHEL stressed on the need to identify specific technologies and aggregate demand to achieve scale.

SBI ladies club provides masks, ration to NGOs to help under-privileged



Ladies Club donated face-

masks to an NGO 'MEET'

which works for the welfare of

Amra provided ration to another NGO 'EKA' which runs a kitchen 'Bachha Rasoi'

in Aishbagh for providing meals to children of labours.

Speaking further on the occa-

sion President Vijaya Amra

emphasised the need to put in

Masks in this challenging

President, Deeksha Bansal,

Secretary and other office bear-

ers and members of SBI Ladies

Club were also present on the

Vandana Saxena, Vice

slum children.

time.

occasion.

#### STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

BI Ladies Club always rise to Sthe call of the hour and try to support the under-privi-leged sections of the society.

In the wake of Covid-19 and subsequent lockdown, under-privileged and downtrodden sections of the society desperately need help and protection and therefore SBI Ladies Club is providing Masks and ration to two NGOs for the purpose.

This was stated by Vijaya Amra, President, SBI Ladies Club, Bhopal Circle in a pro-gramme held in Bhopal. SBI

### BALCO staff, families followed Covid guidelines STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

capital 02

Addemic scenario in the country, Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO) proved its resilience through exemplary commitment shown by employees and families towards strict adherence to State and Central Covid-19 guidelines, in operations and township

Abhijit Pati, CEO & Director, BALCO, shares, "At BALCO, we have undertaken all required precautionary measures to keep our employees, families and business partners safe in light of the evolving situation in the State and country. Besides ensuring strict compliance with the guidelines in our operations and township, we have intensified awareness around Covid-19 to keep the BALCO family

informed and alert." Pati has appealed to employees to take all precautions to safeguard themselves and their families, while they continue to work dedicatedly to further the company's global aspirations and contribute to the socio-economic develop-

ment of the country. Manoj Ramaiya, Manager - Pot Room Operations, BALCO, said, "All the employees & associate partners are fol-lowing the guidelines of pre-vention against Covid-19. All the public places and residential township are being sani-tized. The body temperature of the entire workforce is being checked at the plant's entry & exit gates. Social distancing is being encouraged and followed by all who visit the plant. Sanitizer and liquid handwash have been arranged at various locations

Surajmal Das, from M/S ISS, BALCO's hospitality partner, says that the awareness campaign conducted by the company to drive sensitization against Covid-19 was informative, useful and praiseworthy. Mr. Das firmly believes that the various measures undertaken by BALCO over the past few months will immensely help the employees and fami-lies, partners and peripheral communities in Korba, in the fight against the pandemic.

### Miscreants burgle farmhouse, steal valuables worth ₹4L

#### STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

Miscreants targeted a farm house in Khajuri and escaped with valuables worth Rs 4 lakh on Thursday; last year dacoits looted Rs 12 lakh from the same house by capturing the family which shifted to other house after incident.

Santosh Jaiswal the victim shifted to Bairagarh after fac-

ing horrifying incident on October 31 last year when his family was held captive by dacoits and looted valuables worth Rs 12 lakh. They shifted to Bairagarh leaving the house at Khajuri and on Thursday the same house was again targeted by miscreants lakh

Last year dacoits looted ₹12 lakh from the same house by captivating the

family

who escaped with valuables

over Rs 4 lakh. The victim lodged complaint after valuables were found missing. The victim deployed a security guard at the house who was not present at the time of the incident. In the burglary gold and silver jewellery was burgled. The total loss in the burglary was Rs 4

Police have registered a case under sections 457 and 380 of the IPC and started further investigation. During the investigation police found that security guard deployed by the family after the dacoity was not present.

The miscreants along with the valuables took the DVR of the CCTV installed to evade been identified. The FSL team has visited the spot during the investigation.

Notably police managed to arrest the dacoits involved in the incident committed last year and have intensified the search for the accused who have committed burglary on Thursday



Minister for Medical Education Vishwas Sarang assumes office at State Mantralaya in Bhopal on Friday Pioneer photo

## 'Titli' screened on 7th day of theatre festival

#### STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

 $M^{
m arking}$  the seventh day on virtual theatre fest Hindi play Titli' was featured online. Directed by Sachin Verma the play was performed by the artists of Pratyancha Theatre Troupe, Chhindwara. The play focuses on the evil faces of human beings. The play talks about how society has objectified women.

From ages this has been followed in society. The play is adapted from the story 'Ghar se bhagi hui ladki' by Pankaj Soni. The play is about a girl who runs away from her homr. After

this what all she faces is the gist of the play. The play has por-trayed a very serious issue before the audience. The play talked about her journey and what all she faces.

Women has always been a riddle and a mystery for man. It is always a tough part for the man to solve it. The play highlights the dark points of heart, how that girls escspes from her own house, meet different people, experiences different situations forms the story. Notably, till now the play has been performed 50 times in different parts of the country. It has been loved by the theatre lovers.

### **IN BRIEF**

MEDICAL EDU MIN VISHWAS SARANG TAKES CHARGE Bhopal: Medical Education, Bhopal Gas Tragedy Relief and

Rehabilitation Minister Vishwas Sarang took charge after performing prayers at Mantralava on Fridav. On th s occasior

## RTU organises webinar on 'education for self-relient India'

BHEL demolishes over 40

#### STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

webinar on "education for self-reliant India' Awas organized under the Career Education Webinar Series of Rabindranath Tagore University.

In the webinar Mukul Kanitkar, eminent thinker and educationist and National Organization Minister, Indian Board of Education was present as the main speaker.

As a special guest in this webinar, the Chancellor of Rabindranath Tagore University, Santosh Choubey, and the Vice Chancellor of Dr. CV Raman University, Khandwa, Prof. Amitabh Saxena were present. The theme of the webinar is to make the nation self-reliant through the collective efforts of three teachers, students and educational institutions.

Kanitkar gave four mantras for teachers and students of educational institutions - confidence, attitude, entrepreneurship and research. He further said that self-reliance starts from the person. Self-reliance only increases self-confidence. Attitude is essential for life vision.

The reputation of entrepreneurship and labor needs to be restored. Research should be made the method of teaching. Students of primary classes should also develop an understanding of research. The highest level of self-reliance is the Gurukul system. It is necessary to reinstall it. India will be selfsufficient only when the society takes it up. Decentralized development will make it self-sufficient

He further said that the world is searching for welfare leadership. Whose strength is in India. It is the responsibility of the teacher. The teacher should bring change. Talking on the issue of language, he said that if the country becomes powerful, the whole world will learn Hindi.

Santosh Choubey said that self-reliance means autonomy. We make our own decisions. Self-reliance does not mean that we are separated from the rest of the world. He talked about making village clusters in the university of AISECT group. All work related to education should be done in Indian languages. Education should also have social integration.

### shanties on encroached land

#### STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

The BHEL administration razed over 40 shanties  $T_{\rm razed}$ which were encroached over one acre land near ST Plant in B-Sector Piplani on Friday.

The anti-encroachment drive was conducted under guidance of Senior Deputy General Manager ML Nagore, In charge of Eviction RP Tripathi and supported by the eviction, security and civil department of BHEL and police.

During the action goods used for shanties were seized and in the removal process of the encroachment JCB machine was used by the team.

In the same manner encroachers at the road side congesting road creating traffic problems and those not maintaining social distancing were removed by antiencroachment staff which vacate the area from Career College Trisection to



creating additional sheds out-Awadhpuri trisection. Using the public announcement system traders were suggested to Barkheda, the increased sheds remove their goods which were on the road for sale.

and encroachments were removed. This action was taken Similarly, against the by DP Singh and employees traders who encroached by posted in the eviction cell.

and discipline are necessary to fight against Covid. Sarang said that under the leadership of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, all possible efforts are being made to overcome and eliminate Covid. Covid can be overcome by strictly adhering to the Central and State government's advisory. Vishwas Sarang said that work will be done to make Madhya Pradesh number one in the field of medical education. Efforts will be made to set new dimensions by providing excellent doctors and best medical arrangements. Departmental hospitals will also be streamlined. Additional Chief Secretary Mohammad Suleman. Commissioner Nishant Warwade, Director Ulka Shrivastava, media persons, family and well wishers were present on the occasion.

#### CM PAYS DARSHAN TO BHAGWAN MAHAKALESHWAR

Ujjain: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan during his visit to Ujjain had darshan of Bhagwan Mahakaleshwar from Nandi Hall on Friday. After the darshan. Swastivachan and Shantipath was performed by the Pujaris of the temple. The Minister for Higher Education Mohan Yaday. Member of Parliament Anil Firojia, Member of Legislative Assembly Bahadur Singh Chouhan, local public representatives as well as officers of administration and police were present on the occasion.

#### MIN INSPECTS COVID CENTRE IN BALAGHAT

Bhopal: Minister of State for AYUSH (Independent Charge) and Water Resources Ram Kishore Kanwre inspected the Covid Care Centre in Balachat and viewed the arrangements there. Kanwre gave necessary directives to the officials concerned. After the inspection, Minister Kanwre planted saplings. Officials of the district administration were present on the occasion along with former minister Gaurishankar Bisen and District President Ramesh Bhatere.



Congress State President and leader of the opposition in the State Assembly Kamal Nath with senior leader Digvijay Singh inaugurating a dental clinic in the memory of former MP KN Pradhan in Bhopal on Friday. Pioneer photo

# 21-yr-old woman immolates self, case registered

side the shops in Vijay Market

#### STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

21-year-old married A<sup>21</sup>-year-old married woman committed suicide by self-immolating on Thursday ; woman was found in a charred state at her house at Bairagarh.

According to the police, the deceased Bhagwati Bai was found in a charred state by her father-in-law in the afternoon and was taken to a nearby hospital where she was declared dead

In the initial investigation it was found that the deceased sustained burn injuries after

she self-immolated herself.

After the preliminary investigation the body was sent for the post mortem and a case under section 174 of the CrPC was registered. The reason of the suicide could not be ascertained and would be investigated.

During the investigation police found that the Bhagwati married two years ago to Vikram who works as labour and the couple a baby girl who used to remain ill since birth and was admitted for treatment few days ago still the

to take extreme step remained unclear. Police said that the reason which forced Bahgwati

deceased died to burn injuries and would be investigated that she sustained injuries or she was set ablaze in the further investigation. The statements of the family members are yet to be recorded which could help in the investigation.

From the spot oil cane was recovered which was used by the deceased to commit suicide. Other aspects of the death would be investigated. The financial condition of

the family was not good which was revealed by the family and girl of deceased used to remain ill.

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### he pioneer BHOPAL | SATURDAY | JULY 18, 2020

# **UBs to play crucial role** in containing Covid: Min

#### STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

Urban bodies will play an important role in preventing the spread of corona infection in the cities. A nodal offi-cer should be appointed at the State level to do the work of monitoring and planning and this should be reported daily. Urban Development and Housing Minister Bhupendra Singh gave these instructions during the review of depart-

mental schemes. Urban Development and Housing Minister Singh said that the areas from where corona patients are found in the city should be sanitized on priority basis. Latest techniques of sanitization must be used. He said that the works being undertaken by the Urban Development Department of other States should also be studied. Basic facilities must be provided in selected Covid centres.

Singh said that works that

will be useful for citizens should be undertaken in smart city. He said that complaints have been received from some places about unnecessary work being undertaken. Singh said that the works going on in the Smart City will be reviewed

Singh said that Deendayal Antyodaya Rasoi Yojana is very useful during corona period. A plan to implement it in every city must be made.

separately.

Urban Development and Housing Minister Singh said that the benefit of the Pradhan Mantri Street Vendors Atmanirbhar (PM Swanidhi) Yojana should be provided to all eligible beneficiaries within the stipulated time. An officer should be assigned in every urban body to coordinate with banks, so that loans can be obtained on time. Body-wise grading of the implementation of the scheme should be ensured. Singh further said that a at the meeting.

plan should be made to solve the problems faced in the implementation of the Prime Minister's Housing Scheme. He instructed to make a comparative report on the utility of intercity buses being run under the urban public transport system. Shri Singh said that the works of Metro trains should

be sped up. The Urban Development and Housing Minister said that together we should work in such a manner that citizens are assured of basic facilities. He said that we have to live up to the expectations of the people. Principal Secretary Urban Development and Housing Nitesh Vyas informed about the schemes. The Commissioner Urban Administration and Development SNikunj hrivastava, Commissioner Fown and Country Planning Ajeet Kumar, Additional Commissioner Swatantra Singh and other officers were present

Dist admin played crucial role in corona fight in Ujjain: CM

#### PNS 🔳 UJJAIN

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan said that the district administration of Ujjain has played an important role in fighting corona and this has helped to prevent corona infec-tion in a far better manner.

This is the reason why Ujjain, which was in the most worrying condition in the initial phase of corona infection, is now under corona control, he added.

While talking to media persons here on Friday, Chouhan said that good experiences and experiments of Ujjain will be implemented throughout the state.

He said that the condition of corona in Madhya Pradesh is much better than other states of the country, although the condition of corona in Gwalior Chambal division has deterio-

rated recently but the situation is under control.

He said that Ujjain Indore Bhopal was in the most worrying condition in the initial phase. In such a situation better arrangements were made to

prevent infection of corona in Ujjain including Indore and Bhopal.

The result are satisfying and the situation in under control in these three cities. The CM reviewed the con-

dition of corona infection in the entire state from Ujjain. During this, he expressed regret over the politics being done by the Congress on the case of Dalit family in Guna which was beaten by police and raised questions of the former minister Kamalnath including Congress about the atrocities

on Dalits during one and a half year reign.

BHEL employee's son tops CBSE Class XII exam



STAFF REPORTER M BHOPAL

Semployee Gurudas Gupta, bagged the first position in the CBSE exam by securing 92% in CBSE class XII exams. Shivang was a student of Campion school of PCM stream. It is to be noted that CBSE declated class XII results on Monday. Shivang's father is working in the public relations department at BHEL. Achieving this success, Shivang Gupta has not only illuminated the name of the school, but also brought laurels to his parents. BHEL employees have congratulated Shivang and his father on this success.

### Folk play 'Chakravyuh' screened on MP Tribal Museum's You Tube The play focuses on

Afolk play 'Chakravyuh' in the Yakshagana style of Karnataka was presented on Madhya Pradesh State Tribal Museum YouTube Channel on Friday.

The folk play was featured under the direction of Sanvij Swarna, Karnataka.

The play centers around the revenge that fuelled the fight between Kauravas and Pandavas in Mahabharat. It depicted the revenge harboured by Dronacharya for being let down by friend king Drupad, revenge in the heart of Karna for being slighted as Sutaputra by Draupadi at her swayamvar, and also revenge in the heart of Draupadi when she has to undergo 'Cheer Haran' after being lost by the Pandavas in the game of dice.

It is the determination of many such slighted hearts nursing revenge that eventually results in the Mahabharat. Through eight scenes, the bal-

Mahabharata of Abhimanyu, how the secret of breaching a Chakravyuh is revealed to him while he was in his mother's womb, how he succeeds in replicating it as a young lad in the Mahabharat and eventually his death at the hands of the senior warriors

Veer Abhimanyu in

which Abhimanyu,

son of Arjun and

Subhadra, is a

wonderful character

in the epic

fighting the war. The play focuses on Veer Abhimanyu in which Abhimanyu, son of Arjun and Subhadra, is a wonderful character in the epic Mahabharata. Abhimanyu was a superior archer like Arjuna who is like Yudhishthira in policy, similar to Bhima in karma and like Nakula and Sahadeva in humil-

let presented a compact story

Pyare Mian, accused for running sex racket and raping minor girls, being produced in the district court in Bhopal on Friday. Pioneer photo

## Police headquarters holds Virtual training on RTI Act changes

#### STAFF REPORTER BHOPAI

The training branch of the Police Headquarters is continuously organising training programs through virtual train-

A two-day online training program on the subject of 'RTI Act with Recent Amendment and Case Law' was initiated at Police Training School, Umaria on Friday.

In this two-day training, Lecturer DPO Indore Range, Anita Shukla, ADPO PTC Indore, Jyoti Arya trained par-

ticipants on the subject of RTI Act with Recent Amendment and Case Law.

This online training was attended by Special Director General of Police, Aruna Mohan Rao, Additional Director General of Police, Anuradha Shankar, Assistant Inspector General of Police Training, Nimisha Pandey and Superintendent of Police Training School, Umaria, Mukesh Vaishya and all indoor instructors of PTS Umaria and

participants from all the districts attended the training.

# Police book five persons in dowry death case

In the initial investigation,

police found that the deceased

committed suicide while fam-

ily members were asleep.

During the investigation, police

#### STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

Kolar police booked five persons, including three women, for a dowry death after a 20-year-old married woman committed suicide by consuming poisonous sub-stance at Pink City society on July 4; four accused have been arrested by the police.

Police found that the deceased was harassed by her husband and in-laws.

According to the police the deceased, Shweta Singh was found in an unconscious state and was rushed to a nearby hospital where she was died during treatment.

nary investigation the body was sent for the post mortem and a case under section 174 of the CrPC was registered by the police.

Later in the investigation, police found that the deceased was harassed by her husband and in-laws demanding dowry and claims of harassment were made by her family members in the complaint. The police registered a case under section 304 B of the IPC and section 3 and 4 of the Dowry Prohibition Act against the three accused.

have reason behind the suicide The police have booked that she was harassed for Bharat, Sunita Singh, Sushma Solanki, Kamlesh, Anita Sigh Initially after the prelimiand Anju Singh.

### Haryana records its biggest single-day spike with 795 cases

#### PNS CHANDIGARH

With 795 fresh Covid-19 cases, Haryana on Friday witnessed its biggest single-day



### Another jolt for Cong in MP as its Mepanagar MLA...

From Page 1 Kasdekar is considered close to former PCC chief Arun Yadav.

With this, in all 24 Congress MLAs have resigned from MP assembly since March this year when 22 MLAs led by otiraditya Scindia had m

running away, Gupta claimed, "We have only one issue that we can't offer such huge amounts and also don't wish to indulge

in such tactics." Rajneesh Agrawal, the Bharatiya Janata Party hit back at Congress party saying this is

the Damoh MLA Rahul Singh and Banda MLA Tarwar Singh after reports of their resentment and plans to switch

After the meeting the two MLAs had reposed faith in the party. Both the MLAs were uer the s

### Man arrested for killing mother-in-law in Delhi

dowry.

#### STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

38-year-old man has been arrested by Delhi Police for allegedly killing his mother-in-law after Ahis wife left to her parent's house and did not return. The incident occurred on Thursday.

The accused has been identified as Ravi, a resident of Mohan Garden. Police said that the weapon used in crime, an ice prick, was also recovered from the possession of the accused and he is also found previously involved in three criminal cases including attempt to murder, cupalble homicde According to Anto Alphonse, the Deputy Commis oner of Police (DCP), Dw trict, on Thursday around 12.30 am, police received information that a person has attacked his mother-in-law with an ice-prick in Mohan Garden area, "He has also severely injured the relatives of the woman who tried to intervene. Later, police rushed

ike in 24 noui tally stood at 24979 which included 5752 active cases.

The Covid-19 has claimed five more lives in the state. Two deaths each in Gurugram, Nuh and one in Palwal was reported in the last 24 hours taking the total toll to 327 in Haryana. Earlier, the state had on

July 14 witnessed its biggest single-day spike with 699 Covid-19 cases. In the past one week, the number of positive cases continued to surge in the state with 696 cases reported on July 16, 678 on July 15, 699 on July 14, 689 on July 13 and 648 cases on July 12.

"Out of 795 fresh cases, 160 were reported from Faridabad, 156 from Rewari, 133 from Gurugram, 69 from Sonepat, 57 from Mahendragarh, 43 from Nuh, 39 from Hisar, 26 from Panchkula, 25 from Jhajjar, 24 from Karnal among other cases.

Among critical Covid-19 patients, 59 patients are on oxygen support while 17 were on ventilator in the state," stated Haryana Health Department's evening bulletin.

Till date, 18,718 patients including 533 in the last 24 hours have recovered and have been discharged from hospitals in the state. With 327 Covid-19 related fatalities so far, the fatality rate is recorded at 1.32 percent in Haryana. The casedoubling rate in Haryana stood at 22 days, Covid positive rate at 5.93 per cent, recovery rate recorded at 75.48 percent, according to the health bulletin. The bulletin stated, "The

total number of cases in the worst-affected Gurugram district stood at 7483 and 112 fatalities have been reported till Friday. Faridabad has record ed 6211 cases and 104 deaths while Sonepat with 2298 cases has recorded 24 deaths.

As many as 4.24 lakh samples have been tested till date in Haryana. The report of 6268 samples is awaited, it added.

Meanwhile, Haryana Home-cum-Health Minister Place : Bhopal Date : 17.07.2020 Anil Vij on Friday announced

out of Congress party and also resigned from assembly.

that clinical trials to fight Covid-19 with Covaxin have started at Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Rohtak. "Three subjects were enrolled for this purpose today (Friday). All three have toler-Supplies Corporation by the ated the vaccine very well. Shivraj Singh Chouhan govern-There were no adverse effects," ment which has accommodat-Vij said. ed 14 Congress rebels into his cabinet as of now. Covaxin is an indigenous

Covid-19 vaccine, which is being developed by Bharat Biotech and the ICMR's National Institute of Virology, Pune. It is one of the two Indian vaccine candidates that have

Bhupendra Gupta. On being received the Drug Controller General of India's nod to proasked if there was any issue with the Congress party as large numbers of MLAs are ceed with the phase 1 and phase 2 human clinical trials.

sinking ship

Suggesting opposition to introspect rather than levelling Days ago, PCC chief Kamal allegations on others, Agrawal Nath's close confidant claimed it would have been Pradyumn Singh Lodhi had proper if the Congress party resigned from assembly and the had a word with the said MLA on reason why she decided to next day was appointed as chairman of Food and Civil call it quits.

Following the exit of Pradyumn Singh Lodhi, it was widely speculated that four-five more MLAs could leave Congress party and Congress "The BJP is attempting to leadership too had switched to convert the country's politics damage control mode keeping into a mandi and neither the an eve on dissenters. democracy nor the public will

Former Congress MLA Endal Singh Kansana too had said that several MLAs were in his touch and could resign shortly.

Recently PCC chief Kamal Nath one-on-one meeting with have died.

relatives and also have family relations with former MLA Pradyumn Singh Lodhi who had switched over to the BJP recently.

The anger among MLAs of the Congress party dates back to Kamal Nath government days when 30 first time MLAs had a meeting with the complaint that prominent leaders in organisation and state government were ignoring them and don't meet them when they ask to. Later eight of these MLAs had switched to BJP in March

this year. With this, it is expected that now the by-polls will be held at 26 assembly constituencies including two seats where Congress and BJP legislators

Aadhar

to the spot and apprehended him. The injured were shifted to Tarak Hospital where Shashi Bala (62),

a resident of Rama Park, declared brought dead. She received multiple stab injuries on her chest, arms and abdomen," said the DCP. "The other three injured persons - - a man, his wife and their 10-year-old son - - were later shifted to DDU hospital for the treatment. Interrogation revealed that in 2019, Ravi was arrested in a rape case and remained in jail for nine months," the DCP said.

"Ravi's wife and daughter had shifted to his mother-in-law's house and they were not willing to come back. He was angry with this and believed that his mother-in-law was behind it," said the DCP.

"Ravi planned to kill his mother-in-law and purchased an Ice prick.



FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA, REGIONAL OFFICE Chetak Bhawan, Maharana Pratap Nagar, Bhopal (M.P.)-462011 Phone:0755-2573444,FAX: 0755-2573418 E-mail:- srmmp.fci@nic.in

No. S&C/FCI/VTS/MP Region/2020/02

#### **NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Subject: - INVITATION TO TENDER THROUGH e-TENDERING FOR APPOINTMENT OF VENDORS FOR PROVIDING SERVICES OF VEHICLE TRACKING SYSTEM (VTS) FOR OWNED / HIRED / RENTED VEHICLES USED BY FCI APPOINTED RTCs DURING **ROAD TRANSPORT OF FOODGRAINS.** 

For and on behalf of the Food Corporation of India (hereinafter called the Corporation), the General Manager, Food Corporation of India (hereinafter called General Manager) invites tenders for appointment of vendors for PROVIDING SERVICES OF VEHICLE TRACKING SYSTEM (VTS) FOR THE VEHICLES USED BY FCI APPOINTED RTCs DURING ROAD TRANSPORT OF FOODGRAINS from various foodgrain depots of Dispatching region Madhya Pradesh to various destinations of Recipient regions Maharashtra Rajasthan, Gujarat & Uttar Pradesh for a period of one year. THIS INCLUDES PROVIDING SERVERS (APPLICATION / DATABASE WEB / SMS GATEWAY ETC.). VENDOR TO PROVIDE COMPLETE END TO END SOLUTION.

The details viz. Job description, EMD/SD etc. are as under:-

Job Description	Job Description		EMD @2% of ECV	SD @5% of ECV
Job involves providing service for Vehicle Tracking Syster           Transporter Trucks as per the detailed scope of work ment           Tender Document           Job also includes the following composite           a. Arrangement of VTS DEVICES           b. Procurement and management of SIMs           c. Creation of geo fenced routes in the system if required           d. Deployment of qualified technicians at the locations           e. Arrangement with cellular network service provider to dis position of trucks           f. Monitoring the performance of the Trucks on a daily basis           g. Software including Map for the VTS Application           h. Return logistics of devices from unload to loading points           i. Required Manpower	oned in the	₹65,00,000	₹1,30,000	₹3,25,000
*For further details MTF/Tender Document may be referred Critical Dates Section:-	ed.			
Bid Publish Date		18.07.2020		
Bid document Download start date & time		18.07.2020, 10:00 /	٨M	
Pre bid meeting Date& time		24.07.2020, 03:00 F	PM	
Bid Document Download End Date & Time		07.08.2020, 04:00 F	PM	
Bid Submission End Date & Time		07.08.2020, 04:00 F	PM	
Technical Bid Opening Date & Time		10.08.2020, 11:00 /	AM	
Tenders details can be viewed on <u>www.fci.gov.in</u> & <u>www.eprocure.gov.in</u> . For subr themselves registered on e-tendering website i.e. <u>www.eprocure.gov.in</u> . The tenderers must fully comply with all the terms and conditions given in the detaile website & can be downloaded from website <u>www.fci.gov.in</u> . In case of any que			F which is also	available in FCI
18002337315.			General Ma	anager (MP)

#### Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd.

Corporate Office: 201, Raheja Point-1, Near Shamrao Vitthal Bank, Nehru Road, Vakola Santacruz (E), Mumbai-400055. Bhopal Branch: 2nd Floor, Alankar Complex, Plot No.10 & 11, M.P. Nagar, Zone-II, Bhopal-462001 (MP). Mob. 9111131122

forgive this," observed Congress spokesperson

#### **PROPERTY FOR SALE UNDER PROVISIONS OF SARFAESI ACT, 2002 THROUGH PRIVATE TREATY**

Whereas the Authorised Officer, Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL) has taken the Possession u/s 13(4) of the Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security interest Act, 2002 (The SARFAESI Act, 2002) of the property ("the Secured Asset") given below The Authorised Officer has received offer of Sale from some interested party against the above mentioned Secured Asset under the SARFAESI Act for recovery of the Secured Debt. Now, the Authorised Officer is hereby giving the Notice to Sale of the above said property through Private Treaty in terms of rule 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. The Details of the Account are as follows:

Loan App.No. /Branch	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrowers	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Reserve Price (RP)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Total Outstanding Loan Amount as on date 17.07.2020	Description of the Secured Asset
(App No. 00036535/ Bhopal Branch)	Wajahat Husain (Borrower) Rizwana Hussain (Co-Borrower)	19.04.2019 ₹ 13,75,859/-	₹ 9,53,000/- (Rs. Nine Lakh Fifty Three Thousand only)	(Rs. Ninety Fife Thousand	₹ <b>16,26,307/-</b> (Rs. Sixteen Lac Twenty six thousand Three hundred Seven only)	All That Part & Parcel Of Property Bearing, Flat No. T - 03, Third Floor, Kabeer Heights, Plot No. 52, Dilkusha Bag, Lala Lajpat Rai Colony, Bhopal, M.P 462001 <u>Boundaries</u> : East: Road, West: Flat No. T- 04, North: Flat No. T-02 & Corridor, South: Road
(App No. 00013151/ Bhopal Branch)	Chavan Sainath Nivrutti (Borrower) Shobha Chavan (Co-Borrower)	10.12.2019 ₹ 4,43,018/-	₹7,40,000/- (Rs. Seven Lakh Forty Thousand only)	₹ <b>74,000/-</b> (Rs. Seventy Four Thousand Only)	₹4,88,286/- (Rs. Four Lac Eighty Eight thousand Two hundred Eighty Six only)	All that part & parcel of property bearing, Plot No. E- 71, Uma Dham, Village- Kharkhedi Bhopal Indore High Way Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh-462001 <u>Boundaries</u> : East: Plot No. E-76, West: Road, North: Plot No. E-72, South: Plot No. E-70

The Authorised officer will hold auction for sale of the Secured Asset on 'As is where is Basis', 'As is what is basis' and 'Whatever is there is basis'. AHFL is not responsible for any liabilities whatsoever pending upon the said property. The Authorised Officer reserves the right to accept or reject the offer without assigning any reason whatsoever and sale will be subject to confirmation by Secured Creditor. On the acceptance of offer of proposed buyer, he/she is required to deposit 25% of accepted price inclusive adjustment of Earnest Money Balance immediately and the balance amount shall be paid by the purchaser within 15 (fifteen) days from date of acceptance of Offer by the Secured Creditor. The proposed buyer is to note that in case of failure of payment of balance amount by him/her within the time specified, the amount already deposited shall stand forfeited and property will be resold accordingly.

This is 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT, 2002 is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s), Co-Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the above described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL) Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is". "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" and to the amount due to Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd., in full before the date of sale, auction is liable to be stopped The Date of Auction is fixed for 03.08.2020

> (Authorised Officer) For Aadhar Housing Finance Limited

Date: 18.07.2020



# COVID-19 OUTBREAK

# nation 04

# **ASSEMBLY POLL IN BIHAR 2020** EC holds virtual meeting with all political parties

Opposition parties have sought deferment of polls due to rising corona cases in State

#### RAJESH KUMAR INEW DELHI

A mid a demand by the Opposition, and also a ruling alliance partner, to defer the impending Bihar Assembly polls, the Election Commission on Friday held a virtual meeting with the non-National Democratic Alliance (NDA) parties, including the Congress, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), CPI (M), Hindustan Awam Morcha (HAM), CPI, CPI (M) and CPI(ML) to discuss the conduct of Assembly polls in the State.

Sources in EC said that the meeting was convened with political parties of Bihar to discuss the conduct of coming Assembly polls. "It's a routine process to discuss with all stakeholders including police, political parties, para military forces before taking the final decision on the conduct of polls," sources added. "Even though the poll body

has already geared up its preparation for the Bihar Assembly polls, they may find it difficult to hold elections in these testing times, till the infections curve is flattened in the State. A large number of officials are required to hold elections, which may also be a challenge," said an officer of EC on

the condition of anonymity. The Bihar Assembly will complete its current term on November 29. After the expiry of the term, the State will go under President's Rule if elections are not held on time.

The Opposition parties have demanded that the Assembly polls be postponed

### EC seeks views on poll

campaign PNS NEW DELHI

The Election Communicational and regional political parties seeking their "views and suggestions" on conduct of election campaign during the "pandemic period". In its onepage letter, the commission sought their replies by July 31.

for safety and security in view of the COVID-19 pandemic. They questioned why the ruling party wants to conduct the polls when people are dying and elections will become the super spreader event in the

State. While the BJP has said the Opposition wants the election to be postponed as it's scared of losing. NDA ally in Bihar, Lok Janshakti Party (LJP), also joined the Opposition chorus and wants to postpone the elections

Experts feel elections will become a super-spreader of coronavirus infections in the State and October-November will be the peak of Covid-19. The Nitish Kumar Government has imposed complete lockdown in the State till July 31 after a massive surge in coronavirus infections. Taking note of it, the Centre has decided to send a special team to assess the

Before the virtual meeting with the poll body, the opposition parties in the State wrote Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora urging him to reassess conducting the upcoming Bihar Assembly polls. Contending that the COVID-19 situation in Bihar is "rapidly worsening", the parties called for an informed decision regarding holding the elections.

situation.

They requested the CEC to evolve a mechanism that protects the health of democracy as well as that of people. According to them, there was a possibility of Bihar having more than a million novel coronavirus cases by October-November, when the election is

scheduled to take place. Pointing out that the COVID-19 pandemic has affected Bihar badly, the political parties highlighted the existence of 89 containment zones in Patna and lockdown

being re-imposed in 16 districts of the State Currently, there are 21,764 confirmed novel coronavirus cases in Bihar out of which 14,018 patients have been discharged while 197 fatalities have been reported. Moreover, they claimed that there are

many more infected people who haven't been tested.

The Opposition parties, wondered how the poll panel will ensure physical distancing of at least two yards in a state with a population of around 13 crore and electorate of 7.5 crore





#### PNS NEW DELHI

 $F_{\text{Gandhi on Friday renewed}}^{\text{commer Congress chief Rahul}}_{\text{fis attack on the Modi}}$ Government saying the Prime Minister's constant blunders have fundamentally weakened India

Rahul also dissected into the reasons that, he claimed, prompted China to take such an aggressive stance against India over the past few months. The Gandhi scion who did a lecture series with few top world experts on economic and health fields, started a video campaign to highlight the failures of the NDA Government.

From India's foreign policies to the economy and relations with its neighbours, Rahul touched upon several aspects that, he said, the Modi Government has destroyed over the past six years, resulting in the Chinese action now.

stant blunders and indiscretions have fundamentally weakened India and left us vul nerable. Empty words don't suffice in the world of geopolitics," Rahul stated.

In the video, Rahul asks, "What is it about India's situation that has made China act in such an aggressive way? What is it about this moment in time that allowed China to take such an aggressive stand against a country like India?"

Rahul has been tweeting regularly criticising the government over the deadly faceoff with China in the Galwan Valley area, in which 20 Indian soldiers were killed in the line of duty and 76 were injured.

"A country is protected by its foreign relationships, its economy, neighbourhood and the feeling people have. Over

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Friday came out strongly yet again to hit out at Congress MP Rahul Gandhi for questioning the Modi Government's foreign and economic policies saying India's partnerships with other nations are stronger, the country's international standing is higher than ever and New Delhi engages Beijing on more equal terms politically.

In a series of tweets, while Jaishankar came out with an elaborate response to Rahul's attack, he also advised the former Congress chief to "ask the analysts".

A month ago, Jaishankar had asked Rahul to "get the facts straight" on the fact that all troops on border duty always carry arms, especially

the past 6 years, India has been disturbed and disrupted in each of these sectors. Earlier, India could maneuver in geopolitics with the help of these relations but now India doesn't enjoy these partnerships anymore," he said.

The Congress leader then went on to talk about India's current relations with its neighbours and said that the Modi government has managed to anger Nepal, Bhutan and even Sri Lanka, who used to be friends of the country earlier. He also talked about economic aspects. "Our economy was something that we could boast about going to the world. We have seen the worst economic growth in 50

when leaving post. "Those at Galwan on 15 June did so," Jaishankar had tweeted after Rahul had criticised the Government asking who had ordered unarmed soldiers to go to the stand-off point.

On Rahul's latest attack, Jaishankar said India's major partnerships with United States, Russia, Japan, Europe, etc. are stronger and international standing higher. "India engages China on more equal terms politically," he said.

Jaishankar said India now speaks her mind more openly on contentious issues like the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) that violates Indian sovereignty, on Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), maritime disputes in the South China Sea, and on United Nationss a n c t i o n e d terrorists who are harboured in Pakistan. "Ask the media," he suggested Gandhi validate.

He said the Government has addressed the border infrastructure imbalance legacy. "Compare 2014-20 with 2008-

Unemployment is highest in 40 years. The economy is an absolute disaster," he asserted.

He said the Chinese aggression along the Line of Actual Control can be attributed to the "trouble" India has with its foreign policy, economy and the relationship with its neighbours in the last six years.

He said India's relationship with other countries has become "transactional". We have a transactional relationship with the US, and we have disturbed our relationship with the Russians. We have a transactional relationship with Europe," he said.

Earlier, Nepal was a friend. Bhutan was a friend, Sri Lanka was a friend. Our neigh-

than ever, Jaishankar hits out at RaGa 14. Budget up by 280%, road building by 32%, bridges by 99% and tunnels by 6 times. Ask the jawans," wrote Jaishankar.

Jaishankar also pointed out to Rahul 'skipping' the topic of Pakistan and said Islamabad surely notes the difference between Balakot and Uri (the air and surgical strikes against terror launch pads in POK) on the one hand and Sharm-el-Sheikh, Havana and 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks on the other.

Further, he listed out India's the Hambantota Port agreement between Sri Lanka and China that was concluded in 2008 (under UPA). Colombo couldn't pay back the debt owed to Beijing and had to lease out the strategically located port to China for 99 years. "Ask those who dealt with it," said Jaishankar even as he listed a series of shortcomings of the erstwhile UPA Congress-led Government on dealing with Maldives, Afghanistan and Bhutan.

bourhood, other than Pakistan was working with India and saw itself as being partnered with India. Today, Nepal is angry with us. If you go to Nepal and speak to the Nepali people, they are furious with what has happened," Rahul said. "Sri Lankans have given a port to the Chinese ... So we've disrupted our foreign partners, we've disrupted our neighbourhood."

'So today, you have a country which is economically in trouble, trouble as far as foreign policy is concerned, in trouble with its neighbours and that's why the Chinese have decided that this is possibly this time to act. And that is why they have acted," the Congress MP said.





PTI NEW DELHI

The police party escorting gangster Vikas Dubey from Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh to Kanpur had to "fire back in self-defence" as he tried to escape and was killed, the Uttar Pradesh Government has said in an affidavit filed in the Supreme Court.

The UP Government has constituted a 3-member SIT, headed by UP additional chief secretary Sanjay Bhoosreddy on July 11, to look into the crimes committed by the dreaded gangster and the alleged collusion between Dubey, police and politicians, the affidavit said.

Dubey was killed in the encounter on July 10.

'The only option available to the escort party, under the circumstances was to fire back in self-defence,"Uttar Pradesh Director General of Police Hitesh Chandra Awasthy, in the affidavit filed on behalf of the state, on a plea seeking a courtmonitored probe by the CBI or the NIA into the encounter

killing. The top police officer denied that Dubey had surrendered at Ujjain and said that the accused who was on the run was identified at the Mahakaal Temple by the Samiti authorities as well as the policemen at the temple premises.

The DGP also dealt with the question as to why Dubey was not handcuffed and said, "There were 15 police personnel and 3 vehicles to escort the accused directly to the court at Kanpur. He had to be produced at Kanpur within 24 hours before court"

#### Upload rapid antigen testing data on ICMR portal, States, UTs told Master Plan of Bhagirathi ESZ OK'd to speed up Char Dham road project PNS NEW DELHI Bharat Biotech starts human Over 6.35 lakh patients have

#### To ensure that all positive cases are brought to the authorities for isolation, quarantine or treatment at the earliest, the Government has decided to keep a number of tests being done in the States. It has asked them to upload rapid antigen testing data on the ICMR portal on real-time

### overcome Covid scourge and are healthy now: Health Ministry PNS NEW DELHI

The Coronavirus caseload identification of the infected

aggressive testing and timely diagnosis has resulted in early



गाः कोरोना वैक्सीन India 'Covaxin', the Corona vaccine of Bharat Biotech, का इंसानों kicked off on Fridav with three

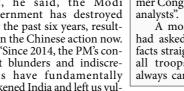


years.

With an aim to pave the way for a faster execution of the Char-Dham road project in the Himalayan region, the Union Environment Ministry on Friday approved the Zonal (ZMP) 'lan Bhagirathi Eco-Sensitive Zone from Gaumukh to Uttarkashi covering an area of 4179.59 sq km. The ZMP is based on watershed approach and includes governance in the area of forest and wildlife, watershed management, irrigation, energy, tourism, public health and sanitation, road infrastructure, etc, said Union Environment Minister Prakash Javedekar after a review meeting held here. The Bhagirathi Eco-Sensitive Zone notification issued way back in 2020 mandated the State Government of Uttarakhand to prepare ZMP be implemented to under the supervision of the Monitoring Committee.



said.



In a letter to all States and Union Territories, ICMR DG Balram Bhargava said that "with the use of rapid antigen tests, more and more tests are being carried out and therefore, is absolutely necessary that all such testing data is uploaded on the ICMR database on realtime basis.

"It is expected that to provide safe healthcare services, all government hospitals/labs as well as all private NABH/NABL hospitals/labs may initiate antigen testing and also apply for obtaining login credentials for data entry into the ICMR portal.

Antigen test is a promising tool for quick diagnosis of COVID-19. ICMR has advised the use of this test for quick detection of COVID-19 patients in containment zones and hospitals.

In an effort to facilitate and further liberalise testing, ICMR has generated five common login credentials for each district of each State/UT, which may be shared with all the Government and private facilities selected for antigen testing. Dr

Bhargava pointed out that

in this Covid-19 pandemic, to ensure that testing is further enhanced and reporting of the same is done seamlessly states should identify all government and private facilities who would be providing COVID-19 diagnosis through antigen-based

lakhs but those infected too are also on the fast recovery track with the Union Health Ministry saying that at least over 6.35 lakh patients have overcome the disease and are healthy now.

The Ministry in a statement said that the actual caseload of Covid-19 cases in the country is only 3,42,756, as on

date. More than 6.35 lakhs (63.33%) of the total cases have recovered. The ministry also highlighted that India, being the second-most populous country in the world with 1.35 billion people, has

727.4 cases per million. On the global scale, cases per million population in India are 4 to 8 times less than some European countries. "The case fatality rate at 18.6 deaths/million of the country is one of the lowest in the

world. The collaborative efforts of all States/UTs for house-to-house surveys, contact tracing, surveillance of containment and buffer zones, perimeter control activities,

The ICMR has also asked the states to ensure that all the antigen testing points are appropriately linked with RT-PCR facility, where symptomatic negatives will be tested. The Union Health

Ministry said that ramping up

This has h early treatment too." said the Ministry.

The "Test, Track and Treat" strategy of the Centre being implemented by the State/UT governments is proving to be an appropriate strategy to deal with the Covid-19

pandemic. India has seen a steady increase in the number of patients recovering of COVID, said the Ministry.

While the strategy to deal with the spread of infection remains focused on early detection with wide-spread and easily accessible testing, the intensive contact tracing is aimed at restricting the spread.

The Containment strategy implemented across the Containment and Buffer Zones stresses on house-tohouse survey and surveillance of patients with focus on the elderly and people with comorbid conditions.

This has ensured that the Covid cases are identified in a timely manner and treated as per the severity of the symptoms either at home or in hospitals, the Ministry said.

of testing capacity has resulted in more than 3 lakh tests being conducted per day. In the last 24 hours, 3,33,228 samples have been tested while the cumulative number of 1,30,72,718 samples tested has resulted in 9473 testing per million for the country.

being au with the drug at the Post-Graduate Institute (PGI) of Medical Sciences in Rohtak in Haryana as part of the first phase of clinical trial on the humans. Other sites are being finalised, said the company.

Senior Professor and Head, department of Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine, Dhruva Chaudhry, also the coprincipal investigator, said that the three volunteers were short-listed out of the total eight after health checks to ensure proper liver function and absence of infection and were administered the vaccine, according to reports.

"All three tolerated it well. There were no complaints. We observed them for two hours before releasing them. The immediate component of allergic reaction has been taken care of. We will now look for any soreness at the local site over the next 24-48 hours," said Dr Chaudhry, taking care of the clinical aspect of the

Starting from one diag nostic lab in Januray 2020, the country has 1244 labs today, with 880 labs in the government sector and 364 in the private sector, said the official.

Bhargava said ICMR has been receiving multiple requests from various public sector units, small private and Government facilities, temples, etc for initiating rapid antigen testing.

पर द्रावल

process at the institute.

Dr Chaudhry said the vaccine had been tested successfully on the animals for safety and response and the process had not entered the first phase of clinical trials on humans. He said the process might take six months and the final assessment on the safety and the antibodies produced would be made by the safety board.

Covaxin has been in news since ICMR director-general Balram Bhargava shot off a letter on July 2 to 12 hospitals and research centres, asking them to enrol subjects for human trials of Covaxin, so that the vaccine is ready for public use by August 15.

Later, the ICMR sought to clarify that the letter was written with an aim to expedite the trial but in keeping with all the safety norms.

"The key strategy to save lives and protect livelihoods remains 'tests, track, treat'. Our continuous endeavour is to increase testing capacity and provide more and more access to people for testing. ICMR recently approved a point-ofcare rapid antigen test for diagnosis of COVID-19, in addition to the already existing molecular diagnostic tools," the

ICMR head said in the letter.

"The approval of ZMP will give a boost to conservation and ecology of the area and also

The CPI(M) on Friday urged the Government to withdraw the notifications regarding the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) 2020, alleging that the draft in this regard has several provisions to support business houses and circumvent judicial findings. In a detailed letter to Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar, CPI(M) polit bureau member Brinda Karat

to undertake developmental activities as permitted under ZMP," said Javedekar.

The ZMP was approved at the review meeting of the Chaar Dhaam road project in Uttarakhand which was chaired by Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari, Chief Minister of Uttarakhand Trivendra Singh Rawat, among others The Chaar Dhaam Project roposes to connect Yamnotri, Gangotri, Badrinath and Kedarnath which host Chaar Dham Yatra in the State of Uttarakhand.

the National Green Tribunal's

(NGT) orders and even go to

the extent of circumventing

the orders of the Supreme

Court. "Most objectionable is

the fact that in the entire doc-

ument the concerns of adiva-

sis who are going to be the

most affected community due

to the dilution of environment

regulations do not form any

part of the notification," she

The all-weather Chaar Dhaam Road has in all 53 projects of 826 km length, involving an investment of ₹ 12,000 crore.

#### Ex-babus, social activists seek impartial probe into Delhi riots

#### PNS NEW DELHI

Many former bureaucrats and police officers, advocates, Left ideologists and social activists on Friday petitioned President Ram Nath Kovind demanding the institution of a Commission of Inquiry into the Delhi riots, accusing partiality in the ongoing probe by the Delhi Police.

Retired police officers Julio Riberio, Saleem Ali, ex-bureau-

crats Wajhat Habibullah, EAS Sarma, activist Aruna Roy and lawyers like Prashant Bhushan were among the 72 signatories accusing total partiality on

saving BJP leaders from the cases, the activists and retired officials accused the Delhi Police of custodial torture of Muslims and of those who participated in the protests against CAA-NRC. "A credible and unbiased probe is crucial to ensure public trust. The investigation cannot be allowed to become a fishing and roving expedition aimed at causing a chilling effect on dissent and

in the riots-related cases. Apart from allegations of protest in the country.

basis of religion by Delhi Police

# **BSF** smashes Maha boy's dream to meet girlfriend in Pak

#### RAKESH K SINGH M NEW DELHI

The hopes of a 20-year-old boy from Osmanabad in Maharashtra to meet his "girlfriend" in Shah Faisal, Karachi, dashed to the ground when he was apprehended by the alert BSF just 1.5 km short of the Indo-Pak border in the Rann of Kutch in Gujarat before he could illegally cross over to the

other side of the international boundary between the two countries.

The boy, Siddiqui Mohammad Zishan, had befriended the Pakistani girl through Facebook and WhatsApp and travelled from Osmanabad to Rann of Kutch on a motorcycle using Google

The crime branch of the

Maharashtra Police had shared information with Gujarat police regarding a missing

complaint lodged by Zishan's parents at their native place in Osmanabad.

The Gujarat police in turn shared the information with the Border Security Force (BSF) following which the troops of the border guarding force were alerted. The troops appre-

hended him at 9 PM on Thursday.

His mobile location was traced to be in and around Dholavira (Kutch, Gujarat). During the search operation by the BSF in the afternoon on Thursday (July 16), a black colour Bajaj Pulsar bike (Registration Number: MH 16 D 3702) was recovered near Fossil Park in Kutch district

which he had used to travel from his hometown and aban doned it before leaving towards the border area, a BSF spokesperson said here in a statement.

On preliminary enquiry, he was identified as Siddiqui Mohammad Zishan Mohammad Salimuddin, aged 20 years the BSF said.

The apprehended boy is a

The boy fell in love with a girl namely Samra from Shah Faisal Town, Karachi, on facebook

resident of Khwaja Nagar, Osmanabad, Maharashtra.

"He was in a dehydrated state and revealed that he had gone unconscious for about two hours in the Rann," the spokesperson said.

PAN Card/Adhar Card/ATM CARD (UCO Bank) and mobile phone were recovered from his possession.

"He revealed that he fell in love with a girl namely Samra from Shah Faisal Town,

Karachi, Pakistan on Facebook and both of them were in contact with each other through Facebook and WhatsApp. He wanted to go to Pakistan and had used the Google map for navigation.

The person has been handed over to the police for further investigation and verification of the story given by him," added the official.



### **Record 2,602 new** Total Community spread cases detected across cases in Andhra 40,646

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh has yet again reported an alltime single-day high of 2,602 new coronavirus cases in the last 24-hour cycle ending 9 am on Friday, the third day in a row, taking the State's total tally to 40,646.

There are now 19,814 active cases since 20,298 corona patients have been cured and discharged in Andhra Pradesh

Health officials said that eight districts recorded new cases running into triple figures -- East Godavari's highest 643 cases, Guntur 367 cases Chittoor 328 cases, Kurnool 315 cases, Anantapur 297 cases, Srikakulam 149 cases, Nellore 127 cases, and West Godavari 109 cases.

Vizianagaram with 89 cases, Kadapa (55), Prakasam (53), Krishna (37), and Visakhapatnam (23) were lowincidence districts.

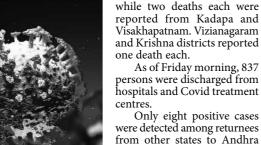
On Friday, the state reported 42 deaths, slightly lower compared with an all-time high of 44 deaths on

Wednesday. As per the latest update, the deaths occurred in 12 of the 13 districts. The death toll in Andhra

Pradesh has now shot up to 534, health officials said.

The day's high of six deaths were reported from Anantapur district, and five each from Chittoor, East Godavari, and Prakasam districts.

On the other hand, Guntur and West Godavari districts reported four deaths each,



and Krishna districts reported one death each. As of Friday morning, 837

persons were discharged from hospitals and Covid treatment centres

Only eight positive cases were detected among returnees from other states to Andhra Pradesh. Of these, six were returnees from Telangana and two from Karnataka.

Till date, 2,461 corona cases have been reported among state returnees. The active cases in this category are 356, as 2,105 persons have recovered till date.

Friday morning also saw two new corona cases among overseas returnees -- one from Kuwait and second with travel history to South Korea.

The corona patients in this category total 434, with 381 persons cured and discharged. As of Friday, 53 patients in this category are under treatment in IANS the State.

detected across T'puram coastal regions: Kerala CM KUMAR CHELLAPPAN KOCHI

 $S^{\rm ituation}$  in Kerala has gone out of control as a Srecord number of 791 persons were diagnosed with Covid-19 on Friday, according to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. Briefing the media at Thiruvananthapuram, the Chief Minister said community transmission has set in along the entire coastal region in the district.

"An unprecedented serious situation is prevailing in Kerala. Out of the 791 new additions to the list of Covid-19 pandemic, 532 got infected through social contacts while we are yet to find out how 42 persons got afflicted. There were two deaths in the State. We have to declare a total lockdown along the coastal region by tomorrow," said the Chief Minister.

He said there were 246 new Covid-19 patients in Thiruvananthapuram district while Ernakulam district came second with 115 new patients. As on Friday there are 11,066 active cases in the State and 285 hotspots. The day also saw hospitalisation of 1,152 persons in the State. There are 6,029 persons undergoing treatment as on date across the State, said the CM. The Chief Minister said the testing too has been ramped up in the State. "Till date we have tested 2.75 lakh persons across the State," he said.

Instances like health professionals and health workers getting afflicted/infected with the virus is also a cause of concern, said the CM.

### Maha: 1,194 die in 120 days In what has come as a silver lin-

#### TN RAGHUNATHA 🔳 MUMBAI

1,194 deaths in 120 days!!!.This L has been the tragic Covid-19 saga that has unfolded in Maharashtra, ever since the coronavirus claimed first life in the State on March 17, when a 63-year-old man succumbed to the pandemic at the Kasurba Hospital in Mumbai. With the total number of Covid-

19 triggered deaths having risen to a staggering 11,194 on Friday evening, an average of 93 (93.28) died per day in the state during the last 120 days. Initially restricted to major urban areas, the pandemic has now spread to 36 districts, including the hinterland districts of Gadchiroli, Chandrapur and Gondia in eastern Maharashtra.

In terms of deaths, Maharashtra vith 11,194 deaths accounts for 43.32 per cent of the total 25,602 deaths in the country. On the infection front, the state with 2,84,281 positive cases, accounts for 28.37 per cent of total 1,00,3832 infected cases in the state. The mortality rate, which had at one stage on April 9 touched 6.34 per cent that incidentally was the third highest in the country, has now come down to 3.94 per cent as against the country's average of 2.55 per cent.

With the total number of

second week of March this year touched 1,58,140. The recovery rate in the state stood at 55.63 per cent. The mortality rate in the state is 3,94 percent. The state health authorities has pegged the number of "active cases" in the state at 1,14,648.

Of the 11,194 total deaths reported in the state till Thursday evening, Mumbai – which is the worst Covid-19 affected city in the state - has accounted for 5523 deaths (49.33 per cent). In terms of infections, Mumbai with 97950 positive cases has accounted for 34.45 per cent of the total 2,84,281.

Maharashtra has come a long way since invoked the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 and framed 'The Maharashtra Covid-19Regulations, 2020' and March 13 March 14 respectively. During the first phase of lockdown i.e March 31, the state recorded 10 deaths and 302 patients.

Till the second lockdown, by April 15, the state notched 187 deaths with 2,916 cases, comprising Mumbai's 114 deaths and 1,896 patients.

During the third phase of lockdown till April 30, the state recorded 459 deaths with 10,498 patients.

By July 16 when the easing of lockdown was underway, Covid-19 had spread its deadly tentacles to all 36 districts in the state, but only one patients discharged from various district – Chandrapur – hospitals after full recovery since the remained 'death-free' so far. has

ing in the cloud, Mumbai's Dharavi slum has been a success story. It was this Asia's largest slum that the Brihanumbai Municipal Corpoation and the Maharashtra government successfully adopted "chase the virus" at Dharavi slum in north-central Mumbai where the authorities have contained the spread of virus to that extent that Asia's largest slum reportextent that Asias largest shift report-ed just one fresh case on April 10-11. Being densely populated (2,27,136 persons/ sq. km), Dharavi had 491 cases in April 2020 with a 12% growth rate and a case doubling period of 18 days. The proactive measures adopted by BMC reduced the COVID 19 growth rate to 4.3 per the COVID-19 growth rate to 4.3 per cent in May 2020 and further to 1.02% in June. These measures also ensured an improved case doubling time to 43 days in May 2020 and 78

days in June 2020. Several challenges presented themselves to BMC in Dharavi where 80% population depends on community toilets. BMC adopted a model of actively following four T's - Tracing, Tracking, Testing and Treating. This approach included activities like proactive screening. While 47,500 people were covered by doctors and private clinics in houseto-house screening, about 14,970 people were screened with the help of Mobile Vans, and 4,76,775 were surveyed by BMC health workers.

# IED expert among 3 JeM ultras killed

#### MOHIT KANDHARI 🔳 JAMMU

 $A^{\rm head \ of \ the \ beginning \ of}_{\rm the \ annual \ Amarnath}$ yatra, a joint team of security forces on Friday gunned down three terrorists including one of the most wanted IED experts of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terror outfit in Nagnad area of South Kashmir's Kulgam dis-

The slain terrorist, identified by the police as a Pakistani national Waleed, was eliminated by the soldiers of 9 Rashtriya Rifles in a close combat while he was attempting to flee along with the civilians.

So far, 14 terrorists have been neutralised in seven counter terrorist operations in the month of July 2020.

According to intelligence inputs, "one of the most wanted terrorists killed in the operation was tasked by their handlers in Pakistan to target the Amarnath yatra this year along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway". Sharing details of the sucdown and now 10 others are

Brigadier VS Thakur told media personnel in South Kashmir's Kulgam district, "Army has also received credible inputs that terrorists are intending to target Amarnath Yatra somewhere along the Jammu-Srinagar National highway". He, however, assured

the pilgrims,"Army is fully ready to foil any misadventure by these terrorists for smooth conduct of Amarnath pilgrim-

Interestingly, Shri Amarnath Shrine Board authorities are yet to formally announce the final date of start of the yatra this year. The proposed date of launch of the yatra was July 21.

In Srinagar, Inspector General of Police, Kashmir range, Vijay Kumar told reporters, the slain terrorist killed in the operation figured in the list of 12 most wanted commanders. He said, so far two of them have been gunned

cessful operation, Sector left. We are working round the Commander 9 Rashtriya Rifles, clock to track down their whereabouts before launching

operations. Sharing details of the joint operation, Brigadier VS Thakur told reporters, "soon after receiving the credible inputs from the Deputy Inspector General of Police, South Kashmir about the presence of two to three terrorists hiding in the area a siege was laid at around 4:30 am in the morning in Nagnad area of Kulgam".

He said the operation was full of challenges. "The first challenge was that there was a single road access to the house where these terrorists were hiding and the closest base was 10 to 12 km's away". He said that the second

challenge was the safety of civilians of the house where terrorists had taken refuge.

"Our troops showed restraint and didn't even resort to speculative fire at the target house," he said. He said as part of the standard operating pro-cedure, an appeal was made to

the civilians to evacuate the house.

"Two terrorists fired indiscriminately upon the forces with small arms and also lobbed grenades with an Under Barrel Grenade Launcher (UBGL)," Brigadier Thakur said, adding that both were killed without causing any harm to civilians or the house they were hiding in.

He said when civilians were coming out, one remaining terrorist who was wearing a pheran (traditional Kashmiri gown) with a weapon inside tried to move out with the civilians.

"He was physically stopped and when he tried to use his weapon, there was a hand to hand fight between him and a soldier of 9 RR, who successfully shot the terrorist down.He said, in the milee three army personnel also received injuries and were rushed to the nearby hospital, where they were undergoing treatment and were stated to be

#### want to 'encounter' him PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA

the Bengal Government was trying to eliminate him in a police encounter.

"The police seem to have been attempting an encounter with me, my son Pawan Singh — an MLA from Bhatpara constituency, my wife and other family members, Singh has alleged wondering "In fear of losing your seat how low will you stoop Didi (Mamata

Once a Trinamool Congress strongman, known for his close proximity to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee before switching sides to the saffron outfit before 2019 general elections when he defeated Dinesh Trivedi the sitting Trinamool MP, Singh has been engaged in a fierce turf war with the TMC for a control over Barrackpore which has witnessed a number of shootouts in recent times

Singh's comment came soon

after a team of senior police officials descended at his house with to carry out search operation in the premises. "I told them you cannot search the place on basis of information. You don't have a warrant or any evidence. They said they cannot show me proof officially to which I said that they cannot search the house of an MP and MLA just like that" Pawan Singh later said adding the "they had

come with ulterior intentions." Refuting Singh's charges senior Bengal Minister and the president of TMC's North 24 Parganas district Jyotipriya Mullick said "He has been in the TMC for years and we know him very well. He can do anything to stick to power and money. He is running a goonda raj in Barrackpore and whatever he is saying is a part of perpetrating that goonda raj."

Saying that the people of Bengal will not spare the BJP and those of Barrackpore will give him a befitting reply Mullick said "not only the TMC but all other parties are afraid of Arjun Singh in

Barrackpore.

BJP MP says WB Police | TN sees 4,538 fresh cases, 79 deaths on Fri KUMAR CHELLAPPAN CHENNAI

> The Covid-19 pandemic claimed 79 lives in Tamil Nadu on Friday, the highest fatalities on a single day. The day also saw 4,538 new persons getting tested positive for coronavirus taking the number of active cases in the State to 47, 782.

> Till date the State had traced 1.6 lakh persons afflicted with coronavirus, according to a release by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

> The State administration is in a relentless fight with the pandemic as it has ramped up the number of covid testing centres across the State.

> On Friday Tamil Nadu had 109 fully equipped laboratories and the State tested 47, 539 persons on a single day. Till date the State has tested 1.75 million persons.

> Out of the 79 deaths reported during the last 24 hours, 78 were with co-morbidities, which underscores the Government's campaign that those suffering from serious ailments like diabetes, kidney failures and cancer should be vigilant against covid-19.

> The stories from the districts too were not encouraging. While the capital city of Chennai showed a hike (1,243 patients), the situation remained grim in the neighbouring districts of Chengalpet (125), Kancheepuram (110) and Thiruvallur (220)

In Tamil Nadu, 17 out of the 38 districts have more than 100 Covid-19 patients. The day also saw 3,391 per-sons getting discharged fully cured of the pandemic.

601 afflicted in J&K | J&K Govt changes laws to aid | Hindus in TN protest in Gandhian नालको 🙆 NALCO style against blasphemy attempt construction of Armed Forces Bhubaneswar-751013, Odisha, India **PIONEER NEWS SERVICE** ■ JAMMU total number of cases Friday reached 12757. Out of this 5,968 are still active facilities outside cantonments  $M^{\rm ore\,than\,fifteen\,hundred\,cases\,of}_{\rm coronavirus\,\,have\,been\,\,detected}$ positive while a total number of 6,558 CHENNAI patients have recovered. Around 84 percent cases are active positive across Jammu: After the onset of militancy in in the Union Territory of Jammu & J&K Development Act, 1970, to provide Kashmir in the last three days while 36 10 districts of Kashmir valley while 16 Jammu & Kashmir, for the first time the for special dispensation for carrying out construction activities in Strategic patients have died due to covid-19 durpercent cases of active positive patients administration has decided to notify ing the same period. are spread across Jammu division. certain areas in the union territory as Areas" "strategic areas", to facilitate smooth con-On Friday, the total tally of coron-Śrinagar district alone has so far According to a statement issued by the Department of Information and avirus cases reached 12, 757 cases after reported 31 percent active positive struction for the requirements of Armed cases while Jammu district has only 3 Public Relations,"The amendments pro-601 fresh cases were detected while 9 Forces Till now, various Cantonment posed by Housing & Urban more patients died in J&k. So far, 231 percent active positive cases. patients have died, 18 in Jammu divi-Srinagar district continues to boards were chiefly responsible for all Development Department will pave sion and 213 in Kashmir division. On record the highest number of positive way for notifying certain areas as the construction activities permitted July 15, 493 positive cases were reportcases in Kashmir valley. On Friday, 150 within the jurisdiction of various can-'strategic areas' in terms of the requirecases were detected in Srinagar foled and on July 16, 490 cases were detecttonments in J&K. ment of armed forces and in such areas, On Friday, "The Administrative Council which met here under the ed, sending alarm bells ringing among the health administrators working lowed by 82 cases from Shopian and the regulation of construction activity shall be through a special dispensation. 62 from Baramulla. round the clock to control the situation In Jammu division, Ramban dischairmanship of Lieutenant Governor, The move is aimed at simplifying the trict recorded the highest number of G.C. Murmu, gave its nod to the proprocedures and shall facilitate timefrom slipping out of hands. According to the media bulletin, posal of amending the Control of 41 cases followed by 21 from Kathua bound development of infrastructure of with 601 fresh cases of coronavirus the and 16 from Jammu district. strategic importance," it added. PNS Building Operations Act, 1988, and the

**B**<sup>JP</sup> MP from Barrackpore, Arjun Singh has alleged that

Banerjee)?"

#### CIN: L27203OR1981GOI000920

#### E-TENDER NOTICE Digitally signed online bids for Two Parl Open Tender through Central

Public Procurement Porta (https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app) are invited on for the following Works.

1. RFP No. TNCC-035 / 2020 : Assistance Support Services for Maintenance o allElectrical Installation within the Premises of NRTC,Gothapatna, Bhubaneswar

2. RFP No. TNCC-036 / 2020 : Supply Activation & Maintenance of Electronic Meal Cards for Employees of NALCO

For details please visit www.eprocure.gov.in or www.nalcoindia.com Any Updates / Amendments / Extension/ Corrigendum will only be hosted in above websites. AGM (Elect.), T&C

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4/2/378/WA/11 Dt. 16.07.2020. Work an

location: Churchgate: Electrical Powe

work and replacement of outdated a

condition system at UTS Centre. Approx

Cost of the work: ₹57,05,751/-. EMD

₹1,14,100/-. Date and time o

Submission: 18.08.2020 till 15.00 hrs

Date and time of opening: 18.08.2020 a

15.30 hrs. 2.TENDER NOTICE NO

EL/Maint/4/1/WA/5(R) Dt. 16.07.2020

Work and location: Mumbai Division

Suburbun Section: Repairing

replacement of defective parts ar

cleaning of water coolers of various makes

& capacities at various locations

Churchgate to Virar section and JI

Hospital at Mumbai Central for 2 years

Approx. Cost of the work: ₹15,27,011/

EMD: ₹30,600/-. Date and time of

Submission: 17.08.2020 till 15.00 hrs

Date and time of opening: 17.08.2020 a

15.30 hrs. 3.TENDER NOTICE NO

EL/Maint/4/1/WA/3(R) Dt. 16.07.2020

Work and location: Mumbai Divisio

Non-Suburbun Section: Repairing

replacement of defective parts and

cleaning of window AC, split AC units an

water coolers of various makes

capacities at various locations in Vaitarr

to Surat Section for 2 years. Approx

Cost of the work: ₹18,82,345/-. EMD

₹37,700/-. Date and time o

Submission: 17.08.2020 till 15.00 hrs

Date and time of opening: 17.08.202

at 15.30 hrs. Note: Please visit ou

Website www.ireps.gov.in. to downloa

the tender document, corrigendum an

rther details

### KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

Tamil Nadu witnessed a novel protest by Hindus on Thursday in true Gandhian style against attempts by those owing allegiance to various Dravida movements to denigrate Lord Murugan and the famous hymn 'Skanda Sashti Kavacham' composed by Devaraya Swami (b;1820) in praise of the Lord.

Black Alliance, a collective by various Dravidian and evangelist groups had through their social media video 'Karuppar Koottam' had portrayed Skanda Sashti Kavacham as Aabasa Puranam (Tamil for

obscene epic). For the Hindus in the State, Skanda Sashti Kavacham is a rare hymn that united all cutting across castes and tribes. It is also the most popular hymn sung in the State to invoke Lord Muruga for his blessings.

It was alleged by various Hindu outfits ranging from the BJP to Hindu Munnani that the anchor of the show Surendra Natarajan maligned the sanctity of Hindu Gods by

Muruga. Murugan had filed a police complaint against Natarajan and 'Karuppar Koottam' for humiliating the Hindu Gods and for blasphemy. Natarajan alleged that the BJP leaders mistook him for DMK and hence foisted the case.

portraying the Kavacham

(Tamil for armour) as obscene

and it was an act of blasphemy.

L Murugan, state chief of the

BJP staged a protest demon-

stration in front of his own

house along with other party

leaders observing the Covid-19

demonstration as powerful as

the one that took place in

Thiruchendur, the town in

Thoothukudi district, which is

home to the famous seaside

the coastal town came out of

their houses and recited the

Kavacham in its typical

Ragamalika format incorportating the eternal Abheri,

make the listeners fold their

hands in reverence to Lord

Kalyanai and Thodi that

Thousands of residents in

shrine of Lord Muruga.

Shubhapantuvarali.

But nowhere was the

guidelines.



### Smuggled gold is saffron and 8,308 +ve, 258 die in Maha green in colour: CPI(M) to BJP

Balakrishnan.

#### KUMAR CHELLAPPAN KOCHI

CPI(M) State **T**he L Committee, the powerful body of the party in Kerala met which at Thiruvananthapuram on Friday to take stock of the situation arising out of the gold smuggling through diplomatic channel in which the name of an official in the Chief Minister's office was figured, expressed its full confidence in the leadership of Pinaravi Vijavan. "It was due to the way-

wardness of M Sivsankar, the then principal secretary of the Chief Minister that led to the tarnishing of the CMO's image. The Chief Minister took effective measures immediately after he came across the reports. The CPI(M) is undertaking a house-to-house campaign to convince the people about the realities behind the scam," said Kodiyeri Balakrishnan, the party's Kerala secretary Like us on: 📑 facebook.com/WesternRly 💈 while briefing the media

place. The Government has about the decisions taken in the day-long meeting. effectively handled the issue," Balakrishnan said the said the CPI(M) secretary.

party took strong objection to Balakrishnan said that P the comments made by JP K Krishnadas, one of the BJP leaders was heard demanding Nadda, the BJP national president that the gold in Kerala the dismissal of the CPI(M) was red in colour. "I would led government. "This shows like to remind him that the how despair the BJP is in Kerala. The Congress and gold in Kerala is saffron and green in colour. It was a BMS the Muslim League are hand leader who intervened in the in glove with terrorists and case on behalf of the accused religious extremists. They get the support of the BJP in creto get the gold consignment ating lawlessness in Kerala," released from the Customs officials. The gold was smugalleged Balakrishnan. He said the CPI(M) welgled by persons who are hav-

ing close links with the Muslim League," said India's decision to entrust the investigation of the gold smuggling case to the National Investigating He said the Party asserted its trust and confidence in all the actions taken by Chief Agency. "A comprehensive Minister Pinaravi Vijavan. "It was the high handedness of M Sivsankar, the then principal secretary in the Chief cretary.

Minister's Office that led to a situation where the CMO's persons were taken into cusimage came under scrutiny. tody by the Customs officials But Sivsankar was suspended from Malappuram in confrom office and new persons with gold nection have been appointed in his smuggling.

### TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

The Covid-19 infections  $T_{crossed 8,000}$  mark for the second consecutive day in Maharashtra on Friday, as the state recorded 8,308 positive cases, while a staggering 258 persons succumbed to the pandemic.

A day after recording 8,641 Covid-19 infections and 266 more deaths, Maharashtra witnessed 8308 infected cases taking the total number of positive cases inched close to 3 lakh-mark to touch 2,92,589.

With 258 fresh fatalities, the total number of deaths in various comed the Government of parts of the state mounted to

11,452 on Friday evening. Of the 258 total deaths, Mumbai accounted for 62 deaths, which took the total number of deaths in the metropolis from probe by the NIA and the 5523 to 5585, while the total Customs would bring the number of Covid-19 cases rose by truth out," said the CPI(M) 1,214 to touch 99,164 now.

In addition to 62 deaths in Meanwhile two more Mumbai, there were 57 deaths in Thane, 45 deaths in Pune, 25 in Nashik, 12 in Palghar, 9 in Solapur, 8 in Raigad, 6 in Nanded, 5 each in Satara and Aurangabad, 4 each in Jalna and Jalgaon, 3 in

Ahmednagar, 2 each in Kolhapur, Latur, Amravati and Osmanabad and one each in Ratnagiri, Hingoli, Beed, Nagpur. There was one more death -- from another State.

With 71345 infected cases and 1964 deaths, Thane continued to be the second worst hit district in Maharashtra.

Pune, which has emerged as the third worst affected district in terms of spread of the pandemic, has recorded 49037 infections and 1282 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 1,60,357.

The recovery rate in the state stood at 54.81 per cent. The mortality rate in the state is 3,91 per cent. The State health authorities pegged the number of "active cases" in the state at 1,20,480.

Out of 14,84,630 samples sent to laboratories, 2,92,589 have tested positive (19.70 per cent) for Covid-19 until Friday

Currently, 7,24,602 people are in home quarantine while 44,284 people are in institutional quarantine.

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# **Pilot trapped**

Gehlot continues his leverage with the Congress, brandishing legislators and now incriminating audio tapes



t doesn't look like conditions are conducive for Sachin Pilot to continue as a Congressman for too long, leave aside in Rajasthan, which he had nurtured as his political karmabhoomi and for which he is claiming rightful accommodation. And if he is indeed disqualified or declared unattached, should the courts not be happy with his explanation on why he defied diktats for party meetings or why his dissent is freedom of speech, he would be out in the cold. But he's not giving up the fight yet. Given the vituperative campaign mounted against him, it appears that while he may be a vote-catcher, he is not a power converter

or as artful a politician as his rival from the old guard, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot. The latter continues to have a hold on the legislators and the organisational matrix, something that had compelled the Congress high command to name him Chief Minister while making Pilot his deputy despite him shoring up the party's tally across the State. Gehlot has been trying to drive Pilot away from the very beginning, limiting his powers. Then came the sedition charge, accusing him of trying to topple the Government in connivance with the BJP during the Rajya Sabha polls, although the Congress won that round. But it worked as a perfect trap with Pilot walking into it and declaring his freedom from imposed indignities. And now to make sure that his loyalists desert him in a fruitless and asymmetrical battle, Gehlot has released audio recordings of topple game plans between MLAs close to Pilot and the BJP. The party went so far as to name Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat in an FIR, saying it had his voice on tape. The Congress has suspended rebel MLAs Bhanwar Lal Sharma and Vishvendra Singh from primary membership, a clear signal to Pilot that his fate would be no better. Pilot still denies the overthrow attempts and says he is not joining the BJP but stacked up against a visible show of strength, has little legroom to defend himself. He may appear offensive but fact is Gehlot fuelled his impatience and instead of settling intra-party differences like the smooth administrator he is, let them fester. The CM has herded a majority of the legislators, promised rewards to them and threatened Pilot camp MLAs with disgualification, saying they would stand to lose. And with the police investigation and audio clips, he has managed to convince the Congress central leadership that Pilot had indeed overreached his ambitions to the extent of confabulating with the BJP. The stern statement endorsing Gehlot's line of argument coming from Central emissary Randeep Singh Surjewala is proof enough that Gehlot has again been able to leverage numbers to justify his continuity as a chieftain. This despite certain reconciliatory voices of senior leaders and the Gandhi scions who held off Pilot from making a rash decision. Gehlot has also made sure that by embarrassing and calling out the BJP, which was attempting a subtle kind of Operation Lotus, and weaning away some MLAs off Pilot, the latter looks less attractive as an investment.

The Rajasthan imbroglio shows why the Congress will always be a party of status quo since its old hawks, who have been allowed to unquestioningly harvest their own fiefs while humouring the central leadership, will simply not allow any scope for improvement or inspire the young to take over the baton. If any paratrooping attempt is made, then they threaten rebellion and given the years of familiarity at the local level, they have a far stronger federal appeal and strength of personality to fall back upon. Ask Pilot, who has made inroads but his appeal is just incremental to the resources of Gehlot. He is still a challenger to the chieftain. It shows that even the younger Gandhis, Rahul and Priyanka, have no say as Gehlot went ahead with his belligerence despite their warnings. Gehlot can easily turn himself victim of the younger dynasts, claiming he has always pledged his loyalty to them. And since the States are mostly with the old guard, even Rahul and Priyanka are not confident of swinging things their way and assuage the ascendant ambitions of the younger lot. The Young Turks are no longer young, now in their middling 40s and 50s, and are desperate to register some career benchmarks than continue to be faceless foot soldiers. And given India's changing political landscape, the dynamism of younger federal leaders and a more performance-driven verve in public discourse, they just don't want to wait in a queue. The old hawks are 60 plus themselves and had actually seized the reins of leadership guite young. So they will never understand this angst. Perhaps that's why Rahul himself, frustrated at 50, had stepped down as party president last year. Yes, the old guard wants Rahul back as leader, not for any altruistic reason but simply because the old warriors want to use his surname to shield themselves from taking responsibility for the party's falling fortunes. As for Pilot, he has to lie low for a while than seem power-hungry and even with his own outfit, clustered around prominent Gujjar votes, he would still have to, at some point, deal with the BJP. Then he would have to forget chief ministership for 2023 as BJP has no less claimants. Meanwhile, the Congress may be missing the woods for the trees. Trees which stand despite being reduced to stumps.

# opinion Insights from the ground

Until a viable vaccine is found, finding new ways to cope with the unexpected seems to be our only recourse to brace against the unexpected challenges thrown by the virus



Life is not the way it's supposed to be... The way you cope is what makes the difference — Virginia Satir.

hen the famous US family therapist Virginia Satir talked about coping with life's adversities, she was unlikely to have had images of a pandemic like COVID-19 in mind. But her words have a grim relevance today as we learn to live with the unforeseen and unprecedented situation caused by the Coronavirus. A recent telephone survey conducted by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), through its Data Innovation Centre, documents several insightful findings about public behaviour and the health and economic outcomes of both the virus and the lockdown imposed by the Government to curb its transmission.

The findings explain the surge as most respondents, while adhering to safety protocols, admit that they took advantage of the "unlock" phase to step out of the house when there was no pressing need. At the same time, the economic trough has been gloomy even after opening up with a high percentage of the workforce losing jobs or facing salary cuts. This despite a majority going back to work in the "unlock" phase.

The survey, titled, The Delhi Coronavirus Telephone Survey (DCVTS), was undertaken in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR) in three rounds, between April 3 and 6; April 23 and 26; and June 15 and 23 respectively. The most notable finding during the first round of the survey was the successful communication by the Government of the dangers associated with the virus and the consequent need for a stringent lockdown – nearly 87 per cent of the respondents asserted their support for the lockdown to be extended for two more weeks beyond its original end date of April 14, notwithstanding the

hardships caused by it. The study also throws light on other aspects of dealing with COVID-19, including the level of awareness among the people about the risks and symptoms of the disease; their threat perceptions in terms of the chances of contracting the virus and their attitudes ndated safet such as hand hygiene, social distancing and the use of masks. In addition, it highlights the impact of the lockdown on the incomes and livelihoods of all sections of society.



early April, it was important to explore awareness levels about the disease and the possible prevention measures among the

general public. A strange paradox that emerged in the first round was the dissonance between people's perceptions about the dangers posed by the virus and the possibility they envisaged of getting infected themselves.

While almost 95 per cent of them averred that the virus was highly dangerous, as many as 65 per cent of them did not expect themselves or any of their household members to get infected. This sense of confidence in the ability to sidestep the infection was obviously put to the test after the easing of the lockdown in June, which has been followed by a massive surge in positive cases in Delhi and the adjoining areas. Immediate impact of the

lockdown: With a complete shutdown of all activities and commercial establishments starting March 25, the first phase of the NCAER survey indicated that 25 per cent of the rural and 33 per cent of the urban residents suffered shortages of essential items, including food supplies, cooking fuel and even medicines. Subsequently, however, while shortages of essential supplies somewhat when the were interviewed during the second round of the survey in the third week of April, people's worries had now squarely shifted to the economic impact of the lockdown. The predominant concern during this period was the decline in incomes and loss

of livelihoods due to the closure of offices and businesses.

During DCVTS-2, an overwhelming majority of the respondents — 82 per cent —reported loss of income or wages, especially daily wage workers and employees in small businesses. Further, among these, 72 per cent of casual workers complained that their incomes and wages had suffered "very much", indicating that the brunt of the economic distress was borne by workers from the informal sector. Even among the salaried class, 38 per cent of the workers either received truncated salaries or were relieved of their jobs.

Interestingly, and perhaps as a saving grace, farmers did not seem to be overly affected. Only 34 per cent reported a drop in incomes during the lockdown. This because most of them were busy harvesting the Rabi crop and doing preparations for the Kharif crop during this period. Focus on safety measures

during "unlock" Phase I: The most conspicuous results of the NCAER's DCVTS were observed in the third round, which virtually stood at the cusp between the lockdown and phased "unlocking." Characterised by the opening up of a range of commercial activities and establishments, this d in early June to determine how far people were adhering to safety measures against the disease. Some level of complacency was witnessed after the "unlocking" as 73 per cent of the respondents reported going out for some reason during the period of one

week prior to the survey. More worryingly, as high as

precautionary measures specified

by the Government and health

authorities, with 95 per cent of the

surveyed people affirming that

they were wearing masks or face

coverings while going out; 66 per

cent reported frequent use of

hand sanitisers; and only 0.8 per

cent of the respondents claimed

that they did not follow any pre-

of COVID-19: In what could

signify a gradual economic

revival post the lockdown, 78

per cent of the households

reported that their members had

resumed going to the workplace

in the second and third weeks of

June. But the trajectory of loss of

livelihoods and incomes for

daily wage workers and small

businesses reported in the sec-

ond round of the survey contin-

that more than 70 per cent of the

households relying on wage

work and business as the main

source of income suffered exten-

Thus, DCVTS-III showed

ued in the third round, too.

Economic repercussions

caution at all.

them reporting suspension of activities during the lockdown in 61 per cent of the respondents May and June and 12 per cent above the age of 60 years had venshutting down completely. tured out of their homes despite Have welfare measures the advisory to elderly people to mitigated financial suffering? remain indoors as they fall in the Apart from documenting the high-risk category. Overall, there adverse impact on incomes and was a general adherence to the

wages, the third round of DCVTS also focussed on the role of Government programmes and measures to ameiorate the suffering of the marginalised sections. It was found that a large number of households - 58 per cent of the total surveyed and 61 per cent in Delhi alone — were given extra rations through the use of Aadhaar cards and e-coupons. About 35 per cent received cash transfers from the Government in May and June, taken together. While most of the fund transfers were achieved through Jan Dhan accounts, the Government also used other schemes like the Ujjwala Yojana and PM Kisan programme to offer financial relief to the affect-

ed households. So what does the future por tend? The results of three rounds of the NCAER survey could offer some insights to policy makers for negotiating the rough road ahead as we brace to meet the persistent challenges of a virus that refuses to go away. a viable vaccine is found possibly by next year, turning to Virginia Satir's practical advice to find new ways of coping with the unexpected seems to be our only recourse.

# **Blowing bubbles**

Are 'air bubbles' between nations a way of getting international passenger travel going again?



fith India having created "air bubbles" with some countries such as France, the UAE and the US and advanced negotiations on with Germany and other nations, it is heartening to see that international commercial air travel is restarting. An "air bubble" is a form of a bilateral air traffic agreement but one that follows the entry rules set by various nations related to registration and guarantine protocols. In India, for example, travellers from abroad are still mandated to undergo one week's institutional and a week's home guarantine. The "air bubbles" also prevent direct "sixth freedom" air traffic, a con-

necting one. International travellers will not, for example, be able to connect through Dubai or Paris airports while coming to India unless specifically allowed by the Indian Government. However, one wonders how an immigration-free zone such as Europe's "Schengen" area will be managed. The increased flights will hopefully see better utilisation of air fleets and present airlines an opportunity to make some money. However, if experience from India's domestic flights resuming operations is any indication, the volume of passengers might be minimal after an initial rush as few people have an urgent non-personal reason to travel this time.

So these "air bubbles" could be a start as it remains to be seen whether commercial air traffic can ever re-emerge from the pandemic. For example, many airlines made significant volumes of connecting air traffic but with restrictions as well as the risk-averse nature of most people to deal with another large airport, how will airlines like Emirates and Singapore Airlines cope? Emirates, for example, has already retired the earliest of its A380 superjumbo aircraft and laid off thousands of employees as the Indian air traffic that sustained that carrier has vanished overnight. Even storied airlines like British Airways have announced that they will retire their entire Boeing 747 fleet, joining Australia's Qantas and Dutch airline KLM in retiring the "Queen of the Skies." While airlines highlight how safe travel onboard is, drastic reductions in service, thanks to the pandemic, and the lack of passenger confidence have made certain that many of them will not re-emerge from the crisis. Bubbles or not, the aviation industry itself sits on a precarious bubble.

Pandemic makes inroads: With the virus making nascent inroads into the country during late March and tion of these households was also compelled to borrow money to counter financial distress. In fact, medium and small businesses have literally withered under the onslaught of the economic earthquake unleashed by the virus, with 52 per cent of

(The writer is Consultant Editor at NCAER. Views *expressed are personal)* 

S O UNDBITE A race is fair, the result is valid For democracies and freedom-Give me six months to train Talks are on to resolve only if the starting point was the loving people around the world, let me play three Ranji the ongoing border same for every player. If not, the it is an imperative that we push games. I'll score runs for dispute but I cannot comparison and the ensuing back against the challenge that India in Test cricket. I don't guarantee to what extent the situation onslaught will take away the digthe Chinese Communist Party even need six months, give will be resolved. nity of the sport eventually presents to us all. me three. I will score runs. Former Indian captain Union Minister Actor **US Secretary of State** –Taapsee Pannu —Rajnath Singh -Mike Pompeo –Sourav Ganguly

#### LETTERS ТО тне EDITOR

#### Step in right direction

Sir — The Supreme Court's order allowing people suffering from disabilities the same benefits of relaxation in public education and employment as Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe (SC/ST) candidates is welcome. It is significant because until now they used to get relaxations on age limits but not in marks and in competitive exams like civil services.

They are often not able to get the benefit of reservation in education and employment because they do not meet general standards. They face multiple barriers, not just social attitudes but barriers in infrastructure, information, communication, administration and the judicial system. It is the duty of the Government to enable a level-playing field where people with disabilities can participate on an equal basis with others. Extending relaxations will have wide-ranging implications. This will see more disabled people being able to get into careers of their choice. The mind is still supreme.

Ravi Teja Kathuripalli Hyderabad

### China's Iran gamble costs India dearly

India. The Chabahar port itself is

of immense strategic value. Not

only does it promise the develop-

ment of regional maritime tran-

sit traffic between India, Iran,

Afghanistan and Central Asia but

is important from the business

point of view as it helps us fulfil

his refers to the editorial, "Trouble in Chabahar" (July 16). Historically, India and Iran have stood shoulder to shoulder. Be it Kashmir or Babri Masjid. Iran has been with us. India, too, reciprocated by importing its oil requirements from Iran. Chabahar port, a joint project of India, Iran and Afghanistan, is connected with India's west coast. The initiative signifies India's trade outreach to Russia and Central Asia bypassing Pakistan. According to a 2016 agreement, India was to develop a 628-km rail line from the port to Zahedan along the Afghanistan border. Since India couldn't effectively circumvent American sanctions on Iran, the latter decided to go ahead with the line on its own. Normally, it wouldn't have been of much consequence but for certain geopolitical developments. First, India is getting closer to the US and has also stopped buying oil from Iran. Second, Indo-China and US-China relations are at their worst. China smelt an opportunity and seduced Tehran with a \$400 billion cheque. In return. China gets oil at cheap rates. With this. China acquires strategic hold over Iran and also prepares it militarily

Iran knocking India out of the rail project has this

#### **Trouble with Iran**

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Trouble in Chabahar" (July 16). Iran's decision to drop India out of the Chabahar rail project has come as a major setback for



damaging China connection. Chabahar is billed as India's response to Pakistan's China-operated Gwadar port. In due course of time, Chinese investments in Iran are likely to render Chabahar irrelevant and may cease to be the centerpiece of Iran's "Looking to the East" policy. Our strategic ties with Iran are under the Dragon's siege. The agreement cocks a snook at the US and also provides China control over the Iran-Pakistan coast. Opening up of a new geopolitical flashpoint is, of course, a bonus,

SK Prabhakar Gurugram

regional aspirations. India's failure to build the rail link between the Chabahar port and Zahedan in the stipulated time proved costly

But this isn't the first time that an ambitious overseas infrastructure development project

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Prathna

Via email

has faced an inordinate delay in its completion. Take the example of the Pancheshwar dam project in Nepal, which has been hanging fire since 1991, or the trilateral highway between India, Myanmar and Thailand. New Delhi must show the will to confront this challenge or be prepared to pay the price.

Kirti Wadhawan Kanpur

#### No lockdown, please

Sir - With Coronavirus infections near one million, many States have imposed lockdown once again in selected areas for varying intervals. Earlier lockdowns being an example, neither could they yield any positive result nor could we enhance preparedness. Lockdowns can never be a permanent answer. It's time we make peace with the virus and start living with safeguards in place. Sanitisers, masks and social distancing should be the sine qua non.

BHOPAL | SATURDAY | JULY 18, 2020



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### FIRSTCOLUMN Polls can wait, Bihar cannot

It is time the EC, the Centre and State governments and political parties rise to the occasion and put the welfare of Bihar and its people first



#### ncertainty over controlling the COVID-19 pandemic is increasing globally and in India, too, with the Centre and State Governments being clueless about handling the outbreak and the socio-economic challenges arising from it. At a time like this, who wants an election in Bihar or anywhere else in the country, for that matter? However, the ruling NDA has other ideas and is going ballistic about the elections despite its dismal performance in managing the situation arising out of the outbreak. With the lowest testing rate in the country and the infection spreading fast, Bihar will soon have more than 10,000 active cases, as it registered 1,385 new infections on July 16, taking the number of active cases up to 7,289. The State will very soon be dealing with the floods that usu-ally happen during the monsoon season, and as if that is not enough, the Government has failed to control the annual outbreak of Acute Encephalitis Syndrome popularly known as chamki bukhar. Several children have already died of it.

Right now, the priority of the Government should be saving lives and providing livelihoods to migrant labourers who were forced to travel 1,200 km and more on foot when they were left to fend for themselves by their employers in the metro cities. Reduced to living in wretched conditions and unsure of the future, it is the duty of the Government to plan for them. What we see, however, is the thirst to cling to power and rush the State into an election due to the NDA's confidence in its political arithmetic, even as the pandemic shows no signs of abating.

While the Election Commission (EC) has conducted polls on a much bigger scale in the world's largest democracy with great effi-ciency, the current circumstances come with unprecedented challenges. First, the EC will have to ensure strict implementation of the guidelines for preventing the spread of the contagion. This itself is going to be a major problem for the EC to solve. Here, technology can be of some help, but given the fact that Electronic Voting Machines have invited doubts in the past, a new technological intervention will find few takers, especially in a backward and politically-charged State like Bihar. Disinfecting polling centres, enforcing physical distancing, provision of gloves and masks, use of hand sanitisers and providing separate enclosures for voters with temperature are bare essentials when Coronavirus cases are rising alarmingly across the country, barring a few States. The elections may spread over a much longer period of time and may require not only a huge deployment of security forces but also of healthcare staff in the hinterland.

Many have given the example of elections in South Korea. It is an unfair comparison because of the population factor alone. While the State of Bihar has a population of nearly 10 crore, the east Asian nation has just 5.16 crore people. Plus, the state of South Korea's infrastructure and logistical preparedness, credible technological tools and level of education and development make it a different ball game altogether. Bihar generally witnesses a high voter turnout. However, the intensity of participation in the present scenario is anybody's guess and will be quite a blow to the basic duty of the EC, that all voters must cast their vote, freely and fearlessly.

The electoral blitzkrieg unleashed by the BJP hasn't gone down well with the people of the State who are lamenting the poor COVID-19 arrangements and general administrative apathy towards the handling of the outbreak. Take for example, Nautan village in Champaran district. Here the quarantine centre is in a very bad shape and lacks basic necessities like fans and bulbs. The state of hygiene and toilets is pathetic and people are staying there in deplorable conditions. I am saying this authoritatively as I was personally involved in taking care of the labourers who returned to the State and failed to receive any help from the Government. The Centre and State should be vigilant and improve conditions in places like these. Test kits and Personal Protective Equipment are in short supply. Voices talking of misappropriation of funds and graft are getting louder in the State which is yet to see community-level checking of infections. This is an opportunity to bring people together, create social bonhomie and a social alliance cutting across caste lines. This is the time to show solidarity with businessmen who have suffered losses, labourers who have returned home in penury but have acquired some skill and experience working in the metros. There are enough funds with the Government and re-engaging them only requires political will. This is the right time to ignite the latent constructive energy of Bihar. It is time the EC, the Centre and State governments and political parties rise to the occasion and put the welfare of Bihar and its people above all. There are enough constitutional provisions that make way for polls later. Hopefully, the pandemic would be under greater control and Bihar, too, would be better prepared to hold the elections by then. (The writer is a Bihar-based politician and political analyst)

# analysis

### POINTCOUNTERPOINT

I HAVE FAITH IN THE GOVERNMENT BUT IN THE INTEREST OF JUSTICE, I REQUEST YOU (AMIT SHAH) TO INITIATE A CBI ENQUIRY INTO SUSHANT'S SUDDEN DEATH. **—ACTOR RHEA CHAKRABORTY** 



THERE IS NO NEED TO GIVE THE CASE TO THE CBI. OUR POLICE OFFICERS ARE CAPABLE AND ARE CONDUCTING THE INVESTIGATION IN THE RIGHT WAY. **ANIL DESHMUKH** 

# Games politicos play

The way in which the anti-defection law has been brazenly thwarted calls for its review, including the need to debar anyone from becoming a Minister without first getting elected to the legislature



DEVENDER SINGH ASWAL

⊣he high political theatre in Rajasthan and earlier in Madhya Pradesh has yet again brought to the fore the efficacy or otherwise of the anti-defection law enshrined in the Constitution by the 52nd Amendment, which was later further amended by the 91st Constitution (Amendment) Act, in 2003. The sum and substance of these constitutional amendments is that a member of the legislature, whether of the Union or the State Legislature, shall be disqualified, if s/he is disqualified under the Tenth Schedule. The precise grounds for disqualification of a legisla-tor, as per the Tenth Schedule are, if s/he has voluntarily given up his/her membership of such political party, or if s/he votes or abstains from voting in the House contrary to the direction or the whip issued by the political party s/he is a member of.

However, in the case of merger of not less than two-thirds of the members of the legislative party with another party, the anti-defection law will not apply. The competent authority to decide the question of disqualification is the presiding officer, the Chairman/Speaker, which, after the judgment of the Supreme Court in the Kihoto Hollohan vs. Zachilĥu and others, case in 1992, can be a subject of judicial review.

The burning question is whether Sachin Pilot, Congress MLA in the Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha, has incurred disqualification under the Tenth Schedule. He has been removed from the post of Deputy Chief Minister of Rajasthan and the post of Pradesh Congress Committee president, for breaching party discipline. There were reports of the Rajasthan Congress legislative party hav-ing issued showcause notices to Pilot and his loyalist legislators to explain why disciplinary action should not be initiated against them for defying should not be initiated against them for defying the party. Pilot surprised everyone by moving court and the Division Bench of the Rajasthan High Court has taken up the petition filed by him and 18 MLAs against the disqualification notices issued to them by Assembly Speaker CP Joshi. The court has not allowed any action against the leader and the MLAs till Tuesday. The fact remains that every party is empow-ered under its constitution to enforce discipline

ered under its constitution to enforce discipline within its ranks for the larger objective of attaining its political goal. No doubt, without discipline,



THE LAW OF DEFECTION IN A WAY CAN BE LIKENED TO THE THREE PRINCIPLES OF CRIMINAL

JURISPRUDENCE WHICH REQUIRE TWIN TESTS OF MENS REA AND ACTUS REUS IN ORDER TO CONSTITUTE A CRIMINAL OFFENCE.

MERE PROBABILITY OF DEFECTION CANNOT BE A GROUND FOR DISQUALIFICATION, EXCEPT THAT A POLITICAL PARTY

whether they promote democratic, collegial or high command-centric leader-ship — is their internal matter on which they flourish or perish in course of time. In an all-India political party, inherently, there will be internal struggle among the leaders for higher positions. Eventually, it is the survival of the fittest, i.e. the leader who garners maximum support within the party. Yet, such a leader cannot last long if he is autocratic, exceedingly self-centred and under-mines the dignity of his colleagues and party functionaries who gave their sweat and blood to build the matrix.

sweat and blood to build the matrix. In Rajasthan, there is a political limbo for the moment and the ball is now in the court of Pilot. It is up to him whether he resigns along with his fellow MLAs from the Congress Party and the legislature and contests another election by forming a new party or joins the by forming a new party or joins the CAN EXPEL SUCH mainstream rival party, which of course

MEMBERS FROM THE To acquire power is a genera inclination of mankind, a perpetual, rest-LEGISLATURE

MLAs loyal to him. This brought about the fall of Kamal Nath and the reinstatement of Shivraj Singh Chouhan of the BJP as the Chief Minister.

Scindia later joined the BJP with his supporters on March 11. But in a brazen mockery of the Constitution, 14 MLAs of the 22 Scindia loyalists, who had resigned from the Vidhan Sabha, were inducted into the Council of Ministers in the second Cabinet expansion. Of the 34 Ministers, including the Chief Minister, 14 are Scindia loyalists, Chief Minister, 14 are Scindia Ioyalists, creating acrimony within the BJP. What is most intriguing is that these 14 Scindia loyalist Ministers are not mem-bers of the Vidhan Sabha. Articles 75(5) and 164(4), couched in almost identical words, provide that "a Minister who for any period of six consecutive months is not a member of the months is not a member of the Legislature of the State, shall at the expiration of that period, cease to be a Minister." Now these 14 Ministers will

Rajya Sabha. In February 1995, Pranab Mukherjee, not an MP then, was sworn in as Minister and he briefly held the External Affairs portfolio but could not be elected to Parliament due to a certain tussle with the then redoubtable TN Seshan, the Chief Election Commissioner of India. Mukherjee had to resign and he was later made the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission by Narasimha Rao. In the same way, Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, a career Indian Foreign Service officer, was inducted into the Narendra Modi Cabinet and later elected to the Rajya Sabha.

Minister in 1996. He was elected to the

But in Madhya Pradesh, this enabling mechanism was used whole-sale to promote a political rift, create a split and engender the downfall of an elected Government. Obviously, no disqualification was incurred, so to speak, on the ground of defection. But the spirit of the anti-defection law. The Constitution (52nd Amendment) was enacted to curb the evil of defection, considering it a serious threat undermining the very foundations of democracy and the lofty principles which sustain it. The manner in which the intent of the anti-defection law has been brazenly thwarted calls for its review, including the need to debar anyone from becoming a Minister without first getting elected to the legislature and debarring such members from contesting elections for at least three years. (The writer is former Additional Secretary Lok Sabha, an author and writes on constitutional and parliamen*tarv matters.*)

of power-hungry people without any sound political moorings and identity. The moot point is whether the Congress Party can get Pilot and his loyalist legislators disqualified under the antidefection law. Apparently, Pilot and his fellow MLAs have neither defected, nor voted or abstained from voting against the party whip in the Vidhan Sabha. The law of defection, in a way, can be likened to the three principles of criminal jurisprudence which require twin tests of mens rea and actus reus in order to constitute a criminal offence. Mere probability of defection cannot be a ground for disqualification, except that a political party can expel such members from the legislature party. Such members can be declared as "unattached" by the Speaker but cannot be disqualified in view of the clear legal provision.

How political parties govern themselves —

PARTY less desire that ceases only in death." To nurture ambition is not prohibited by the anti-defection law which only seeks to curb the evil of unprincipled defection. Interestingly, politics, being a river,

is not always the same. In Madhya Pradesh, Congress Chief Minister Kamal Nath had to resign when he saw the writing on the wall, which made it clear that he had lost majority support in the Vidhan Sabha. What happened was inconceivable but its roots lay in the autocratic, exclusionary and factional politics of the Chief Minister.

Jyotiraditya Scindia, disgruntled with the Congress Party, accused it of "rampant corruption" and resigned from the Vidhan Sabha along with 22 six months from the date they were orn in.

The Constitution provides an enabling mechanism to induct talent in the Council of Ministers if it is not available within the duly-elected legislature. There have been many instances in the past, especially at the Union level, when non-members were made Ministers and later they were elected to the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha. For instance, PV Narasimha Rao was not a Member of Parliament (MP) when he was sworn in as the Prime Minister of the country. He later contested from Nandval in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh and got elected to the Lok Sabha.

Similarly, Deve Gowda was not an MP when he was sworn in as the Prime

# Food policy must focus on quality, not quantity



India must abandon policies that prioritise staple foodgrains above all other crops. It must diversify its food systems



PRABHU PINGALI

**¬** o successful have India's food Spolicies been that the country has regular bumper crops of wheat and rice. For instance, the nation's foodgrain production is estimated to have touched a record 295.67 million tonne in the 2019-20 crop year (June-July) — the fourth-consecutive year that the country has witnessed record production — buoyed by good rains, according to Agriculture Ministry's latest data. This is up by 10.46 million tonnes from the previous year.

Yet despite this major success in producing India's staple foodgrain, and in part because of it, nearly 210 million Indians remain under-nourished, and many more suffer from other forms of malnutrition, like micronutrient deficiencies and obesity. The crux of the problem is that India's agricultural sector produces more than enough foodgrain but fails to meet demand for vegetables, pulses and other nutrient-rich foods.

If the country is to make good on its commitment under the United Nations' second Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) to achieve zero hunger and provide access to nutritious food for all, India must abandon policies that prioritise staple foodgrains above all other crops. It must diversify its food systems and focus not on the quantity it produces,

but the quality. This is the conclusion of a newlypublished study, the 2020 Food, Agriculture and Nutrition in India, that provides a detailed analysis of the state of hunger and malnutrition in the nation. Using district-level data and maps, the report highlights stark geographical differences in the extent of the hunger problem and identifies potential paths forward.

Over the last four decades, the country has made significant progress in reducing hunger, at least in terms of meeting the minimum calorie requirements. However, as evidenced most clearly in the high prevalence of child stunting, micronutrient malnutrition is endemic. The needle on progress in the reduction of child stunting has hardly budged over the decades, with 43.3 million stunted children in the country. Even as the nation struggles to tackle these problems, it faces an emerging threat in the rapidly rising number of adults who are overweight or obese, and consequently, in the prevalence of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs).

Much of the disparity in nutritional outcomes in India can be traced back to different levels and rates of development among the States. In the underdeveloped, agriculturally-unproductive States of central and eastern India, cereal grains dominate diets and rates of undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies are high. States in the north and south of the country, with developed agricultural sectors and thriving manufacturing and services industries, have lower rates of undernutrition, but high rates of obesity.

Addressing both ends of the malnutrition spectrum requires enhanced availability and access to diverse and nutritious foods that are

affordable for impoverished people. To achieve this goal, continued highlevel investments in agricultural infrastructure and research are needed to sustain past gains in productivity growth and exploit new opportunities for growth, such as the renewed interest in millet and pulses. India must re-orient agricultural policy away from its traditional focus on staples and towards enhancing the productivity and supply of coarse cereals, pulses, fruits, vegetables and livestock products.

A successful re-orientation of the agricultural policy on the nation-al level will require solutions at the local level. Localised cropping systems across the country must be rethought to boost productivity and increase crop diversity while prioritising sustainability. For example, in eastern India, where staple agriculture is less productive on account of poor infrastructure and agro-climatic conditions, less water-intensive crops, such s pulses, coarse cereals and oilseeds, should be adopted.

Not only will such changes increase India's supply of nutrient-rich foods, helping to make them more

accessible and affordable, it will also increase farmers' incomes, empowering households to devote more esources to nutritious foods.

Farmers with small holdings also need support to overcome steep transaction costs due to low economies of scale, poor market connectivity, low bargaining power, and inadequate information about prices and quality standards.

This is particularly true for perishable products like fruits and vegetables, which are among the most nutrient-rich. By investing in rural market infrastructure, enacting market reforms and supporting farmer aggregation, India can enable its small-holding farmers to improve their livelihoods while producing more diverse agricultural products.

Research also shows that empowering women to play a greater role in agriculture and household decisionmaking improves nutrition outcomes. Likewise, improving infrastructure for clean water and sanitation leads to better health and nutrition results. These strategies should be pursued in conjunction with changes in agricul-

tural policies. Additionally, food assistance programmes should be reformed to offer more nutritious foods. Household diet preferences suggest a move away from staple grains but the Public Distribution System (PDS) is still limited to wheat and rice. By building the market infrastructure to support the production and procurement of non-staples, the Government can diversify the PDS to include nutritious foods like coarse grains and pulses.

The zero-hunger challenge is a multi-sectoral task and requires explicit strategies for convergence of policies and programmes across Ministries at the Central, State and local government levels. Breaking out of disciplinary and organisational silos is crucial for ensuring success.

Achieving zero hunger in India is a significant challenge but can be met if the country re-orients its policies to unleash the full, untapped potential of the agricultural sector, with an emphasis on producing nutritious, non-staple crops.

(The writer is Founding Director, Tata-Cornell Institute for Agriculture and Nutrition)



#### A CRISIS IN THE MAKING

The union is in jeopardy if Prime Minister Boris Johnson treats Scottish concerns over Brexit as casually as he treats everything else. The likelihood that he will blunder into a constitutional crisis in Scotland and weaken the union with rhetoric that stokes an English nationalist backlash is high. He does not want to be recorded in history as the man who broke the UK, but there is no sign that he has a strategy for avoiding the confrontation.

(The Guardian editorial)

# China says it's not trying to replace US, won't be bullied

Beijing: China isn't seeking to confront or replace the United States as the world's top technological power, but will fight back against "malicious slander" and attacks from Washington, a foreign ministry spokesperson said Friday, responding to a litany of recent accusations from the Trump administration.

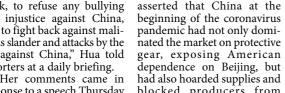
Hua Chunying said China's chief concern was improving the livelihoods of its citizens and maintaining global peace and stability, despite what critics say is an increasingly aggressive foreign policy that looks to expand Chinese influence in the military, technology, economic and other spheres.

"As an independent sovereign state, China has the right to safeguard its own sovereignty, security and development interests, to defend the achievements made by the Chinese people with hard



work, to refuse any bullying and injustice against China, and to fight back against malicious slander and attacks by the US against China," Hua told reporters at a daily briefing. Her comments came in

response to a speech Thursday by Attorney General William Barr in which he cautioned American business leaders against promoting policies favourable to Beijing. He



dependence on Beijing, but had also hoarded supplies and blocked producers from exporting them to countries in need. Barr also accused hackers

linked to the Chinese government of targeting American

Islamabad: In one of the most

universities and businesses to steal research related to coronavirus vaccine development, leveling the allegation against Beijing hours after Western agencies made similar claims against Russia.

"The People's Republic of China is now engaged in an economic blitzkrieg — an aggressive, orchestrated, whole-of-government (indeed, whole-of-society) campaign to seize the commanding heights of the global economy and to surpass the United States as the world's preeminent technological superpower," Barr said.

Numerous Trump allies have issued strongly worded messages over China in recent days, coming at a time when bilateral relations have fallen to their lowest point in decades over issues from accusations of technology theft to China's claims in the South China Sea.

#### US officials have lost their minds: China Beijing: US officials have "lost public opinion... to the point

their minds and gone mad" in their dealings with Beijing, China's foreign ministry said Friday, in the latest verbal salvo between the two superpowers.

Tensions between Washington and Beijing have run high this year and some of the most outspoken critics of China in American congress were this week hit with sanctions, days after the US imposed visa bans and asset freezes on several Chinese officials.

US Attorney General Bill

sations of cybertheft related to vaccine development as "absurd." "Because everyone "Because everyone knows that China is in a leading position in the research and development of new coron-

Barr added fuel to the fire on Thursday when he accused Beijing of mounting an "economic blitzkrieg" to replace Washington as the world's preeminent power and spread its political ideology around the world.

But foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said Barr and other American officials were criticising China to distract from domestic political problems.

These people, for selfinterest and political gain, do not hesitate to hijack domestic

avirus vaccines, we have firstclass scientific research personnel, and we do not need to gain a leading position with theft," Hua said

United Nations: The Tehrik-e-

Taliban Pakistan terror group's

leader Noor Wali Mehsud

has been designated as a global terrorist by the UN for

participating in the financing, planning and perpetrating acts on behalf of and in

Chinese companies have such a product to market. AP

terror group's leader

UN blacklists Pak Taliban

**Atlanta Mayor:** Trump broke city's mask rule, ignored science

world 08

Atlanta: Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp sued the city of Atlanta over its face-mask requirement just after President Donald Trump arrived in the city without wearing a mask, Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms said Friday.

In an interview on CBS 'This Morning,' Bottoms questioned the timing of the lawsuit filed shortly after Trump's Wednesday visit to the city,

calling the litigation "really odd." "I pointed out that Donald Trump violated that order when he landed at our airport and did not wear a mask," she said.

She said Kemp "is a Trump loyalist and he seems to work very hard to please the president of the United States, and that is often at the expense of the people in our state."

Asked whether she thinks Frump encouraged Kemp to file the lawsuit, she said she couldn't speak about whatever conversations they had.

But she added that Trump "was violating the rules of our city in just a blatant disregard for the science." Kemp defended the lawsuit during a press confer-Atlanta officials of playing pol-itics and not enforcing State orders already in effect.

mandate cannot be enforced, but

In June 2018, Mehsud was Kemp said the lawsuit was filed "on behalf of business named the leader of Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), following the death of former TTP leader Maulana Fazlullah. owners, their employees and hardworking Georgians hardworking The TTP was blacklisted by the UN on July 29, 2011 for its throughout the region who continue to struggle to make ends meet." "Mayor Bottoms mask

association with al-Qaeda. "Under Noor Wali's lead-

where they have lost their minds and gone mad," she

no intention of challenging or

replacing the US and said she

hoped that Washington could "return to rationality" in its

"A sparrow cannot under-stand the ambition of a swan,"

judgement and misunder-standing of China's strategic

moved swiftly to develop a

coronavirus vaccine, as coun-

tries compete for the prestige

and profits that would come

with being the first to bring

in conjunction with, under the

name of, on behalf of, or in sup-

port of" entities associated

with al-Qaeda.

"This is a serious mis-

AFP

Hua added that China had

said.

China policy.

she said.

intent?

ership, TTP has claimed responsibility for numerous deadly terrorist attacks across Pakistan, including an attack targeting Pakistani security forces in North Waziristan in July 2019 and a bomb attack against Pakistani soldiers in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in August 2019," the Sanctions Committee said.

#### her decision to shutter businesses and undermine economic growth is devastating, the Republican governor added Kemp and Georgia Attorney General Chris Carr, in a state court suit filed late Thursday, argued that Bottoms has overstepped her authority and must obey Kemp's executive orders PTI under state law.

### **Bangladesh** hospital owner arrested over Covid-19 test scam

Dhaka: The owner of a hospital chain in Bangladesh that swindled money from thousands of patients by issuing fake coronavirus test reports has been arrested in a border area while he was trying to flee to

supposed to provide free treatment for COVID-19. They later billed Tk 19.6 million (USD 231,231) to the health

According to reports, Shahed belongs to the govern-

### Nepal's ruling communist party calls key meet on Saturday to end Oli-Prachanda infighting

Kathmandu: Nepal's ruling communist party on Friday decided to convene a meeting of its top decision-making body on Saturday to try and end the tussle for power between beleaguered Prime Minister and former premier Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' that has divided the party.

The decision to hold a meeting of the 9-member Central Secretariat was taken hours after the party postponed for the fifth time the Standing Committee meeting till Sunday to give more time to Oli and the rival faction led by Prachanda, the executive chairman of the Nepal Communist Party (NCP) to have more talks.

According to Prime Minister's press secretary Surya Thapa, the NCP has called a secretariat meeting after the two top leaders have agreed to call a conclave of the highest body of the party ahead of the 45member Standing Committee meeting on Sunday in a bid to strike a power-sharing deal by sorting out their differences.

During previous meetings, Oli has refused to resign or give up his position as chairman of the NCP as demanded by the faction led by Prachanda.

significant shake-ups in years, the Taliban put the son of the movement's feared founder in charge of its military wing and

The party has also decided to hold a crucial meeting of its 441-member Central Working Committee (CWC), Ganesh Shah, a Standing Committee member, told PTI. **PTI** PTI

China's mighty Yangtze nears

crest again, new floods feared

added powerful figures to its negotiating team ahead of expected talks aimed at ending Afghanistan's decades of war, Taliban officials say. As head of a newly united military wing, . Mullah 30-year-old Mohammad Yaqoob, brings his father's fiercely uncompro-

mising reputation to the battlefield Equally significant is the addition of four members of

the insurgent group's leadership council to the 20-member negotiating team, Taliban officials told The Associated Press. The shuffle overseen by

Taliban leader Mullah

Hibatullah Akhunzada is meant to tighten his control over the movement's military and political arms, the officials said on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the inner work ings of the movement.

Analysts say the shake-up could be good news for negotiations with Afghanistan's political leadership in Kabul, and a sign of just how serious the Taliban are taking this second - and perhaps most critical — step in a deal Washington signed with the insurgents in February.

"I'd say it appears to be a positive development because the Taliban are creating a delegation that seems more senior and more broad-based than they've used to date, or than

Berlin: The United Nations is

increasing to \$10.3 billion its

appeal for humanitarian aid

funding to handle the fallout

from the coronavirus crisis

Jens Laerke, a spokesman for the U.N. Office for the

Coordination of Humanitarian

around the world.

might be strictly necessary for the opening stages of talks," said Andrew Wilder, vice president of the Asia Program at the Washington-based US Institute of Peace.

"If you want to see the glass as half full this strength-ened Taliban delegation could be interpreted as a sign that the group is planning to engage in serious discussions,"

he said. When the US signed the deal with the Taliban on February 29, after more than a year and a half of negotiations, it was touted as Afghanistan's best chance at peace in four decades of war.

It was also seen as a road map for the withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan, ending America's longest war. AP

support of entities associated with al-Qaeda. The UN Security Council's 1267 ISIL and Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee added Mehsud, 42, to the ISIL (Daesh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions List on Thursday, subjecting the

Pakistani national to an assets freeze, travel ban and arms embargo. The Sanctions Committee

said that Mehsud was listed for "participating in the financing,

### planning, facilitating, or per-petrating of acts or activities by, UN says it needs billions more to give virus aid

At the beginning of the year, humanitarian agencies targeted around 110 million people, he said. They now

need to reach 250 million in 63 countries. Laerke said the U.N. Initially asked for \$2 billion in late March for the immediate response. That was increased to \$6.7 billion in May. He said the

**US says Covid** retesting not needed by most

Washington: The US govern-ment's top official in charge of coronavirus testing is urging Americans not to get retested for COVID-19 to confirm they've recovered.

Assistant Secretary for Health Admiral Brett Giroir said Thursday that repeat testing is not necessary for most directorate.

tem have broken their banks in The heavy rains are places, and in Hubei, a heliinto the breach to block the inrushing waters. Flooding since the beginning of the month has forced department reported.

square feet) per second.

The official Xinhua News evacuations of around 1.8 mil-Agency said the rate of flow in lion people in 24 provinces, mainly in southern China. Direct losses attributed to the reservoir behind the dam would hit a record for the year flooding are estimated at more on Friday night, at 55,000 square meters (almost 600,000 than 49 billion yuan (\$7 billion), according to the Rivers in the Yangtze sys-Ministry of Emergency

Management. Flood waters reached as

Affairs, said in Geneva on Friday that "the number of people in

### Hua dismissed Barr's accu-Taliban make big changes ahead of expected talks with Kabul

tting renew pressure on the massive Three Gorges Dam that straddles the river upstream of the city of Wuhan in Hubei province.

Beijing: Engorged with more heavy rains, China's mighty

Yangtze River is cresting again, bringing fears of further

destruction. The seasonal floods that already have left

141 people dead or missing

have grown in force since last

month

feet) in Linshui county in the southwestern province of Sichuan, the ministry's rescue

world who need humani tarian assistance has more than doubled because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the effects of AP the global lockdown of

appeal d services but the bulk of it is related to non-health needs, such as food, water, sanitation and shelter. AP

economies and societies."

#### who are infecte remain at home. He said such testing is "clogging up the system.

US health officials will soon issue guidelines explicitly recommending against the practice, except for patients in the most severe cases.

Americans in many states continue to face long lines at testing sites and lag times obtaining their results. The problems are due to a combination of pressures, including increased testing demand, supply shortages and bottlenecks at laboratories processing the tests.

US officials are aiming to increase the use of rapid tests to shorten turnaround times. Those tests can usually be developed in 15 minutes or less and can be performed at testing sites, doctor's offices and clinics.

They tend to be less accurate than the tests that need to be developed at clinical laboratories. AP

India, according to media reports.

The Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) arrested Regent Hospital Chairman Mohammad Shahed from Satkhira village bordering India on Wednesday and airlifted him to Dhaka before handing him over to the police.

The RAB sealed off the headquarters and two branches of Regent Hospital in Dhaka after it emerged that the hospital authorities had swindled thousands of unsuspecting patients out of millions of takas on the pretext of coronavirus treatment, the bdnews reported.

It also initiated a case against 17 people, including Shahed, on charges of issuing fake COVID-19 test reports and other irregularities.

The case alleges that the hospital authorities duped nearly 6,000 patients out of Tk 20.1 million (USD 237,129) by issuing fake coronavirus tests reports even though it was

ami Le ed by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and is a member of its foreign affairs subcommittee.

Shahed has 56 cases against him and was absconding since the RAB raided his hospitals. Another doctor and her husband were also arrested recently on similar charges of falsifying test results.

JKG Health Care Chairman Sabrina Sharmeen Husain, a government cardiac surgeon and the wife of the hospital's CEO Ariful Chaudhury, was arrested for providing false reports without testing the swabs collected from the people for COVID-19 tests.

The National Revenue Board on Friday instructed banks to freeze the accounts held by Shahed and Sabrina, the daily reported. The apex tax administration authority has written to the central on the issue, according to a top NBR official. PTI

### Nepal planning to resume flight services from Aug 5

Kathmandu: The Nepal Government is planning to resume domestic and international flight operations from next month with the country making steady progress in its fight against the coronavirus outbreak.

The Tourism Ministry is working on a tentative plan to start domestic flights from August 5 and international flights from August 17, an official close to Minister Yogesh Bhattarai told PTI. The first round of flights will be to and from capital Kathmandu, he said.

The number of active coronavirus cases in Nepal dropped to about 6,000 this contain the spread of the virus. week, while the recovery rate remains impressive at 66.12 were operated to deliver medper cent. In total, the ical equipment and for repatri-Himalayan nation has reportation

flights to Iran ed 17,445 COVID-19 cases. The COVID-19 death toll Tehran: Iran's state-run IRNA news agency is reporting that the United Arab Émirates flag carrier airline has resumed flights to Tehran after five

> months. The Friday report said an Emirates Airline flight landed in Tehran's Imam Khomeini international airport. It was the first flight since late February when the airliner stopped its flight after Emirati authorities found two Iranians who were infected with the

**Emirates** 

resumes

Emirates planned to have one flight per day to Tehran-Dubai-Tehran with a Boeing 777 jetliner. The outbreak in Iran has killed at least 13,400 people amid 264,561 con-AP firmed cases.

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9899245509, 9818460101

#### PUBLIC NOTICE FOR AUCTION CUM SALE (To be treated as notice u/s 8(6))

Pursuant to taking possession of the secured asset mentioned hereunder by the Authorized Officer of Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 for the recovery of amount due from borrower/s, offers are invited by the undersigned in sealed covers for purchase of immovable property, as described hereunder, which is in the Possession on, 'As is where is basis' 'As Is What Is Basis' and 'Whatever Is There Is Basis' particulars of which are given below:-

S.N.	Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of the Immovable property	Reserve Price	Earnest Money Deposit	Total Loan Outstanding as on 17.07.2020	Type of Possession
1.	(Loan Account No. XOHEDHE00000655496, XOHEDHE00000827889 Delhi Branch) VIJAY KUMAR (BORROWER) GUNJAN KUMAR, HEMA KUMAR, ASHWANI KUMAR (CO-BORROWER) All are having address for communication at :- C 43 Surya Nagar Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201001 ALSO AT-340/48, Friends Colony, Industrial Area, G.T. Road, New Delhi – 110095.	RS.2,39,82,042.74 (Rupees Two Crore Thirty Nine Lakh Eighty Two Thousand Foruty Two and	FLAT NO-2.GROUND FLOOR ON BACK PORTION PLOT NO-C-43,SECTORE-7 SURYA NAGAR,GHAZIYABAD-201010 WITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS,SUPER COVERED AREA 1050 SQ.FT.	(Rupees Fifty Eight Lakh Only)	Rs.5,80,000/- (Rupees Five Lakh Eighty Thousand Only)	Rs.3,59,76,779.11/- (Rupees Three Crore Fifty Nine Lakh Seventy Six Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Nine and Eleven Paise Only)+ further interest till realization of payment	Physical
2.	(Loan Account No. XOHEELD00001685860 Delhi Branch) BOBBY BHARGAVA (BORROWER) NEELIMA BHARGAVA , M/S VENUS INTERNATIONAL (CO-BORROWER) All are having address for communication at :- 702,7TH FLOOR,APPARTMENTS SWASTHYA VIHAR DELHI, NEW DELHI – 110092. ALSO AT-307 SECTOR 37 UDYOG VIHAR PHASE VI. GURGAON – 122001.	23-07-2019 Rs.1,50,70,700.50 (Rupees One Crore Fifty Lakhs Seventy Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty Paisa Only)	FLAT NO-702 ON 7TH FLOOR A DMEASURING 1734 SQ. FT. PLUS PARKING SPACE IN BASEMENT NO.B-11 SITUATED AT TOMER APARTMENT SWASTHA VIHAR DELHI-110092.	Rs. 1,42,00,000/- (Rupees One Crore Fourty Two Lakh Only)	Rs. 14,20,000/- (Rupees Fourten Lakh Twenty Thousand Only)	Rs.1,67,23,680/- (Rupees One Crore Sixty Seven Lakh Twenty Three Thousand Six Hundred Eighty Only )+ further interest till realization of payment	Physical

#### TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF AUCTION

1). Last Dat of Submission of Sealed Bid/Offer in the prescribed tender forms along with EMD and KYC is 03.08.2020 within 5.30 Pm at the Branch Office:- 1st & 2nd Floor, Plot No.6, Main Pusa Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi - 110 005 mentioned herein. Tendres that are not filled up or Tenders received beyond last date will be considered as invalid tender and shall accordingly be rejected. No interest shall be paid on the EMD.

2. Date of Opening of the Bid/Offer (Auction Date) for Property is 04.08.2020 at the above mentioned branch office address at 10.00 A.M. The tender will be opened in the presence of the Authorised Officer.

3. Date of Inspection of the Immovable Property is on 27.07.2020 between 10.00 am to 3.30 pm.

4. Further Interest will be charged as applicable, as per the Loan Agreement on the amount outstanding in the notice and incidental expense, costs, etc., is due and payable till its realization.

5. The notice is hereby given to the Borrower/s and Co-Borrower/s, to remain present personally at the time of Acution and they can bring the intending buyers/ purchasers for purchasing the immovable property as described herein above, as per the particulars of Terms and Conditions of Sale.

6.The Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s) are hereby given 15 DAYS SALE UNDER THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002 to pay the sum mentioned as above before the date of Auction falling which the immovable property will be auctioed and balance, if any will be recovered with interest and costs. If the Borrower pays the amount due to Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited, in full before the date of sale, auction is liable to be stopped.

7. The detail terms and conditions of the auction sale are incorporated in the prescribed tender form. Tender forms are available at the above mntioned branch office. 8. The Immovable property will be sold th the highest tenderer. However the Authorised Officer reserves the absolute discretion to allow inter se bidding, if deemed necessary. The property as mentioned will not be sold below Reserve Price.

9 Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited is not responsible for any liabilities whatsoever pending upon the property as mentioned above The property shall be auctioned on 'As is Where is Basis', ;As is What is Basis', and 'Whatever is There is Basis.

10. The Total Loan Outstanding amount is not the loan foreclosure amount. All other charges (if any) shall be calculated at the time of closure of the loan

11. The Demand Draft Should be made in favor of 'Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited'Only.

For further details, contact the Authorised Officer, at the above mentioned Office address.

Place: Delhi/NCR Date : 18-07-2020

**Authorised Officer** 

Sd/

**Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited** 

rose to 40 on Friday after a 73year-old man's death due to coronavirus complications was confirmed. The deceased was a diabetic and suffered from a heart condition.

The Tourism Ministry will recommend the COVID-19 Crisis Management Centre headed by Deputy Prime Minister Ishwor Pokharel – to resume flight operations from next month, the official said.

A cabinet decision is required to resume the flight services. The Nepal governcoronavirus. ment had suspended air travel in the third week of March to

PTI

However, charter flights



**No impact of Covid-19** on kharif sowing: Govt

168.47

142.06

Rice

¬here has been no impact of TCOVID-19 pandemic on kharif (summer) sowing as the total area planted to rice and other crops has increased by 21.20 per cent to 691.86 lakh hectare so far in the current season, the Agriculture Ministry said on Friday. The country has so far received good rainfall and water level in 123 reservoirs across the country is in good position, it said in the latest sowing data. Sowing of kharif crops begins with the onset of southwest monsoon from June, while harvesting starts from October. Rice is the main kharif crop, besides bajra, arhar, urad, moong, groundnut and soyabean.

"As on July 17, total kharif crops have been sown on 691.86 lakh hectare area against 570.86 lakh hectare area during the corresponding period of last year, thus increase in area coverage by 21.20 per cent," the ministry said. So, there is no impact of COVID-19 on progress of area coverage under kharif crops as on date, it said.

Among kharif crops, area planted to rice has increased by 18.59% to 168.47 lakh hectare

as on July 17 from 142.06 lakh hectare in the year-ago period. There has been significant increase in the planting of oilseeds and pulses so far during the ongoing kharif season. lakh hectare compared to

Pulses area has gone up by 32.35% to 81.66 lakh hectare, from 61.70 lakh hectare, while that of oilseeds acreage has increased by 40.75% to 154.95

washout quarter'.

2020 quarter.

the benchmarks.

110.09

Oilseeds

50.82 **51.29** 

Sugardane

115.60

Coarse

Cereals

103.0

81.66

61.70

Pulses

Source: Ministry of Agriculture

**Acreage of Major Kharif Crops** 

Total sown area

in lakh hectare

period. Area planted to coarse cereals has increased by 12.23 % to 115.60 lakh hectare so far as against 103 lakh hectare a vear ago.

**KBK** Intographics

110.09 lakh hectare in the said

6.84 6.88

Jute &

Mesta

**ACREAGE UP** 

SO FAR

As on July 17

2019 570.86

2020 691.86

96.35 113.01

Cotton

April 8-July 11 | — HIT BY INDIA BAN-21.20 PER CENT I-T refunds worth ₹71,229 crore issued to 21.24 lakh taxpayers

> New Delhi: The Income Tax Department has issued refunds worth ₹71,229 crore to over 21 lakh taxpayers during April 8 to July 11.This includes perneighbouring country, the sonal income tax (PIT) refunds affected companies have begun reducing their workforce in the of ₹ 24,603 crore issued to 19.79 lakh individuals and corporate country as they stare at huge tax refunds amounting to ₹ losses 46,626 crore to over 1.45 lakh taxpayers during this period.

IANS IN NEW DELH

Alibaba

offices.

ment.

country, leading to job cuts at

its Gurugram and Mumbai

the government's recent direc-

spokesperson said in a state-

"We have complied with

<u>JUL</u> 17

10,901.70

-1.47

-1.20

 $\blacktriangle 161.75$ 

"It is further emphasised that all the refund related cleaning up of the tax demands is being taken up on priority and is likely to be completed by August 31, 2020," an official statement said. It said that the government

has laid great emphasis on providing tax related services to tive concerning 59 apps and stopped the service," a UC the taxpayers without any hassles and is aware that during these difficult times of COVID. 19 pandemic, many of the taxpayers are waiting to see that their tax demands and refunds reach finality as quickly as possible, the statement added.

complying with a recent gov-ernment directive... As our The Central Board of Direct Taxes further asked taxpayers to provide immediate services may be affected, please back up all data you deem response to emails of the important from the UC app to department for quick processing of their refunds. PTI your device no later than the

begin laying off local staff AIOVA, which represents more With India banning 59 Chinese apps on June 29 amid border tensions with the than 2,000 sellers across the

country, demanded immediate settlement of dues to sellers

India

by Chinese unicorn ByteDance,

might take the biggest hit by the

ban as its largest user base (nearly 120 million before the

ban came into force) is in

ByteDance is expecting a loss of \$6 billion after three of

its apps were featured in the list

of 59 banned apps in India,

according to a report in China's state-run Global Times.

earlier, however, reportedly

assured ByteDance employees

that India's move to ban the app

would not lead to salary cuts

week quoted an industry expert

who said that a large number

of Chinese companies may

shut their India offices and let

go of their local staff.Experts

expect a wave of job lavoffs due

to the ban on Chinese apps,

and layoffs in the country. A Global Times report last

TikTok CEO Kevin Mayer

10th of July, 2020," said the subsidiary statement.

Chinese app makers

UCWeb, the company behind the apps UC Browser and UC "After that date, your data will no longer be accessible, as services will be under review," News which feature in the list of apps banned by India, has it added. already stopped service in the

Meanwhile, e-commerce player Club Factory, which is also banned by India, sent an email to sellers to inform them about suspension of settlement of their pending dues until the ban was lifted, All India Online Vendor Association (AIOVA) said in a legal notice on Thursday.

Earlier, in a statement on AIOVA, which represents July 7, UC Browser warned its more than 2,000 sellers across India users that their data will the country, demanded immenot be accessible after July 10. diate settlement of dues to "We are in the process of sellers.

Not settling dues of sellers who delivered goods to consumers is a clear violation of Reserve Bank of India guidelines, the notice said. However, TikTok, owned

said the report.

amid Covid-19: RBI ED

#### Sensex rallies 548 pts as financial energy stocks spurt logs weekly rise Future policies need to be tailored to support economy

#### PTI MUMBA

Markets darted up for the third straight session on Friday as robust corporate results gave fresh impetus to investor bullishness, even as the country's COVID-19 case count breached the 10-lakh mark

After trading on a pos-itive note through the day, the 30-share BSE Sensex witnessed a burst of buying towards the end of the session to close at 37,020.14, up 548.46 points, or 1.50 per cent.

Similarly, the wider NSE Nifty surged 161.75 points, or 1.51 per cent, to close at 10,901.70.

During the week, the Sensex advanced 425.81 points or 1.16 per cent, while the Nifty gained 133.65 points or 1.24 formance by IT players has

#### per cent.

ONGC was the top gainer in the Sensex pack on Friday, rallying 5.52 per cent, followed by Titan, Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank, M&M and Bajaj Finance.

shedding up to 1.45 per cent.

momentum.

ings season...The earnings per-

Only five Sensex constituents closed in the red --TCS, Nestle India, Infosys, HCL Tech and Axis Bank,

According to traders, stock-specific buying driven by earnings boosted the markets, while a strengthening rupee also added to the buying

"IT companies like Infosys, Wipro are amongst a few who witnessed stock frenzy this week and gave an impression of a good head start to the earn-

**ISS** launches

workplace

disinfection

It uses ATP technology

to scientifically measure

the outcome of cleaning

New Delhi: As office workers

are not sure whether the work-

station is safe during Covid-19

times, global workplace expe-

rience and facility manage-ment company ISS has launched a new disinfection

and hygiene solution named

It uses ATP technology to sci-

entifically measure the out-

come of cleaning. ATP stands

for Adenosine triphosphate, a

molecule found only in and

around living cells, and can

therefore be used to measure

the concentration of microor-

ganisms and the level of

This factual, evidence-based

method helps dispel any doubts

that an area is clean and ready

for working." ISS has a respon-

sibility to help society break the

chain of infection. To do that,

we have developed Pure Space

with our scientific knowledge

of large-scale cleaning, disin-

fection and workplace experi-

ence," says ISS Group COO,

Pure Space.

hygiene.

TroelsBjerg.

virus

brought about renewed confi-Meanwhile, with a record single-day surge of 34,956 cases, India's COVID-19 dence in D-Street which was supposed to (witness) a tally zoomed past ten lakh on "Going forward it is expected that such perfor-Friday, just three days after it crossed the nine-lakh mark mances will be largely disaccording to the Union Health counted with a kneejerk reac-

Ministry data. tion without significant price Global markets were movements," said Jimeet Modi, mixed ahead of a crucial Founder & CEO Samco Group. European Union meeting over IT firm HCL Technologies on the Euro 750-billion recovery Friday posted a 31.7 per cent fund, while spiking coronrise in consolidated net profit avirus cases in the US and other at Rs 2,925 crore for the June countries weighed on sentiment

BSE oil and gas, ener-Bourses in Shanghai, Hong Kong and Seoul ended in the green, while Tokyo closed y, consumer durables, finance, bankex and auto indices rallied up to 5.05 per cent, while IT lower.

crore as of July 15 to entities

belonging to micro, small and

medium enterprise (MSME)

sector, hit hard by the COVID-

and teck ended in the red. In Europe, stock Broader BSE mid-cap exchanges in Germany and and small-cap indices jumped the UK were trading with up to 1.55 per cent in line with gains, while those in France witnessed losses in early deals.



to close at 75.02 against the US dollar.

### India's forex reserves rise by over \$3 billion

that the markets continue to function and ensure solvency

 $F^{uture \ economic \ policies}_{need \ to \ be \ tailored \ towards}$ supporting the economy, depending on how effects of pandemic play out, RBI executive director M Rajeshwar

He said the first set of responses from the Reserve Bank of India was to ensure

Net Profit/(Loss) from Ordinary

#### in the financial sector. Several measures, including reduction in Cash Reserve Ratio, special finance facility, Long Term Repo Operations (LTRO) and Targeted Long Term Repo Operations (TLTRO) were announced, he said at a webinar organised by

#### INDO COTSPIN LIMITED REGD. OFFICE : 78 K.M. DELHI MILE STONE, G.T. ROAD, NH-1, VILLAGE JATTIPUR, POST BOX NO. 3, POST OFFICE SAMALKHA, PANIPAT -132103 CIN:- LI111HR195FLC032541 Website:www.indocotspin.com Email ID:rajpalaggarwal12000@yahoo.com Statement of Standalone Un-audited Financial Results for the Qua Ended June 30, 2020 (Amount Rs. in Lac EAR TO DATE PARTICULARS 3 MONTHS ENDED 3 MONTHS PERIOD ENDE YEAR 30/06/2019 31/03/2020 Audited 30/06/2020 Un-audited n-audited Total Income from operations (net) 123.84 997.37 141.22

0.37

10.64

1.06

Assocham.

### Brent crude futures slipped 0.97 per cent to USD 42.95 per barrel PSBs sanction ₹19,668 crore loans to 71 MSME hubs under

5.84 Britannia -1.86 4.32 Nestle Bharti Inf 4.08 TCS Reliance 3.94 Dr Reddys 0.80 In the forex market, the rupee appreciated by 16 paise

Rao said on Friday.

PTI NEW DELHI

money 09



Noida: Narendra Bhooshan, Chief Executive Officer, Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority said various work like disease control, sanitation campaign looking into drinking water system, water logging problems, fogging arrangements are being carried out in Gautam Budh Nagar by the Uttar Pradesh Government on weekends. A special campaign for special sanitation, sanitation and surveillance is also on in which GNIDA CEO coordinates with the district administration

### Examination starts in North India's Nitra laboratory



NITRA situated in Sector 23. Saniav Nagar, Ghaziabad (File Photo)

#### ASHOK NIRWAN 🔳 GHAZIABAD

 $\mathbf{N}_{\text{PPE kit}}^{\text{ow the corona warrior}}$ will be tested in Ghaziabad itself. National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) approved laboratory of PPE Kit and Mask has been commissioned by Northern India Textile Research Association (Nitra), attached to Ministry of Textiles, Government of India. The special thing is that Sanjay Nagar, Sector  $2\overline{3}$  is also approved by Bureau of Indian Standards. It is a specialized testing school of its kind in North India. Director General of Nitra, Dr. Sri Arindam Vasu stated that only PPE kits and masks of high quality will help in protecting Corona warriors and the general public from the infection of Corona

### credit guarantee scheme

#### PTI NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry on L Friday said public sector banks have sanctioned Rs 19,668.87 crore to 71 MSME hubs across the country under the Rs 3-lakh crore Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS).

19 crisis. The scheme is the biggest fiscal component of the Rs 20lakh crore Aatmanirbhar

Bharat Abhiyan package announced by Finance Disbursement in these Minister Nirmala Sitharaman last month. clusters stood at Rs 12,871.50

		NORTHE	RN RAILW	AY		
<u>In</u>	<u>TENDER NOTICE</u> Invitation of tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)					
S.No.	N.I.T. No.	NIT-08-20-21-V	N-2			
1.	Name of work with its location		Construction of tower wagon siding at MUT and JDW on GZB-SRE SECTION.			
2.	Approx. Cost of	work	As per IREPS No	otice		
3.	Earnest Money	y As per IREPS Notice				
4.	Completion Peri	od	As per IREPS Notice			
5. Cost of tender on Cash/by post			As per IREPS Notice			
6. Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender			31.07.2020 to 14.08.2020 upto 15:00 hrs. Opening of tender 14.08.2020 at 15:00 hrs. on			
7.	Similar Nature o	f Work	As per IREPS No	otice		
8.	8. Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in					
NIT-0		d : 15.07.2020		1576/20		
	SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE					

#### NORTHERN RAILWAY

#### TENDER NOTICE

The Dy. Chief Engineer/Const., Northern Railway, Shakurbasti, Delhi for and on behall of the President of India invites e-tender under SINGLE Packet System for the under

no	ted work:-				
1.	Name of work and location:	"Plantation of 2310 no of plants, transportation of 70 no's trees and maintenance of plants/trees on land of Railway in Delhi area Delhi Rohtak Section.			
2.	Completion period of	he work:	04 MONTHS		
3.	Approx. Cost of work:		Rs. 72.31 LAKH		
4.	Earnest Money amoun (to be deposited Onlin		Rs. 144630/-		
5.	Sale/availability of tender document on Railway Web side	Tender documents will be available on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 03.08.2020 to 17.08.2020 upto 11.30 hrs.			
6.	Last date/Time of upload of tenders	17.08.2020 upto 11.30 hrs Tender documents can be uploaded by the tenderer on IREPS web site w.e.f 03.08.2020 to 17.08.2020.			
7.	Date & Time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender	<b>17.08.2020</b> at 11.30 hours (immediately after closed of uploading of tender (D2). In case of two packet system. Financial bid of the eligible tenderer would be opened subsequently on the date and time to be notified later on.			
8.	Opening of tender	<b>17.08.2020</b> at 11.30 hours (immediately after closed of uploading of tender)			
Te	Tender Notice No. 370-ACS-C-SSB Dated: 15.07.2020 1574/2020 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE				

#### IANS MUMBAI

India's foreign exchange reserves increased by \$3.108. billion during the week ended July 10. According to the Reserve Bank of India's weekly statistical supplement, the reserves grew to \$516.362 bil-

#### Metro Railway, Kolkata Kolkata's Pride

DESIGN, SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF VARIOUS SIGNALLING WORK

PCSTE, Metro Railway, Kolkata for & on behalf of the President of India nvites e-Tenders against Open e-Tender due to open on 24.08.2020 at 15.00 hrs. Manual offers are not allowed against the tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Name of Work : Design, Supply Installation, testing & Commissioning of Electronic Interlocking system (indoor & outdoor) at Dumdum Cantonment & Bimanbandar station and Design, supply, installation, testing & commissioning of Train Protection and warning system (TPWS) Track side system along with other different signalling equipment like- MSDAC, AFTC, Data Loger, TMS, etc. with Automatic Signalling work in section from Noapara to Bimanbandar of Metro Rallway, Kolkata. Tender value: ₹ 26,03,22,253/-. Earnest Money : ₹ 14,51,600/-. Cost of Tender Documents: ₹ 10,000/-. Completion Period : 12 (Twelve) months. The Tender can be viewed at website https://www.ireps.gov.in The tenderer/bidders must have Class-III Digita Signature Certificate & must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/bidders can participate on e-Tendering. All relevant paper must be uploaded at the time of participating in e-Tender

#### Open Tender Notice No.: S&T/Works/8A-2020 FASTER • SAFER • SMOOTHER • CLEANEF

Retail Portfolio Management : Plot # 31, Najafgarh Industrial Area HDFC BANK Tower-A, 1st Floor, Shivaji Marg, Moti Nagar, New Delhi - 110015,

POSSESSION NOTICE APPENDIX IV [RULE 8(1)] Whereas, the undersigned being the authorized officer of the HDFC BANK LTD. under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002(54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued demand notice dated 25/01/2020 calling upon the borrower(s) 1. M/S NATURE CURE & YOGA TRUST, 2. DR. RAGHAVA MURALEEDHAR NAIR S/O SHRI K R PILLAI. 3. MRS. RUKAMANI NAIR W/O SHRI R.M NAIR, 4. MR. AMRESSH TYAGI S/O SHRI OMKAR SINGH, 5. MR. RAHU BIATINAGA S/O SH. VIRENDERA SWARUP BHATNAGAR, 6. MR. KSHETRIMAYUM CHAOBA SINGI SIO KSHERIMAYUM TOMEL SINGH, 7. MR. NAOREM BABALU SINGH SIC N GOURACHANDRA SINGH, 8. MR. KSHETRIMAYUM DOREN SINGH to repay the amoun ned in the notice being Rs. 13,73,15,458/- (Rupees Thirteen Crore Seventy Thre Lakhs Fifteen Thousand Four Hundred and Fifty Eight Only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereb given to the borrower(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4 of section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 on this 15th day of July, 2020. The borrower(s) in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to charge of the HDFC BANK LTD. for an amount of Rs. 13,73,15,458/- (Rupees Thirteen Crore Seventy Three Lakhs Fifteen Thousand Four Hundred and Fifty Eight Only) and interest thereo together with expenses and charges etc, less amount paid if any. The borrower's attention i invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to m the secured assets

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PRO	PERTY
RESIDENTIAL FLAT NO. 17, FOURTH FLOOR, ADMEASURING SITUATED AT LAWYERS CGHS LTD., MANU APARTMENTS, MAYUR VIHAR, PHASE-1, NEW DELHI-110091, OWNE MURALEEDHARAN NAIR.	BUILT UP ON PLOT NO. 6,
DATE :- 15/07/2020 PLACE :- NEW DELHI	Authorised Officer HDFC Bank Ltd.

lion from \$513.254 billion reported for the week ended July 3.India's forex reserves comprise foreign currency assets (FCAs), gold reserves, special drawing rights (SDRs), and the country's reserve posi- tion with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Extraordinary Ite Paid Up Equity Share Capital Reserves (excluding Revaluat Reserve as shown in the Balar Sheet of Previous Year) Earnings Per Share (before Extraordinary Items) (of Rs. 10 each):Basic and Diluted (in Rupees) Earnings Per Share (after Extraordinary Items) (of Rs. 10
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ctivities after Tax				
et Profit/(Loss) for the period	0.37	10.64	1.06	
ter tax (after Extraordinary Items)				
aid Up Equity Share Capital	420.05	420.05	420.05	
eserves (excluding Revaluation				
eserve as shown in the Balance	0.37	214.38	1.06	
heet of Previous Year)				
arnings Per Share (before	0.00	0.25	0.03	
xtraordinary Items) (of Rs. 10/-				
ach):Basic and Diluted				
n Rupees)				
arnings Per Share (after	0.00	0.25	0.03	
xtraordinary Items) (of Rs. 10/-				
ach):Basic and Diluted				
n Rupees)				

NOTE: i) There is no qualification on the un-audit report for the quarter ended 30/06/2020 i) The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with b) the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The Full format of the Quarterly Financial Results is available on the Stock Exchange websites: www.bseindia.com, tele. +91-9896034879 For Indo Cotspin Limite

Place: Panipat	Bal Krishan Aggarwal
Date: 17/07/2020	Managing Director
	DIN :00456219

#### RAJASTHAN STATE GANGANAGAR SUGAR MILLS LTD. Tel: 0141-2740841, Fax: 014 o. RSGSM/2020-21/PUR/EOI/25

**Expression of Interest** 

Rajasthan State Ganganagar Sugar Mills Ltd, (RSGSML) is a govt. o Raiasthan undertaking carrying out production and business of country liquor Rajasthan Made Liquor, IMFL, heritage liquor along with sugar and rectified spirit of late the company has started production of hand sanitize

In the period of Covid-19 pandemic, RSGSML launched alcohol-based hand anitizer and made it available to the institutions and general public a easonable rates and also provided it for free distribution to government as a ocial cause.

As the RSGSML hand sanitizer has received favourable response from the arket, it has been decided to create a proper distribution and supply system so that a good quality product become available to people on reasonable rates. With this aim, RSGSML invites reputed distributors/ organizations/ firms ndulged in distribution of FMCG/ drugs/ cosmetic/ other retail products to join it as a distributor for selling the RSGSML made hand sanitizers of various ackaging in open market

Hand sanitizer has now become a part of life and its market has grow exponentially in last three months and it's going to stay. Being a GoR company the RSGSM sanitizer has a good will in market for quality and value for money. RSGSML, therefore, seeks to invite interested firms fulfilling stipulate ualification requirements for appointment as distributor for (1) Rajasthan & (2 Rest of India. Only those applicants qualified pursuant to this expression of nterest (EoI) document will be invited to participate in the subsequent reques or proposal (RFP) stage (two stage bidding).

Details of the Eol may be seen in the document available or proc.rajasthan.gov.in, sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, rajexcise.gov.in. For any other ueries may contact DGM (Purchase), RSGSML at 0141-2740841 or emaildgmpurchase.rsgsm@rajasthan.gov.in.

UBN: GSM2021RFP0001 Raj.Samwad/C/20/2418	General Manager
RFP	intimate separately
Period for which rates are invited	Two Year (terms to be negotiated after two years, if extended)
Date & time of opening of qualification bid	On 20.08.2020 at 03.00 p.m.
Last date & time of uploading of response the Eol form by the bidders	Till 19.08.2020 at 06.00 p.m.
Pre-bid meeting date and time	On 27.07.2020 at 03.00 p.m.



#### BHOPAL | SATURDAY | JULY 18, 2020

# vivacity {48 hours} 10

This lockdown has really

**AYUSHMANN KHURRANA** 

fuelled my interest to learn new things and I have just started reading up on Salvadore Dali, the iconic, surreal Spanish artist. My interest to know about his life and works peaked when I watched Money Heist. I really wanted to know more. He was many of various talents



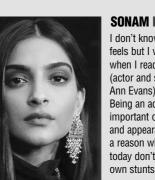
#### SHORT C I R C U I T S ——

SUSHMITA SEN My series Aarya has reaffirmed my belief that being a mother is all about being a warrior and protecting your family by all means. Aarya carries so much pain but she internalises it all to fight and save her children against all odds. The reimagined animated video truly brings out the best of it and highlights her journey.



#### **CHUNKY PANDEY**

It turned out to be an exciting role for me (in Abhay, season 2). It is my digital debut, too. I have never played anything like this before. My character looks normal but not when it comes to finding ways to feed his cannibal instinct. Looks can be deceptive. The entire cast and crew have done an incredible job.



#### **SONAM K AHUJA**

I don't know how everyone feels but I was blown to bits when I read about Nadia (actor and stuntwoman, Mary Ann Evans). I was stunned. Being an actor, I know how important our physical health and appearance is. There's a reason why most actors today don't perform their to me

**DAKOTA FANNING** Late actor Brittany Murphy just taught me to always have fun. She was such a ray of light and had a playful spirit. She made every day special for me. She was so wonderful. She meant a lot



#### CONVERSATION 45 MINUTES -

# SUPERMOM'S SUPERFOOD

Actor and writer SOHA ALI KHAN tells CHAHAK MITTAL about the little everythings of her health routine during the lockdown, how her growing up years influenced her food habits and why almonds have been timeless ingredients for nutrition in a Badam Pe Charcha

Remember how your mother would stuff your mouth and blazer pockets with soaked almonde while with soaked almonds while you were headed to school for your exam or a job interview? Yes, even when you were getting late, she would insist, "Zarur kha lena, isse buddhi chalegi." Well, such nuskhas (homemade remedies) of an Indian mother might seem a little too much to follow at times, but they've certainly worked, time and again. And yes, not just mothers, but science agrees too - almonds boost memory

Actor and writer Soha Ali Khan, who has been quite cautious about her food habits and exercise, shares her story of how she began consuming almonds and continues to find them as essential ingredients for health

Excerpts of our 'Badam pe Charcha' with her:

How relevant do you think a conversation about everyday kitchen ingredients is during this time of pandemic when people are becoming really health conscious?

Of course, the lockdown and the Coronavirus pandemic have been hugely challenging and worrying in so many ways. But we have to look at the positive side

of everything. The idea is to see what we can learn and how we can use this time as fruitfully as we can. We have been locked down for three to four months now and we are still unsure until when this will continue. We need to try and get some more control over certain things.

People have wanted to learn mythology, new diet patterns and what not. This is the time when you can kick start that. I would say being healthy should always be the priority for everyone. And now because you are not eating out at restaurants, you are not attending parties, you can have a control over what you eat and the time to be mindful. knows that Indian food is so good for health. It has got all the right spices and ingredients. If you cook it properly, it actually addresses a lot of your medicinal and nutritional concerns. Éesides our nuts and grain heritage could help us develop healthy snacks. For example, almonds are superfoods because of all the incredible minerals in them like zinc, copper, healthy fats and dietary fibre. A handful of almonds everyday can really help you curb your hunger, gain energy and grow physically and mentally stronger.

and proven, it is going to be handed down. For example, almonds are easy to consume, store and have a long shelf life. When the lockdown was announced, I actually stocked almonds first. And if you keep them in the right temperature in the right way, then they last for up to two years. So it's a very good food to have in the house.

#### \* For many, consuming the same food everyday might become boring. But that's what the lockdown has given us — the same routine everyday. How do you ensure variety?

Of course, there could be a sense of boredom at home, especially for those who travel often. Nowadays, every meal is cooked at home and you might get a little restless with that. But all of us, including (daughter) Inaaya (laughs), have tried our hands at cooking something new. Inaaya loves to bake. We have to even control it at times. We give her the ingredients and she actually mixes them in a bowl. She is trying to learn about quantities, maths and chemistry of different things. Even Kunal (Kemmu, actor and husband) has learnt to make some new dishes. He recently tried his hand at making dum aaloo for the

first time. It's a Kashmiri dish that his mother specialised in. Well, now, it's empowering for him that he can cook it for himself too. When everyone at home cooks something in their own style, it changes the monotony a little bit. And now, due to social

media and YouTube, everyone has found a little chef in themselves. They are coming up with new recipes. Adaptive learning is a wonderful part about human nature.

Before the pandemic, there used to b

In your book, The Perils of Being Moderately Famous, you have talked about how certain rules and regulations come with being born in a royal family. So how have your growing up years influ-enced your health habits?

Yes, upbringing always shapes you. Especially when you become a parent, you tend to adopt the same style of parenting that your parents had around you. And coming back to physical exercise, we were quite a sporty family. My father loved and played sports. We, as kids, were always playing badminton or cricket or tennis. We used to be constantly active, running around, going for campaigns. We were very physically active as a family. Even in Delhi, playing pithu and all outdoor games were our hobbies. It was all about group sports. These days though it is about individual regimen.

Also, I have learnt about getting the right nutrition from my parents. Even the whole almonds theory came from my mother. She used to soak them overnight and give them to us in the morning before we went to school. This is how I have seen the benefits of almonds from a young age. Hence, I have also habituated my child to it and make sure she doesn't miss it a single day.

A 'royal family' is just a tag or a name! It's just an usual family growing up which has traditions and routines of their own just like every other family has.

### How difficult is it to write a book about yourself, laying your life bare in front of people that you didn't even know or those

who knew you? Well, while writing the book, I felt that I needed to be honest because otherwise, it isn't fair to the readers who pay for a book and don't even find its content worth it. Why then write a book at all? I would say I have the ability to laugh at myself and not take myself very seriously, which is why I am happy to share a lot of things that have haped in my life. I've always felt where somebody relates to you.

#### • How do you think nutrition tricks and parenting remain the same even as generations evolve?

There are certain things that will con-tinue because they are timeless. Just like a good advice! As long as every generation's experience about a certain thing is the same various kind of routines and diet mantras that people followed. But now that we are indoors, 24x7, what do you think is going to be the new normal for fitness?

Yes, outdoor activities are going to be shut for some time now. And gyms and parks will be closed. However, like I said, finding a positive side to things are important. So, anyway it's monsoon time. In cities like Mumbai, it gets difficult to be outside at this time. Hence, for workout, I have adapted to yoga because for it, you don't need to be in a gym or need equipment or be outdoors. All you require is a mat or even a towel. It's the best form of exercise, which can be done at any age. The best part about exercising at home — you don't even have to pay for them. There are also a lot of other online workouts. There are stairs, too. Just walking up and down the stairs is quite an amazing form of exercise.

**CELEB TALK 30 MINUTES** 

Also, it was to debunk myths people have about you coming from the royal family of Pataudis, being an actor, or living a life that they can't imagine. Ultimately, when you write these things down, it strikes a chord within lot of people - young women, students, travellers, people who enjoy cricket and other things associated - and they build a connection. It's about just that at the end of the day.

#### \* What would you say is your fitness mantra?

I personally love yoga. It's the best for one's mental, physical and emotional wellbeing. For others, I would say doing anything that gets your heart rate elevated for at least half an hour or an hour per day, whether it's through dance, Zumba or Pilates.

# The comedy battle

**Comedians BRIAN** QUINN and JAMES MURRAY from The Impractical Jokers get candid on who is the funniest joker of the group and their ideal choice of partner to take on the craziest of pranks

Everyone feels they could make a fortune filming themselves with their best friends challenging one another to outrageous public dares, but what happens when four childhood friends actually do? Well, the result is a blockbuster family entertainer that will leave you and your loved ones in splits.



LAUGH IT OUT 45 MINUTES

Such is the world of Impractical Jokers as Brian Quinn, James Murray, Joe Sal indulge in hilarious antics that leave the audience teary eyed as they simply cannot control their laughter.

Talking about the latest season of Impractical Jokers, Quinn and Murray recently revealed who is the funniest amongst the four of them and also whom would they team up with for a Joker vs Joker battle.

Quinn mentioned, "The funniest in the group depends

on the joke being said. Murray has the ability to make one word funny, none of the other guys have that. He says the word 'No' in a way, it never isn't funny to me. Nobody else could do that but Murray." He then replied, "We all have moments when we shine exceptionally, we also have moments when we fail exceptionally. Quinn, Jo and Sal are the funniest guys in the groups

Speaking on who they would pick for the heated Joker

vs Joker Battles, Quinn said. "It depends on the moment; it depends on what we are doing. Sal is useless at a lot of situations but then I am useless too in certain situations. It is always shifting." To which Murray added, "I would say my least favorite is Sal, he throws me under the bus. I feel like Quinn is my favorite in Joker vs Joker. He and I have a good rapport together." To which Quinn replied, "I agree with that, we balance each other out in those situations.

### Exciting time for me: Sanya t has been a time of double treat

L for actor Sanya Malhotra who had back to back reasons to celebrate.

Recently, the trailer of her next, Shakuntala Devi was released and she has been garnering wide appreciation ever since. Now, her film Ludo's announcement came in and she is super thrilled.

Sharing her excitement on the forthcoming line up with various reasons to celebrate, Sanya shares, "This is a very exciting time for me, first the trailer of *Shakuntala* Devi was released and then Ludo's release on Netflix was announced. And the response that I'm getting for the trailer as well as *Ludo's* announcement is overwhelming. I've been flooded with congratulatory calls from family and friends since yesterday and I'm happy with how both announce-ments lined up together. With back to back good news, it's always more the merrier, specially while we are stuck on lockdown?

The actor has time and again treated the audience with her phe-



nomenal performances on-screen and her latest one being, Shakuntala Devi is where one will be witnessing her play the real life character of Anupama Banerji, daughter of Shakuntala Devi.

Sanya has been getting immense appreciation from the audience and critics, alike for her screen presence. The actor also did a little dance recently to celebrate the trailer release.

Sanya's bold and never seen before avatar also won over us with the glimpse of Ludo that recently was announced to be releasing on OTT platform. The fans are eagerly waiting and how.

The efforts that Sanya has put in her character are truly visible and it looks extremely promising. It's not just her looks, the body lan-guage and dialogue delivery but also everything looks extremely polished.

With a promising line-up of films, Sanya has many reasons to celebrate. Shakuntala Devi is all set to release on July 30 on Amazon Prime Video. Her next project, Anurag Basu's Ludo is along with Guneet Monga's Pagglait.









Her love letter to ashmit

SAKSHI SHARMA that her fifth single, Nunbane, from the album Sounds of Kashmir, is about love that is attempt to connect with her roots and popularise the folklore she

higher education and interacted with people from different states, people started

"A few years ago when I went to Kashmir after having lived in a 'normal' city like Bengaluru, I went as somebody who had seen both sides of the story. When we visited our home, the one my father built with his sweat, blood and tears, a lot of memories came alive. It was a bit surreal that somebody else lives there now — a kind of a bitter sweet experience. Along with that, I also realised that the place has some sort of pain looming in the environment. I interacted with a lot of people there and realised that the pain was a common denominator for all of us. We all suffered in our own ways and everything was so beautiful, yet painful," she tells us.

This inspired her to create art that would possibly change the dialogue on Kashmir and also bring her a few steps closer to the roots. The idea for her first album, Sounds Of Kashmir, was born then. "I believe that when your roots are cut in front of you, you try harder to grow them back. This album is thus my little love letter to Kashmir. It's something I've created with hope and love in my heart for the Valley's sound to travel outside Kashmir. Hopefully, it resonates all over the world," adds she. Recently, she has come out with her fifth single from this album - Nundbane. Excerpts:

#### **What is the meaning and significance** of Nundbane? Whom would you attribute it to?

Nundbane literally means the apple of my eye or my beautiful one. This is a sweet romantic song about love that is sung in the valleys of Kashmir. It was written by this poet called Mehmood Gami and is an ultimate ode to love. It is attributed to everybody whom I love — my partner, parents, fami-ly and friends. During these tough times of crisis, all of us have realised the value of love a bit more than we used to earlier. I feel we have come closer to our loved ones. So this is a song which you can essentially dedicate to anybody you love, even if you are far away, just like I am to Kashmir.

#### **D** The song is the fifth single from your forthcoming album, Sound of Kashmir. What does the album aim to achieve?

The album aims to pay tribute to Kashmir's folklore. It also aims to stir a new dialogue about the land and bring people closer to its rich culture, language and music. I hope to take that mountain sound to the world stage, and hopefully, people will enjoy music and always remember it.

Recently, in an interview, you had said that the song was shot in Jaipur as it is culturally vibrant and it has that 'khushboo' of Indian folk. But the song primarily deals with the love and romance of Kashmir... Well, the whole song has been created

sonically in a folk fusion style, 4 which marries elements of Indian folk like dho**believe that** lak and tabla, along when your roots are with electric and cut in front of you, you acoustic guitar. All these are the try harder to grow them very contemback. The album is thus my porary eletribute to Kashmir. It's ments and on something I've created with top of it, there hope and love in my heart Kashmiri saaz for the Valley's sound to like travel and resonate all

or Roshewalla, I have done that. I am always experimenting with visual storytelling in my music videos as that is a part of the process that excites me as an artist.

#### How did you manage to focus on Kashmiri culture and traditions with Jaipur as the backdrop?

I think the idea was to bring out a fun contrast, which has actually come out in the video and people are enjoying it. I was really trying to do something different and push the envelope a little; the marriage has worked out pretty well in its own unique way.

#### The rustic folk of Kashmir and Rajasthani folk-rock ensemble are two different genres. How challenging was it to combine the two and create something rooted?

Yes, they are completely two different genres. Honestly, combining them was not challenging as we knew we wanted something very different. As an independent artiste, one's endeavour is to do something that is beyond the ordinary and that is what I always try to do. I approach music with the idea of blending cultures. And this was an effort in the same direction. It was appreciated all over as a lot of people from different parts of the world could relate to this in their own way, so I guess that's what we tried to achieve.

#### **Given the political unrest in Kashmir**, how do you think such songs and lyrics are important for people to keep their spirits high?

Yes, there is political unrest in Kashmir. Also, we all are pulled down in our own ways in the post-pandemic world. I think the job of an artiste is to create songs about hope so that people can resonate with their music. Nundbane is a happy bright song, about a universal emotion, so I hope it brings a smile on people's faces and cheers them up.

#### How smooth or difficult it is to create music on something so relatable and personal?

Sometimes it's smooth and sometimes very difficult as you have to detach yourself from the past experiences to give a fresh narrative. As a songwriter, you have to let go of some perspectives, which is not easy because it is too personal. This is a difficult battle altogether, but this is the only way I can do things which are organic and real. I have to keep my music authentic. So I have tried to keep that part of the process smooth.

#### Do you want to use your art to tell the story of Kashmir aloud that can have a far reaching impact?

Chalo Chinaro Ke Gharo is a song that tells the story of thousands of Kashmiris, including mine. It is told in a way that you see the story of separation and reunion, all engulfed in this magical world of a fairy tale. This is the way I want to tell these stories but the whole thing has to be very organic and real. I don't run away from telling a political story. I come from a conflict-ridden state (now UT) and some of those influences will naturally creep into my art and music because this is what I am. But I always stick to things flowing naturally and never do it just for the sake of doing it.

#### □ What are your future projects? Do you have a similar approach to any of your other works too?

Rubab, Tumbaknari and The idea is to finish this album and

over the world oblivious to the political and emotional realities of the situation. The pain was felt strongly by my parents, grandparents and those who were of an

now-capped mountains fronted by

Schinar trees, saffron fields, Kahwah tea, mirror-still lakes and a sumptuous

One that some had to leave and could never

return to. This angst birthed the artiste in

perspective on life. I grew up

There were curfews.

was not as intense as

impressionable age to process the situation. I saw pain in my grandmother's and father's eyes who used to miss Kashmir a lot. But they never stopped rebuilding from scratch." When Aabha moved out to pursue

sonic identity of the song borrows from the Indian folk vibe. When I heard the song, it took me to a space which had to be rich. So I tried staying away from the obvious choice of Kashmir, which I would have loved to, but then there would have been no contrast. I also love doing visual storytelling in the songs. Even if you see my song, Hukus Bukus

move on to some ne some interesting collaborations in the pipeline and varied directions that I am taking with my music. I sing in different languages, so I am excited about exploring all that. I also sing in Punjabi, Dogri and Hindi. There is a lot of music waiting, I don't try to limit myself as an artiste or put myself in a box. I will keep on doing music in as many ways and expressions as they come.

#### **GOVERNMENT OF INDIA** Ministry of Labour & Employment **O/o Chief Controller of Accounts** Principal Accounts Office (HQ) Room No. 518, Shram Shakti Bhawan Rafi Marg, New Delhi-110001

Applications are invited from retired government/autonomous bodies/central PSUs officers retired not below the Level (pay level of AAO) or equivalent for the engagement of consultants on contract basis for internal audit of the schemes under various units of Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE). The eligibility criteria, scope of work and other details terms and conditions are available at our website labour.gov.in.

#### Last date of submission of applications: 31/07/2020

Note:- Any change or amendments to this notice will be posted on the above website only

davp 23101/11/0002/2021

Senior Accounts Officer Principal Accounts Office (HQ)

HDFC BANK

Retail Portfolio Management : Plot # 31, Najafgarh Industrial Area, Tower-A, 1st Floor, Shivaji Marg, Moti Nagar, New Delhi - 110015,

#### POSSESSION NOTICE APPENDIX IV [RULE 8(1)]

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorized officer of the HDFC BANK LTD. under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued demand notice dated 25/01/2020 callin er(s) 1. M/S NATURE CURE & YOGA TRUST, 2. DR. RAGHAVAN MURALEEDHAR NAIR S/O SHRI K R PILLAI, 3, MRS, RUKAMANI NAIR W/O SHRI R.M NAIR, 4. MR. AMREESH TYAGI S/O SHRI OMKAR SINGH, 5. MR. RAHUL BHATNAGAR S/O SH. VIRENDERA SWARUP BHATNAGAR, 6. MR. KSHETRIMAYUM CHAOBA SINGH S/O KSHETRIMAYUM TOMEL SINGH, 7. MR. NAOREM BABALU SINGH S/O N GOURACHANDRA SINGH, 8. MR. KSHETRIMAYUM DOREN SINGH to repay the amou nentioned in the notice being Rs. 13,73,15,458/- (Rupees Thirteen Crore Seventy Three Lakhs Fifteen Thousand Four Hundred and Fifty Eight Only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4 of section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 on this 15th day of July, 2020. The borrower(s) in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to charge of the HDFC BANK LTD. for an amount of Rs. 13,73,15,458/- (Rupees Thirteen Crore Sevent Three Lakhs Fifteen Thousand Four Hundred and Fifty Eight Only) and interest thereor together with expenses and charges etc, less amount paid if any. The borrower's attention i invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to edeem the secured asset

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

PROPERTY LAND AREA ADMEASURING 1.5 ACRES I.E. 7260 SQ. YARDS, SITUATED AT CGHS GANDHI NIDHI, PATPARGANJ, DELHI-110091. THIS PROPERTY DIVIDED INTO TWO PARTS i.e. (a) AREA ADMEASURING 0.961 ACRES EQUIVALENT TO 4651.24 SQ. YARDS AND (b) AREA ADMEASURING 0.539 ACRES, EQUIVALENT TO 2608.76 SQ. YARDS OWNED BY M/S BAPU NATURE CURE HOSPITAL & YOGASHARAM AN UNIT OF M/S NATURE CURE & YOGA TRUST

DATE :- 15/07/2020	Authorised Office HDFC Bank Ltd.
PLACE :- NEW DELHI	

### UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General Public is hereby informed that an Unknown male person was found dead at footpath, SPM Marg, Novelty Cinema, Lahori Gate, Delhi on dated 14.07.2020 In this regard a DD No. 43A dated 14.07.2020 at PS. Lahori Gate. Delhi. The description of dead body is given as under Name

: Unknown, R/o: Unknown Age: 35 years, Height : 5'4", Built: Thin, Face: Round,

Complexion: Sallow.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the dead person but no clue has come to light so far, If any one having any information about this dead person SHO please inform undersigned. PS. Lahori Gate, Delhi Ph.: 011-23953776 DP/383/N/2020 Mob.: 8750870122

### SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that a girl namely Riya D/o Jai Bhagwan, R/o H.No. A-66, Gali No. 4, Chandan Park, Prem Nagar-III, Delhi, Age : 17 yrs., Height : 5 ft., Complexion : Fair, Face : Round, Wearing : White Colour Top and Blue Colour Jeans, has been missing / kidnapped since 09.07.2020 from the area of PS. Prem

Nagar. In this regard a case FIR No. 271/2020 dated 09.07.2020 u/s 363 IPC has been registered at PS. Prem Nagar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local Police to trace out the missing / kidnapped girl but no clue has come to light so far.

if anyone have any information about this missing kidnapped girl please inform undersigned Website: http://cbi.nic.in, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in,

Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641, Fax: 011-24368639 SHO DP/237/RD/2020.

PS. Prem Nagar, Delhi Ph.: 011-25489080, 9868872688

#### SEARCH OF MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one lady (depicted in the photo), Namely: Smt. Meera, W/o: Sh. Nav Bahar, R/o: H.No. B-1/331, New Ashok Nagar, Delhi, Aged: 28 years, has been missing from the area of P.S. New Ashok Nagar, Delhi since 19.06.2020 vide DD No. 08A, Dated 23.06.2020, has been lodged at P.S. New Ashok

rustic



Nagar, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:

Height: 5'1", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Eyes: Black, Clothing: Pink Colour Suit and Salwar and Brown Colour Relaxo Sandle in her feet

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

S.H.O

DP/106/ED/2020.

P.S. New Ashok Nagar, Delhi Ph: 011-22610839, 22610954

#### SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



#### MUSKAN

Age: 15 Years, Height: 5', Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Hair: Black, Wearing : Pink colour suit and grey colour salwar

under:-

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing/kidnapped girl, may inform SHO, Alipur, Delhi at Email Id-cic@cbi.gov.in or Website: http://cbi.nic.in SHO Phone:

P.S. Alipur, Delhi 011-24368638, 24368641 Fax No. 011-24368639 Outer North Distt., Delhi Ph. No. 011-27202265, 7065036325 DP/345/ON/2020



General public is hereby informed that this person Name : Unknown S/o : Unknown, R/o : Unknown, Age: 38 Years, Sex: Male, Height : 5 Ft. 5 Inch, Complexion : Shallow, Face : Long, Built : Normal, Wearing : White Colour Baniyan and Blue Colour Lower, has been found dead on 11.07.2020 at Under Hanuman

Setu, Jamna Bazar, Kashmere Gate, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 18-A Dated 11.07.2020 has been lodged at PS. Kashmere Gate, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following. SHO

DP/381/N/2020(UIDB). PS. Kashmere Gate, Delhi Ph.: 011-23967889, 8750870123

#### SEARCH FOR MISSING WOMAN



that this woman namely Chanchal W/o Ravi Kant R/o H.No. 57, Gali No. 2, C-Block, Part II, Mukundpur, Delhi Age: 25 years, Height: 5', Face : Round, Complexion : Fare, Build : Thin, Identification : Mentally disturb, wearing blue colour jeans, grey colour top and pink colour shoes in feet, has been

Chanchal

missing since 26.06.2020 at about 10:30 A.M. from her house. In this regard DD No. 56-A dated 26.06.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing woman may kindly inform to the following. E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in SHO : P.S. Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi Website: http://cbi.nic.in Ph.: 011-27811934, Fax: 24368639. Tel.: 24368638/24368641 7065036328

General public is hereby informed



What now for

broken Barca?

Barcelona: Lionel Messi has rarely been known for speaking out but he could not help himself when analysing what has been

a disastrous season finale for Barcelona and did not hold back after Thursday's limp 2-1 La Liga defeat at home by Osasuna.

Calling his side "weak", "inconsistent" and "very easy to score against", the club captain called for urgent changes after surren-

dering the league title to Real Madrid, saying it was no good

Barca's attentions now turn to the Champions League, a tro-phy they have somehow failed to win since 2015 despite most-

Lisbon in August, least of all Messi, who does not even fancy

their chances of hurdling their last-16 tie with Napoli, which

is poised at 1-1 ahead of the second leg at the Camp Nou on

"I said a while ago that it would be very hard to win the Champions League if we kept playing like this and it turned out

"If we want to win the Champions League we need to change

it wasn't even good enough to win the league," he said.

"Messi explodes", ran the cover of newspaper Mundo

But few would back them to win the mini-tournament in

to use their rivals' relentless form as an excuse.

ly reigning supreme in Spain in that period.

many things, otherwise we will lose to Napoli

"We need to clear our heads

this break should give us the

opportunity to take some air

as things have been very

# R341 kings of Spain

Benzema's double leads 10/10 Los Blancos to 34th La Liga title

#### AFP MADRID

Real Madrid were crowned La Liga champions for the 34th time on Thursday after Karim Benzema scored twice in a 2-1 victory over Villarreal which clinched the title with one game to spare. Benzema's double included

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a second-half penalty at the empty Alfredo di Stefano Stadium as Madrid moved seven points clear to end Barcelona's two-year hold on the trophy. Barca had to prevail against Osasuna at home and hope Madrid slipped up but their fading challenge ended with a 2-1 defeat at Camp Nou, despite a brilliant Lionel Messi free-kick.

It means Madrid claim their third La Liga title in 12 years, after a relentless run of form since Spanish football resumed on June 11 following the coronavirus pandemic.

Zinedine Zidane's side have won 10 games out 10 since the restart. They have conceded four goals in that time and never been behind in a match. "For me this is one of the best days in my professional career," said Zidane. "After lockdown and everything, it's astonishing.

Asked if it trumps the Champions League titles Madrid won in his first spell as manager, Zidane said: "This is better than anything. It takes a tremendous effort to win La Liga. After 38 matches, you have more points than anyone else. It's bloody fantastic.'



Real Madrid players celebrate with the La Liga trophy after they beat Villarreal on Thursday

Madrid have also been awarded five penalties during the run-in, some of them controversially, and this one caused a stir too as Sergio Ramos tried to roll the ball to Benzema, who finished, but had entered the area too early. Much to Villarreal's irrita-

<u>ne pioneer</u>

tion, Madrid were allowed to retake and this time Benzema made no mistake, before Vicente Iborra headed in what proved a late consolation.

"It's a prize for all the work we've done, this is the reward," said Ramos. "We have one more match and we want to win 11 out of 11.

said Conte. "He suffered a lot,

he is now well, he is an extra

title challenge, taking advan-

tage of defending champions

and Arsenal forward Sanchez teed up Antonio Candreva for

the opener eight minutes before

the break in Emilia-Romagna.

Conte's side revived their

weapon for us."

SETIEN UNDER PRESSURE added: "We have to be self-critical, starting with the players, but After three months away, across the whole club? Barcelona had returned sitting

top of the table but draws with Yet few could argue Madrid Sevilla, struggling Celta Vigo and Atletico Madrid allowed deserve the title and it was fitting that Benzema delivered it, Madrid to take charge. Barca his double taking his tally for the were also in first place when they sacked Ernesto Valverde in season to 26 in all competitions. His first came after 28 minutes January and while the club's when Casemiro stole possession problems go deeper than their in midfield and freed Luka coach, Quique Setien's position Modric. He slid through will come under scrutiny. Benzema, who fired through the "Things have to change," said Messi. "Everyone here in the legs of Sergio Asenjo.

Ramos had scored five goals himself since the restart and club will be feeling very angry about what has happened this could have had a sixth after he season and that's normal. The was tripped by the dangling leg players feel like that too." Messi of Sofian Chakla. But his ploy to

AFP LONDON

tee up Benzema backfired when his teammate encroached too early. Benzema converted the retake. Iborra headed in Mario Gaspar's cross to set up a nervy finish but Barcelona were still being held by Osasuna.

out Osasuna's opener from Jose Arnaiz, once of Barca B. But Osasuna had a final trick up their sleeve as Roberto Torres finished at the back post to wrap up Barca's miserable night at the end of a turbulent season. Real Mallorca's hopes of survival are over after they lost 2-1 at home

**RMCF/Twitter** 

"To return after spending three months locked in our homes and to Messi's curling free-kick into the top corner had cancelled

"Madrid did its part by winning all its matches, which is impressive, but we also helped them to win this league. We have lost a lot of points which we shouldn't have done. We have been very inconsistent - LIONEL MESSI

"There are people who say that in the world on the

Zidane touches

"We really wanted to win this league title and that is what we have done. Zidane is the architect of this title win - FLORENTINO PÉREZ

win 10 matches in a row is incredible, but I always believed in my team and knew we could win it - THIBAUT COURTOIS

"Another title in the bag. Real Madrid truly came together as a team during these tough times. Congratulations!' - ROHIT SHARMA



Man Utd, Leicester win to guarantee final-day shootout



Man United's Marcus Rashford, second right, scores the opening goal against Crystal Palace AP

Ham on Wednesday before a decisive showdown at Leicester on July 26. United could also qualify for the

first-half stoppage-time when the Tottenham on Sunday before the England forward cleverly deceived two Manchester United clash on the last Palace defenders with a drag-back and

day of the season.

### **Inter pass** Sanchez boosts Nerazzurri's faint title hopes lenge. "He is a rediscovered foot-



MILAN: Antonio Conte hailed inform Alexis Sanchez as an "extra weapon" as the Chilean inspired Inter Milan to a 4-0 win over lowly SPAL to move second in Serie A, six points behind lead-

ers Juventus Sanchez's Inter career startforward is now proving to be a key player in Inter's title chal- utes to go.

second on 55 minutes and then crossed for Sanchez to head in mark. Asnie ing him back, but the on-loan picked out Roberto Gagliardini to tap in a fourth with 16 min-

### Fans allowed back into English sports from next week

LONDON: Spectators will be allowed back into some sports events in England from next week as coronavirus prevention measures are tested ahead of a planned wider reopening of stadiums in October.

Domestic cricket on July 26-27 is set to be the first sport that fans are allowed to watch in person since March. Some spectators will also be allowed into the world snooker championship in Sheffield from July 31 and the Glorious Goodwood horse racing festival on August 1 is also part of a Government scheme piloting the return of fans

"From October we intend to bring back audiences in stadia ... In a Covid-secure way subject to the successful outcome of pilots British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said

Cristiano Biraghi added a in Downing Street on Friday. pacities will still b Stadium ca ed and staggered entry times, social distancing measures and one-way systems will be AFP | required.

Manchester United beat Crystal Palace 2-0 to keep the pressure on Leicester after their top-four rivals defeated Sheffield United as the battle for Champions League qualification heated up on Thursday. Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side had no margin for error after 3

to Granada

Premier

Leicester's 2-0 victory earlier in the day and they responded thanks to goals from Marcus Rashford and Anthony Martial. United's fifth win in their last six league games leaves them in fifth place

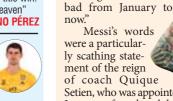
in the Premier League. They are level on points with fourth-placed Leicester, trailing them on goal difference, and one point behind third-placed Chelsea.

With the financial implications of failing to reach the Champions League certain to be painful for United, intense

happiness makes no noise, but l'm the happiest person inside right now. Many thanks to everyone for the support" - ZINEDINE ZIDANE "Everything

turns into gold. We believe in him and in his work. He's the one who has to make the difference" — SERGIO RAMOS

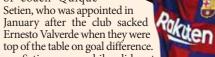
He is a blessing from heaven"

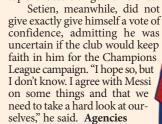


Deportivo.

August 8.

too.





went down after contact from Victor Lindelof. Referee Graham Scott waved

LaLiga

away their appeals and VAR didn't change the decision, with replays showing Lindelof got a slight touch on the ball. Palace were denied again in the second half when Jordan Ayew's goal was ruled out for offside by VAR.

Martial killed off Palace in the 78th minute with a clinical finish after good work by Rashford.

At the King Power Stadium, Leicester earned their first win in three games thanks to goals from Ayoze Perez and Demarai Gray. Thrashed 4-1 by Bournemouth on Sunday, Brendan Rodgers' team took the lead in the 29th minute with Perez's first goal since January. Gray's deft finish sealed the points from Jamie Vardy's pass in the 79th minute. Leicester's next match is at

pressure in their final two league games. After Sunday's FA Cup semi-AP | final against Chelsea, United host West

ons League Europa League, which is set to resume in August.

Rashford broke the deadlock in

home from close ra slotted complained vehemently that they should have been given a penalty moments earlier when Wilfried Zaha

At Goodison Park, Aston Villa's hopes of avoiding relegation were seriously damaged by their 1-1 draw against Everton.

### SINGLES

MARTINELLI RULED OUT UNTIL END OF 2020 LONDON: Injured during training at the tail-end of the season, Arsenal's young forward Gabriel Martinelli will target a return to full training by the end of the year following knee surgery, the Premier League club said.

#### THIAGO CLOSE TO JOINING LIVERPOOL

LIVERPOOL: Thiago Alcantara is on the verge of joining Liverpool after stalling over signing a contract extension at Bayern Munich, according to a report in Bild on Friday. The paper claims Klopp wants to sign the playmaker but the clubs have vet to agree a transfer fee. According to Bild, Liverpool are not willing to pay more than 25 million euros, while Bayern want around 40.

#### ITALY LOOKING TO ALLOW FANS RETURN IN SEPT

KUALA LUMPUR: Italy will not be looking to allow a return of fans to the stadiums for football matches before September, the country's Sports Minister Vincenzo Spadafora has said. Spadafora said in the Italian parliament that the Govt is working with FIGC and league officials to allow the re-entry of fans to the stadiums in time for the start of the 2020/21 season.

#### SERENA TO RETURN TO ACTION IN KENTUCKY

**LEXINGTON:** Serena Williams will make her return to the WTA Tour at a new hardcourt tourney in Kentucky in August. The Top Seed Open organizers said that 23-time Slam champion Serena & 2017 US Open winner Sloane Stephens will be in the field when play begins on Aug 10.

#### FIFA LIFT PUNJAB FC'S TRANSFER BAN

CHANDIGARH: Former I-League champions Punjab FC's three-window transfer ban for non-payment of dues to North Macedonian footballer Hristijan Denkovski has been lifted by the sport's global body FIFA, the club announced on Friday. The I-League club was handed a three-window transfer ban by FIFA's Dispute Resolution Chamber (DRC) after it failed to clear Denkovski's dues.

#### CHILWELL NOT FOR SALE, SAYS RODGERS

LONDON: Leicester City will not be entertaining any bids for Ben Chilwell, manager Brendan Rodgers said on Friday as interest grows in the 23-year-old fullback with the transfer window set to open at the end of the month. "He's a Leicester player, he's not a player that I'm worried about at all" Rodgers told reporters. "We've got a fantastic squad, one that we want to keep together. There's no intention for us to sell Chilwell and we don't need to sell Chilwell. He's not for sale.'

#### BACH READY TO RUN FOR SECOND TERM AS PREZ

LONDON: IOC President Thomas Bach said on Friday he is ready to run for a second term at next year's election The 66-year-old German was first elected in 2013 for an eight-year term and is eligible for one further term of four vears after that. Agencies

Stokes drives Eng to commanding position AP MANCHESTER

 $B^{\text{en Stokes reached his 10th}}_{\text{Test century and powered}}$ onto 172 not out as England quickened the pace in search of a big first-innings total against the West Indies on day two in the second Test at Old Trafford.

England was 378-5 at Tea on Friday, with the departure of Dom Sibley for 120 allowing the hosts to increase the miserly run rate in Manchester.

In the middle with Stokes was Jos Buttler, who was on 12 and — as a limited-overs specialist — might thrive in the environment as he looks for a score to quiet the critics after a poor run of form in Test cricket.

England lost two wickets in the middle session, with Sibley's snail-like innings eventually ending when he smashed spinner Roston Chase to Kemar Roach as he ran round from



### Archer breach could have cost ECB millions: Giles

MANCHESTER: Star pacer Jofra Archer will face disciplinary proceedings for breaching the Covid-19 protocol that could have been a "disaster" and cost the England Cricket Board "tens of millions of pounds", ECB director Ashley Giles has us tens of millions of pounds," said. Giles told reporters.

Archer was on Thursday dropped from the second Test for breaking the team's biosecure protocol and will now undergo two Covid-19 tests during a five-day isolation them." period.

midwicket. Sibley faced 372 balls for his second highest Test score, only behind the 133 he made against South Africa in off-breaks have returned figures of 4-105.

Stokes was ploughing on with what is easily his longest ever Test innings of 349 balls, but was still a way off his highest test score of 258.

"There have to be consequences to every action and An extraordinary straight there will be a (disciplinary) six off paceman Alzarri Joseph process. This could have been was a signal of intent by the alla disaster. The ripple effect this could have had through the rounder after he brought up three figures with a reverse sweep soon after lunch, having whole summer could have cost resumed on 99.

Stokes, who was dropped on 157 by Shai Hope at gully off "The potential knock-on effect I don't think he could Shannon Gabriel, passed Sibley have understood. He's a young for runs made before their 260man, young men make misrun partnership ended, and has takes. He has to learn from struck 17 fours and two sixes. PTI The overall run rate was up

to 2.71, from 2.44 at lunch. The

run rate in the middle session

was 3.68. Windies are 1-0 up in

Cape Town in January.

Ollie Pope (7) was then the three-match series and looktrapped plumb in front of the ing for a first Test series victostumps by Chase, whose easy ry in England in 32 years.

hear the pain of someone else. I knew that words would be lacking and that my understanding is not close to where it

I surrender my opinions and take the knee as an intercessor. I acknowledge that South Africa is still hugely divided by racism and it is my personal responsibility to do my best to emphasize, hear the stories, learn and then be part of the solution with my thoughts, words and actions

fafdup in the last couple of months I have realized that we

injustices in our country that require urgent attention and action to fix them. If we wait only for the ones that attack us

personally, we will always live for "my way vs your way" and

must choose our battles. We are surrounded by many

So I've remained silent, with the intent to listen, but not

respond. Slawing down my point of view, but guicker to

that way leads us nowhere

I have gotten it wrong before. Good intentions were failed by a lack of perspective when I said on a platform that - I don't see colour. In my ignorance I silenced the struggles of others by placing my own view on it.

A race problem is a human race problem, if one part of the body hurts ,we all stop, we empathize, we get perspec we learn and then we tend to the hurting part of the body.

So I am saying that all lives don't matter UNTIL black lives matter. I'm speaking up now, because if I wait to be perfect I never will. I want to leave a legacy of empathy. The work needs to continue for the change to come and whether we agree or disagree, conversation is the vehicle for change

"All lives don't matter until black lives matter," former SA captain Faf du Plessis said on Friday, lending support to the fight against racism that has gripped the world with renewed vigour after George Floyd's death

#### U-17 WC team camp likely in Aug first week India has potential to break medal jinx in Tokyo: Sreejesh

New Delhi: All India Football Federation (AIFF) general secretary Kushal Das on Friday said its "endeavour" is to start the U-17 Women's World Cup team camp in the first week of August, hoping to find a way out amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

He said they are also aiming to start the U-16 team camp, which is the federation's top priority at the moment, around the same time as there is a tournament scheduled for November in Bahrain

Talking about the senior men's national team, Das said the camp will likely begin in September in Bhubaneswar as the capital city of Odisha is slated to host India's two World Cup Qualifiers in October and November respectively. "Our first priority is to start the U-16 camp since they have a tournament in November. That is the first endeavour. We are also conscious of fact that the U-17 World Cup team has to start its preparation. We should be able to start both camps by first of week of August," Das told AIFF.

While the venue for the senior national team is fixed, a lot also depends on the state Governments as far as organising the camps for the U-16 outfit and U-17 women's side are are concerned.

"We are in talks with various state Governments and the Sports Authority of India (SAI). Hopefully, in next one week, we will finalise a date for the camps. "For the senior team the aim is to start in early September.

It is a very tricky situation but we will look to do our best under the cir-PTI cumstances?

#### PTI NEW DELHI

Having encountered both success and failure from close quarters in a career spanning 14 years, national team goalkeeper PR Sreejesh believes a "much-improved" India has the potential to break its Olympic medal jinx in Tokyo next year.

India's last success at the quadrennial sporting extravaganza, though, came 40 years ago in the 1980 Moscow Olympics, where they won the last of their eight Gold medals. However, Sreejesh feels that

Indian hockey has progressed by leaps and bounds in recent times. "I feel like there is not



much of a difference now, we have shown that in our FIH Pro League matches earlier this year, that we can beat anyone, and not just beat, but also dominate them with our style of play.

#### India men to open campaign against NZ

**NEW DELHI:** Desperate to end its four decade medal jinx, the Indian men's hockey team will open its campaign against New Zealand at the Tokyo Olympics on July 24 next year.

The women's side will be up against mighty Netherlands in their first match on the same day.

Men's team will next

"With one year left for our preparations, I think it (Tokyo Olympics) is going to be the biggest tournament for me as well, and something tells me that it is going to be a huge year for

ons Argentina (July 29) and Japan (July 30). After their Games opener against Netherlands on July 24, Indian Eves will play Germany (July 26), Great Britain (July 28), Argentina (July 29) and **PNS** Japan (July 30).

Australia on July 25, followed

by matches against Spain (July

27), reigning Olympic champi-

Indian hockey," he said. "We can really bring that elusive Olympic medal back to our country if we perform to our potential in Tokyo next year," Sreejesh said.