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USUAL SUSPECTS SWAPAN DASGUPTA

Modi paying China in its enigmatic coin

Among the features of Chinese culture that both amuse and confuses outsiders is the ability to talk in riddles... and conveniently attribute it to either Confucius or some unnamed 'old Chinese philosopher'.

On his part, Mao Zedong, the 'Great Helmsman', was a great one for elliptical aphorisms. Some of his sayings such as 'imperialism is a paper tiger', 'a revolution is not a dinner party' and 'one spark can light a prairie fire' have become all-time favourites.

Beijing's quick response to Modi's 'the age of expansionism is over' is a clear indication that China has received the message loud and clear. This is why it makes sense to proceed with exceptional care and speak in riddles — just as China has been accustomed to doing.

The invocation of this Chinese custom of what a Bengali proverb — dating back to the politically incorrect era described as 'beating the maid to teach the wife a lesson' is pertinent in the context of some criticisms levelled against Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech to the Indian soldiers in the Ladakh sector of the Line of Actual Control.

Modi's critics, many of whom have now expediently chosen to assume the mantle of ultra-nationalism, were unhappy that there were no direct references to China. To them, the Prime Minister was being willfully evasive by not naming the adversary responsible for the deaths of 20 soldiers in the Galwan Valley last month.

For Beijing, an unarmed but lethal skirmish along the LAC — replete with disputed boundaries and contested maps — was intended as a localised and targeted attack on India. In its view, India was too big for its own good and needed to be shown its place, just as it was in 1962.

First, there seems a determination to physically and militarily resist all Chinese incursions along the LAC. There are the interminable negotiations involving military and civilian officials on both sides, but India is not shying away from military deterrence.

Secondly, while bolstering India's capacity along the LAC, Modi has extended the battle to the economic front by banning Chinese apps on grounds of national security and putting obstacles in the path of Chinese investments, services and goods.

Finally, Indian diplomacy is quietly but quite decisively taking steps to mobilise international opinion. This is being done to ensure that in the event of any escalation along the LAC, it will be linked to the wider war to resist China's post-Belt and Road hegemonism.

This is why it makes sense to proceed with exceptional care and speak in riddles — just as China has been accustomed to doing. There will be a time to communicate with greater forthrightness. That time has not yet come. For the moment the phoney war must go on.

Record sowing as migrants return home

High kharif sowing in UP, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, while Punjab registers decline

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

After returning of migrants in April and May ahead of the onset of monsoon due to the nationwide lockdown, Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh have witnessed a record sowing of kharif crops so far.

According to Agriculture Ministry's data, the area under kharif crops increased by 88 per cent over to 433 lakh hectares till Friday as against 230 lakh hectares in the corresponding week last year.

Due to good rainfall and adequate farm labourers, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh have witnessed a record sowing of kharif crops so far. The Ministry's data showed that the area sown in Bihar is estimated 5.11 lakh hectare as against 1.17 lakh hectare last years during the same period.

Similarly, Uttar Pradesh has witnessed kharif crops plantation of 5.96 lakh hectare as against the 1.52 lakh hectare last year. Both these States have

- Punjab has reported decline in kharif crops sowing due to shortage of farm labourers in the State
The area under kharif crops increased by 88 per cent over to 433 lakh hectares till Friday as against 230 lakh hectares in the corresponding week last year
Oilseeds and pulses, which are predominantly rain-fed crops, recorded highest increase as compared to the

- Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh reported maximum increase in pulses sowing so far
There is also a 100 per cent jump in cotton planting to 91.7 lakh hectares with Maharashtra and Telangana planting cotton over 33 lakh hectares (4.6 lakh hectares) and 15 lakh hectare (7.9 lakh hectare), respectively



Similarly, Chhattisgarh which also saw migrants' influx, reported 13.40 lakh hectare kharif crops sowing compared to 4.38 lakh hectare last year.

Punjab has reported decline in kharif crops sowing due to shortage of farm labourers in the State. The area sown

in the State is estimated 15.40 lakh hectare as compared to 21.07 lakh hectare last year. Big farmers have managed to bring back labourers from Bihar and UP while the small and marginal farmers are finding difficult in the absence of labourers during the kharif sowing season.

The Ministry's data showed oilseeds and pulses, which are predominantly rain-fed crops, recorded highest increase as compared to the same period last year. With Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra planting soybean over 42.2 lakh hectares and 29 lakh hectares as compared to 8.5 lakh hectares and 1 lakh hectares, respectively, during the corresponding period the total area under soybean cultivation zoomed 25 per cent to 109 lakh hectares.

Flights to Kolkata from hotspot cities on hold

No flights to Kolkata from Delhi, Mumbai, Pune, Nagpur, Chennai and Ahd from July 6 to July 19

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Central Government has suspended flights linking Kolkata's NSI Airport to six hotspot cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Pune, Nagpur, Maharashtra, Chennai in Tamil Nadu and Ahmedabad in Gujarat following a request from Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

A statement issued by the airport authorities said, "It is informed that no flights shall operate to Kolkata from Delhi, Mumbai, Pune, Nagpur, Chennai and Ahmedabad from



Lords return to abode in Puri

PNS ■ PURI

The Holy Trinity returned to their Ratna Singhana in the Shreemandir here on Saturday after 11 days of their annual Rath Yatra that had begun on June 23 this year.

At the temple's Lions Gate in the absence of public devotees due to the Covid-19 restrictions as was on the other occasions of the Rath Yatra events this year.



WHO 1st got virus outbreak info from its office, not China

Geneva: China did not come forward on its own to report to the World Health Organisation (WHO) that it had a problem in Wuhan following the virus outbreak late last year, according to the updated information the UN health agency posted about how it has handled the Covid-19 crisis so far.

On December 31, 2019, the WHO's Country Office in China picked up a media statement by the Wuhan Municipal Health Commission from their website on cases of 'viral pneumonia' in Wuhan, according to the chronology of events enumerated by the WHO.

On January 1, the WHO requested information on the reported cluster of atypical pneumonia cases in Wuhan from the Chinese authorities. IANS

State from outside with infection. The Government of West Bengal has decided to stop or curtail the movement of incoming flights and trains into the State.

The Chief Minister too had told the media 'though our recovery rate is more than 65 per cent is higher than the national rate we have problems with the infected people coming from outside, particularly the hotspot areas... I have asked the Chief Secretary to write to the Centre about suspending flights from the highly affected regions'.

She, however, said that "the flights connecting the cities in Bengal and those to States where the crisis is not that deep can be carried on." While Bengal has a total of

13 kids test Covid positive at Noida juvenile home

All 162 inmates undergo tests

STAFF REPORTER ■ NOIDA

At least 13 inmates of the Juvenile home in Noida tested positive for coronavirus on Thursday and they have been sent to Government Institute of Medical Sciences (GIMS) in Greater Noida for treatment. There are total 162 children at the observation home and Covid antigen and PCR tests were conducted on all the inmates and 17 staffers of the observation home throughout Thursday.

The results of the antigen test came on Thursday itself, and 13 of the inmates were found positive. Of them, seven were new inmates, who had been serving the mandatory isolation of 14 days in two separate rooms inside the premises.

While there are three rooms which have been reserved for the new inmates to serve quarantine, the remaining reside in different halls. However, there are multiple common areas used by all the inmates. And officials suspect that the six other old inmates could have contracted Covid since they were using the same washrooms, water coolers in the common area. "The health department officials were of the view that the old inmates got infected possibly because they used the same washrooms, water coolers and touched walls and windows of the premises. Anyway, we are offering warm water, tea to the inmates twice to the inmates, who are also being made to do gargles. The water coolers have been removed," said Dharmendra Maurya, caretaker of Noida observation home.

5 more die of virus in State; total toll 34

- 495 new patients detected; cases reach 8,601
Day's highest 261 cases in Ganjam
229 recover; total recoveries 5,934

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Five more persons succumbed to Covid-19 on Saturday, increasing the death toll to 34 in the State. Three deaths were reported from Ganjam district and two from Khordha district.

Regret to inform that five Covid positive patients passed away while under treatment in hospital. It included a 51-year-old man of Bhubaneswar, suffering from pleural tuberculosis, a 64-year-old man of Bhubaneswar, suffering from diabetes, a 50-year-old man of Ganjam, a suffering from diabetes and hypertension, a 27-year-old man and a 35-year-old man, also Ganjam district, the Health and Family Welfare Department said.

And as many as 495 new positive cases were detected on the day. With this, the total positive cases rose to 8,601. While 35 were from quarantine centres, 149 were local contacts. For the second consecutive day, Ganjam district recorded the day's highest cases of 261 followed by followed by Khordha 50, Sundergarh 36, Mayurbhanj 28, Angul 24, Puri 18, Baleswar and Cuttack 13 each, Jagatsinghpur and Bhubaneswar 11, Jharsuguda and Kandhamal eight each, Koraput and Malkangiri five each, Ganjam seven, Bargarh two and Dhenkanal and Nayagarh one each. However, 229 more

patients recovered from the disease on Saturday, increasing the total recoveries to 5,934. The highest 91 recovered in Ganjam district, followed by 29 in Khordha, 26 in Gajapati, 15 in Jharsuguda, 12 in Balangir, 11

each in Jagatsinghpur and Mayurbhanj, eight in Jajpur, six in Kendrapada, five in Keonjhar, four each in Cuttack and Sundergarh, three each in Bhubaneswar and Nayagarh and one in Bargarh.

Record single-day surge of 45 +ve cases in BBSR

- TOTAL MOUNTS TO 414; 31 PATIENTS RECOVER
11 MORE TEST POSITIVE IN CUTTACK CITY

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR/CUTTACK

The capital city Bhubaneswar witnessed a sharp increase in Covid-19 positive cases, two men of Aigginsia and Satyanagar linked with earlier positive cases, three cases, all men, near Kalinga Bakery in Mancheswar, one case of Saeed Nagar linked with an earlier positive case and a man of Bharatpur linked with an earlier case.

The local contacts included a man of Barumunda near Shakti Guest House linked with an earlier positive case, a man of Kadar Gouri near Ravi Talkies, a woman of Sala Sahi

near Shani Mandir, a man of Khandargiri near Amri Hospital linked with an earlier positive case, a man of Subash Nagar in Dumduma, a man of Jamsilpur Patna in Old Town, a man of M.L.A Colony linked with an earlier positive case and a man of the Chandrasekharpur district centre.

However, amid the surging number of positive cases, 31 patients recovered in the city on Saturday. Meanwhile, Cuttack city reported 11 cases on the day. The cases included five from the Acharya Harihar Regional Cancer Centre (AHRCC) and six from a private nursing home at Chauliaganj.

HOME THEATRE

Dark and loving it

ON BECOMING GOD OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
SonyLiv
Original Series, Season 1,
Episodes 10
***ing: Kirsten Dunst, Theodore Pellerine, Ted Levine**
Rated: 7.5/10

In this dark, senseless world of ultimate individual enterprise, you would get so many negative vibes that chugging along the 10 episodes will become compulsive. It all starts with Krystal Stubbs also known as the Alligator Widow after her husband gets eaten up by one, leaving her homeless, penniless and for what it matters, betrayed.

The series takes some gestation episodes to get going but once it does, Crystal's compulsions, situations, survival kits and her undying ambition to make money gets to you in more ways than one. You squirm, you get annoyed, you cringe and yet to support her fast growing unholy endeavours which leave no friend or untouched. Played to the hilt by a well endowed Kirsten Dunst, *OBIGCE*, is a ditty on capitalism and some say, draws its marrow from the famous homeselling chain Amway.

Amwayish or not, it's all due to the machinations of a ruthless entrepreneur (Ted Levine is brilliant and in the skin of Garbo) making his billions using people by driving them into false entrepreneurial modes which makes them mortgage their lives in the service of Garbo, the God who is the real demon.

Lives are torn apart, marriages break, loving couples and fathers turn into maniacal liars — all this as Garbo makes his money by giving his workforce pittance. Whoever deigns to raise a protest or even an eyebrow is dealt with by his naked foot assassin.



The story is dark, truthfully loose on honesty, too dependent on everything that's not really right but the way it's woven through may get it some converts.

There is humour to break into the intense intrigue, there is pathos to ruffle up an unconventional romance, there is a mirror to a dream that is very American, and there is a lot more for you to spend some time with this series.

and Matt Lutsky, the story encases the pull and predicament of capitalism in its most naked form, eating into middle class mentalities like a moth on a mission. Some scenes are so raw and telling that you are almost driven away from your next shopping binge.

But that would be putting it mildly. The spiralled life of Stubbs will catch the eye as much as the emotion of all discerning viewers of this differently enabled series.

Put together by Robert Funke



Interesting only in parts

LOST BULLET
Netflix
***ing: Alban Lenoir, Nicolas Duvouchelle, Ramzy Bedia**
Rated: 5/10

Now we know that whatever the case maybe, the bad guys always end up in the docks and the guy we thought was the bad one, ends up saving the day. It boggles the mind how the writers can come up with a storyline where the only person who is able to catch the bad guys is the bad guy himself. That does sound familiar and something that we find in our Bollywood movies.

So while the faces may not be familiar, there is a connection. Also, there is the whole chase sequence that even though one knows that the baddies will die there is a kind of fascination to keep clued in as to how things will progress, albeit along the expected lines, this one hour 33-minute French film that is dubbed in English has interesting moments but it is definitely not a patch on the *Fast and Furious* series when it comes to rigged cars that move at lightning speed.

But if you love cars and know anything about the engines and how the mechanics work, you may want to see this one.

—Shalini Saksena

Plan Your Week

In the web world, there are plenty of shows that tell the stories of solid, complicated, diverse women who are strong in a myriad of ways. Fighting all odds of stereotyping male dominated characters, there have been instances in the web world particularly where women characters have been beautifully multifaceted. From Sushmita Sen in Disney+ Hotstar's *Aarya* to Aahana Kumra in Voot Select's *Marzi* to Dia Mirza in Zee 5's *Kaafir* have reminded us to stand up for what we want, fight our foes fiercely. Some of them build a successful career, others find their love and calling, and some discover some unexpected talent. But all of them teach millions of female viewers to be brave and confident in a rightful way.

Here are the 8-power packed and stellar performances by the brilliant women in the industry

Sushmita Sen (Disney+Hotstar's *Aarya*)
 A lovable wife and doting mother of three, Sushmita Sen owns every scene, and deals with every emotion, be it disappointment, betrayal, love, anger, and frustration, with utmost finesse. Portraying the qualities and characteristics of the modern woman, Aarya showcases strength, grace, and vulnerability without compromising on either.

Dia Mirza (Zee5's *Kaafir*)
 Dia essays a young Pakistani mother who comes to India under a strange series of circumstances and is unable to go back home. Portraying the pleasant, sensible victim of border politics, Dia Mirza playing Kainaz shines bright in the narrative, that too in a manner that evokes empathy rather than pity.

Ashwini Bhave (Voot Select's *Marzi*)
 From dealing with love and guilt in relationships to trying to fight the patriarchal system, the series shows what a woman coming out and accusing a man of rape goes through. Aahana steals the show with her performance where she hurt her humble and feel her frustration and anger when she is not heard.

Shobita Dhulipala (Amazon Prime Video's *Made in Heaven*)
 Shobita's character is an overused and banal trope of the cold-hearted gold digger who is as calculating as she is emotional. Tara is confused



mix of all these odd and conflicting personality traits, which makes hers one of the most complex, multi-faceted female characters

Neha Sharma (Voot Select's *Illegal*)
 A new lawyer trying to make it in this cutthroat world, passionate about her work, great work ethic who is very outspoken. Neha steps out of her starchy image as a no-nonsense lawyer and certainly delivers one of the best performances of her career. **Ashwini Bhave** (Voot Select's *The Raikar Case*)
 Plays the over-protective mother and wife, who transforms from being the meek matriarch to being the lady that stands like a rock with her family no matter what, to the venomous serpent who lurks underneath yet no one is aware of it.

Lara Dutta (Disney+Hotstar's *Hundred*)
 A glamorous woman who turned heads and set hearts aflutter, and yet hardly ever a tough-as-nails cop staring down male subordinates, Lara Dutta defined powerful. What's more? Saumya Shukla portrayed by her flawed yet funny, strong yet scared character with a talent that only a few knew about.

Kirti Kulhari (Amazon Prime Video's *Four More Shots Please*)
 Kirti has always handpicked roles of a stronger and independent woman. The actor plays the role of Anjira, a successful lawyer and a single mother, in the show. Outlining a strong female friendship as the narrative and the everyday struggles they overcome in their individual lives. It a call to the modern woman and her inner strength with compelling leads and story lines.

INDIA GLOBAL WEEK

Themed #BeTheRevival. India Global Week 2020 will be organised from July 9 - July 11, 2020. Over the course of three days, attendees will deliberate and discuss the business, strategic and cultural opportunities that India is

presented with as it looks to take its position on the global stage of great nations. Organised by India Inc. Group - the UK headquartered media house - the three-day online webinar will include sessions on Geopolitics, Business, Arts & Culture, Emerging Technologies, Banking and Finance, Pharma, Defence and the Indian Diaspora. The event will also feature high-powered country sessions on Australia, Japan, Singapore, the United States and the United Kingdom

'Who do I love to do action drama'

MADHURA NAIK, model-turned-actor who has been part of TV shows like *Iss Pyaar Ko Kya Naam Doon* and *Tumhari Pakhi*, speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA about how her acting career began and the biggest attraction of being on the small screen

■ From modeling to an actor, how has the experience been?

It has been amazing and I can't complain. I started my modeling career in Paris. I just wish I had explored it more instead of coming to Mumbai and doing TV. There were some decisions that I was not sure of since I was only 18. If I could turn back time and go back to Paris, it would be a dream come true.

■ How did your acting career begin?

Modeling and acting were both on the radar. I was studying Science and wanted to be a Genetic Engineer. But the road completely changed for me. What I am doing now, I am thoroughly enjoying.

■ Why TV?

Nobody from my family is from the entertainment industry. They are all doctors or engineers. After my assignment got over in Paris, I was asked to come back. I was staying in Europe, there was a huge cultural gap between the two countries. The modeling world is also so different from India hence I was asked to come home. But I did not want to go to Universal and that was the video that Ekta (Kapoor) had seen. Everything that happened was by fluke. It is only recently that I have started making career choice because it has taken me such a long time to understand how the industry works and looking to doing web series not that TV has taken a backseat.

■ You have done so many TV show, what has been the attraction?

For me, doing TV is just like any other job. I got into acting by a casting agent for a Balaji show. Since then it has been from getting into one contract to another. That is the reason how and why I ended up being part of so many back-to-back TV shows. It has been a combination of quantity of work with quality.

■ What is a character that you loved doing?

I loved playing Tanushree Ambolkar in *Pavitra Rishta*. A lot of people enjoyed watching the show. One of the reasons I enjoyed the role was because Ambolkar played fashionista in the serial and I love to dress up and go to wear the kind of clothes I wanted to wear. Everything about that character fell into place.

■ How important is it to identify with the character one plays?

It has become an important part of me now after doing TV for so many years where I am able to understand that content. However, there were times when I faced challenges while doing a show that I could not relate to like the show *Naagin* where I played a shapeshifter. I couldn't relate to it. It was not like a sci-fi horror



drama. In *Naagin*, it was a full-on family drama and in the middle of it, one was shape-shifting and I couldn't find a connect.

■ What kind of roles do you love doing?

I been looking forward for a project that has action. I want to portray a strong character. It could be a cop or an action-drama role.

■ Does that mean that you have had some sort of training in doing action sequences?

No, I have not taken any formal training. But when I was in school it was compulsory to be part of Taekwondo and gymnastics. We had to be part of other sports as well. Since childhood, I have been drawn to sports so an action show is right up my ally. Also, once doesn't see too many woman-centric characters on TV so I would love to explore this genre.

■ Are the OTT platforms changing the

content being shown?

Definitely. I have been watching a lot of shows now which have the concept of woman-centric drama. The latest one is *Aarya* starring Sushmita Sen. Because of OTT platforms, a lot of content is being rediscovered or is very close to reality. I am looking to doing more web series. My web show is releasing this month — *The Ghost Thesis* — a horror drama. I recently finished dubbing in it. I play a professor here and am part of a team who go hunting for a ghost in a palace.

■ How do you choose your projects? Do you have a checklist?

I don't have one. I wish I had it. We don't decide what kind of content comes our way. Sometimes, if you have a huge list of projects coming your way, it may be possible to choose but the kind of work that I get for TV is usually family drama or *saas-bahu* sagas. There is no checklist.

ALL COVERED UP

With *Unlock 2.0*, the shooting for several TV shows has resumed. MUSBA HASHMI speaks with actors who share their experience of adapting to the new normal on the sets

From the chart topper *Kumkum Bhagya* to the kids' most loved shows *Aladdin: Naam Toh Suna Hoga*, we are favourite to be ready to air fresh episodes after a three-month halt. Actors covered in masks and the crew in PPE kits, is the new normal on the sets. Joining the bandwagon is the sanitiser which is now leading from the front.

Like everyone else, the actors are also struggling to maintain social distancing on the sets and not let the pandemic affect their acting skills.

"Day one on the set was extremely difficult. You wake up and get to hear so many deaths and the increasing number of cases every day. It is indeed disheartening. The scene, but now we have to take care of other things as well," Nigam says.

But like everyone else, the actors are also struggling to maintain social distancing on the sets and not let the pandemic affect their acting skills. "Day one on the set was extremely difficult. You wake up and get to hear so many deaths and the increasing number of cases every day. It is indeed disheartening. The scene, but now we have to take care of other things as well," Nigam says.

The whole day on the sets, he says, is spent on what if we catch infection. "Earlier, our focus was completely on the scene, but now we have to take care of other things as well," Nigam says.

The good thing is that a lot of people have got their jobs back. The ones who were sitting at home, unsure of what the future will bring are now back at work especially all the technicians and the spot *dadas*. They can now earn a living. But one con of this new normal is that, earlier we had a cast and crew of 200 people



Karan Jotwani, who plays Neel in *Qurbanua*

but now that has been reduced to 50. But then it is for everyone's safety only," he adds.

Chhavi Pandey, who plays Tara in Sony Sab's *Tera Kya Hoga Alia*, tells us that she is excited to get back to work after a long gap.

"I am excited to enter the show as Tara. It has been a long gap since we have been shooting and I have been missing it a lot. It's difficult like a new start for me as I will be working on a new show after a long gap."

The character of Tara is very elegant and she is now going to be the Vice-Principal of the English medium section of the school. I am looking forward to playing this character and I hope the audiences will enjoy it too."

Karan Jotwani who plays Neel in Zee TV's *Qurbanua* Na tells us that his first day on the set was exciting yet apprehensive but the production house has made sure that the set is sanitised regularly.

"That's how it was. But that was okay because everyone was a little apprehensive about getting back to work amid the Coronavirus scare," Jotwani says.

The biggest apprehension was to follow all the norms and guidelines while shooting.

There were a few apprehensions. One, once you get busy with a shoot, you forget about social distancing. Second, sometimes you just forget to wear a mask and you can't just take this risk while on the sets. These are the two fears that I had

— Karan Jotwani

"There were a few apprehensions. One, once you get busy with a shoot, you forget about social distancing. Second, sometimes you just forget to wear a mask and you can't just take this risk while on the sets. These are the two fears that I had," he tells us.

For Jotwani, adapting to the new normal is neither hard nor that easy. "This is one thing that we have to live with. The rising number of cases are of course a cause of worry but then the recovery rate of patients is high. Harvey said that, no one wants to get through the pain of being diagnosed with COVID-19. I agree that it is the new normal, but all we need to do is to be patient and take proper safety measures," Jotwani adds.

SHUTDOWN IN CUTTACK CITY TILL JULY 8

Malisahi declared containment zone

PNS ■ CUTTACK

The administration on Saturday decided to clamp shutdown in the areas under the Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) till July 8 to cut the chain of transmission in the city, which has seen a spurt of Covid-19 cases in the last few days.

The essential shops including grocery, vegetables and milk shops would be allowed to open from 5 am to 6 pm adhering to the physical distancing norms. Online delivery of all essential items would be allowed.

Meanwhile, the CMC on the day declared Malisahi in Ranihat Ward-31 as a containment zone after detection of a number of positive cases in the area in the last couple of days. During the containment period, the CMC will carry out active contact tracing and sanitisation drives in the area.

VSSUT shut till Jul 11 as 5 staffs test Covid +ve

EMPLOYEES ASKED NOT TO LEAVE HEADQUARTERS; ENTIRE SAMBALPUR DIST SHUT DOWN TODAY

PNS ■ SAMBALPUR

The Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology (VSSUT), Burla authorities have announced closure of the institution till July 11 in view of some employees testing positive for Covid-19.

The employees, who are currently outside the headquarters, have been directed to report to the Registrar about their arrival. They will remain in self quarantine for a period of 14 days and, for that, the days would be counted as leaves.

The Registrar of the university took the decision after a 52-year-old Assistant Professor tested positive for the virus. The teacher is the wife of a Nalco official, who succumbed to the deadly virus in Angul district recently.

The Assistant Professor has been shifted to a special Covid Hospital in Cuttack. According to latest information, swab samples of as many as 60 employees of the VSSUT were sent for Covid test following the woman teacher was found positive. Of them, four tested positive during the last 24 hours, informed the Sambalpur district administration. The entire university campus has been sanitised.

Institutional quarantine must in R'kela

PNS ■ ROURKELA

In view of the rising Covid-19 cases across the State, the Rourkela Municipal Corporation (RMC) has decided not to allow people coming from the hotspot districts for home quarantine option.

Tourist sites to reopen from July 6

KHANDAGIRI, RATNAGIRI, DHULI AMONG MANY

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

During Unlock 2.0, concerned authorities have decided to reopen several monuments and museums in the State under the ASI, Bhubaneswar Circle from July 6 (Monday). In Bhubaneswar, Khandagiri and Udayagiri hills and Raja-Rani Temple would be opened. In Cuttack, the Barabati Fortress would be opened.

Lalitgiri in Cuttack, Four colossal images, Varahi, Chamunda, Indrani and Kalijug, Buddhist sites of Ratnagiri and Udaygiri and Langudi Hill, Chandeswar pillar and Atharanulla in Jajpur, Ravana Chhaya and Sitabhinji in Keonjhar, Baidyapur, Kuchai, Kulliana and Haripur Fort in Mayurbhanj district and Vikramkhola Rock in Jharsuguda would be opened.

Ganjam Covid situation belies Govt claims: BJP

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

BJP Ganjam district president Bibhuti Bhushan Jena has alleged that the State Government though beating the drum that Odisha has become a role model in the entire world in containing and controlling Covid-19 pandemic, but the ground reality in Ganjam belies the high-sounding claims.



Ganjam. This figure is a clear indication as to how the State Government is careful and competent to contain and control Covid-19 pandemic and prevent its spread to communities, Jena alleged.

hand, and chaotic conditions in institutional quarantine centres coupled with rules flouted by the suspected patients, he said. BJP suggested a slew of steps. The suggestions included immediately provide adequate security to Corona warriors and provide them sufficient PPE kits without any delay; open three full-tilde Covid-19 Hospital in Brahmapur, Bhanjanagar, and Chhatrapur, correct figures pertaining to corona patients ward/street wise, not to make thermal screening a farce, start serological test and vest the supervision and monitoring charge of Covid cases in the hands of an additional rank of officer among others.

CM, PRADHAN HAIL PARADIP PORT

For emerging No.1 in cargo handling

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan congratulated the Paradip Port authorities for handling the highest volume of cargo.

Pradhan said PPT has set a new milestone in cargo handling. "Yet another milestone for Paradip Port. Happy to learn that the Port has achieved the highest volume of traffic i.e. 25.73 million tonnes among all the new ports in India during April-June 2020," tweeted Pradhan.

Make PSs welcome for public: DGP

PNS ■ CUTTACK

DGP Abhay in a video-conference from the State police headquarters on Saturday stressed on making the police stations safe and more welcoming for the public. During the meeting, discussions were held on various important issues. The DGP directed to make the CCTV of police stations functional round the clock and tamperproof.

In Kendrapada: Cured corona patient's family ostracised



PNS ■ KENDRAPADA

A case has come to the fore in Kendrapada district in which a cured corona patient's family has been ostracised by fellow villagers. Life has become a hell for the family members at Baidimala village under Chandragiri GP of Aul block

since last five days. The fellow villagers, being panicked that they would be infected with the virus, have barred the family to draw water from village tubewell and forced the village grocery shopkeeper not to deliver commodities to it. Even, the family members are restricted from going to their relatives'

house at the same village. When contacted, district Collector Samarth Verma said the matter has come to his notice and he has already directed the local BDO to look into it and take stern action against the villagers who are responsible for the concerned family's plight.

Demos, rallies banned in State Capital

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

In view of the rising cases of Coronavirus cases in Bhubaneswar and frequent violation of the lockdown guidelines, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) on Saturday banned rallies by political parties or any other organisations in the city.

The BMC also cited some recent Covid cases in the city. The BMC also asked the concerned police stations to take immediate appropriate legal action to stop demonstrations and rallies.

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guidelines," the order said. However, Samajwadi Party State president Rabi Behera termed the ban on rallies and demonstrations undemocratic and expressed his dissatisfaction with the Constitutional rights. Hence, the order must be withdrawn immediately, he demanded. All democratic opposition parties should be united to protest the BMC's decision, said Behera.

'Appoint OICs, frame Lokayukta Rules'

RTI forum also seeks activists' protection

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha Sookshana Adhikar Lokayukta on Saturday submitted a memorandum to Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy urging for appointment of Information Commissioners, formulation of Lokayukta Rules and provisions for protection of RTI activists.

Over 12,000 cases are pending for disposal. Cases filed in 2016 are being listed now for hearing in 2020. The delay has not only frustrated appellants but also encouraged the erring PIOs. Kindly appoint at least two Information Commissioners against vacant posts soon," the memorandum read.

"Lokayukta Rules are required for effective implementation of the Odisha Lokayukta Act. We, thus, want enactment of Lokayukta Rules," wrote convener Pradip Pradhan.

Gopalpur Mayfair sealed, fined ₹50K

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

The hotel has been sealed for seven days. The administration also imposed a fine of Rs 50,000 on the hotel.

The Gopalpur police arrested the bridegroom, his father and three uncles for violating Covid guidelines during the marriage procession.

The matter came to light after the visuals of the marriage procession went viral on the social media that showed participants dancing together without maintaining social distancing and wearing masks.

No Bol Bam this yr

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

In view of the Covid-19 situation, the State Government on Saturday ordered ban on Bol Bam devotees offering prayers at Shaivite shrines.

Special Commissioner (SRC) Pradeep Jena said no Bol Bam devotees or Kanwariyas would be allowed to congregate, carry water from water bodies and walk on public roads to pour the sacred water on Shiva Lingas in the month of Shravan as the entire activity has extensive potential of spreading the Covid-19 pandemic.

In Nabarangpur: Man kills baby son, throws body in drain

Man kills his 20-day-old baby son and throws the body into a drain in Nabarangpur district recently.

The accused Basudev Jani of Gaibandha village under the Ihariagon police limits has been arrested. According to police, Jani, who has his wife and a three-year-old daughter, had developed an extramarital affair

with a woman of the area. As the woman became pregnant with Jani's baby, villagers decided that the woman should stay in his house. The woman gave birth to Jani's son on June 10. On June 29, Jani took the baby with him when the infant was sleeping near his mother and absconded. The woman searched for the baby but in vain. She lodged a police complaint. Police on Friday (July 3) nabbed Jani, who confessed to his crime.

STONE LAID FOR KHALLIKOTE VARSITY CAMPUS

NEW PREMISES TO COME UP AT PALUR HILL

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

The students and faculties of the Khallikote Cluster University have a reason to be happy now as the long-awaited foundation stone of its new campus was laid down at Sat Chit Ananda Vihar at Palur Hill here on Wednesday.

PG Council Chairman Prof Yogesh Kumar Panigrahi, Professor in charge, Central Library Dr Jyotsna Sahu, Assistant Prof Dr R Kampa and Dr Mrutunjaya Sethi were present here. In view of Covid pandemic, all wore facemasks and maintained social distancing. Even scribes were not invited for Covid. The new campus would have independent structures and blocks such as Administrative Block, Central Library, Language Block, University Health Centre, Central Computer Lab, auditorium, separate boys' and girls' hostels and staff quarters.

The new campus will come up over 20 acres of land. The university has availed a grant of Rs 27 crore under the RUSA scheme, said sources. The CPWD has undertaken the construction work, for which payment has been released and the CPWD has already started construction work for the new campus. After functioning in the Khallikote Autonomous College campus here for four years, the university was shifted to a rented building at Kanishi on the NH last year. The Government is now bearing monthly rent of Rs 8 lakh.



DD to broadcast live aarti of Amarnath shrine from today

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

In the absence of the start of annual pilgrimage to the holy cave shrine of Amarnath, located at a height of over 13,000 ft above the sea level, the public broadcaster, Doodarshan is all set to broadcast live telecast of special aarti, two times during the day starting from July 5 till August 3.

CEO Prasar Bharti, Shashi Shekhar in a tweet said "Happy to share that the Shri Amarnathi Shrine Board in association with Prasar Bharti will bring the live telecast of Aarti from the Holy Cave of Shri Amarnathi on various Doodarshan channels".

Lt-Governor Girish Chandar Murmu is expected to visit the holy cave shrine to per-

form the special pooja.

Teams of State disaster Response Force (SDRF) have also been deployed along the yatra route in the wake of VVIP visit.

The public broadcaster has offered two slots of 30 minutes each for the live telecast. The first telecast will take place at 7.30 am in the morning and the second at 6.00 pm in the evening, official sources said.

The special arrangements have been made in the wake of the prevailing situation due to Covid-19 pandemic across the country.

A fifteen member team of Doodarshan is already camping in the shrine area to make necessary arrangements for the live telecast.

In the absence of the start of the annual pilgrimage, as per

its original schedule, Shri Amarnath Shrine Board authorities had approached the national broadcaster, Doodarshan, to explore the possibility of live telecast from the cave shrine.

After receiving clearance from their head office, the technical teams were rushed to the spot to assess the ground situation and make necessary arrangements.

On the other hand, Shri Amarnath Shrine Board Authorities are fully geared up on ground zero and making all necessary arrangements for the start of the yatra in the near future.

So far, Shrine Board authorities have decided to conduct the yatra via Baltal route. The annual pilgrimage will not be allowed via another traditional route of



Palaham. At least four helpalads and a base camp have been made operational to facilitate pilgrims via Baltal route. The 16 km track on this route is more treacherous and difficult to climb. Necessary security arrangements and other logistics have been kept in place to ensure incidents free and smooth conduct of the yatra even for a limited time period. In Jammu and along the entire yatra route elaborate security arrangements will be made to ensure safety of the pilgrims.

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Shrine Board authorities are preparing for conducting annual pilgrimage for a small period after taking all necessary precautions in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic.

As per the initial proposal discussed during the previous review meetings, the annual pilgrimage is expected to begin in the third week of July 2020. However, the final decision will be announced after reviewing the prevailing situation. So far nine out of 10 districts in Kashmir valley have been declared 'red zones' due to spread of coronavirus.

The Union Territory administration has issued 8019 cases have been reported in the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Out of this, 2825 are active positive.

The pilgrims visiting the shrine will have to undergo

mandatory Corona screening before entering the borders of Jammu and Kashmir at different locations. After finalising the final dates of the yatra, Shri Amarnath Shrine Board authorities are expected to issue a set of guidelines to be followed by the pilgrims if they wish to undertake the pilgrimage to the cave shrine.

The final decision whether to allow pithoon and pony-walls is expected to be announced after the final decision is taken on the date of start of yatra this year.

The Union Territory administration is in touch with some socio religious organisations who are expected to set up community kitchens to provide refreshments to the pilgrims during the yatra period.

Kerala: Conmen target actors during corona 65 die, 4,280 afflicted in TN

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

A dozen female film and TV artists of Kerala have complained to the Ernakulam City Police about a gang that threatens them with kidnaps, ransom money, forced flesh trade and gold smuggling, according to a police official.

The first artist to boldly file a complaint with the police was Shamma Kasim, an upcoming film star, who complained to the police that a five-member gang was trying to extort money from her and kidnap her for ransom.

She told the police that the gang approached her parents with a marriage proposal for a youth working in a West Asian country. They even sent the Kasims photographs of a Dubai based youth as the prospective groom. Shamma's parents received phone calls from

the so called 'parents' of the youth in enough links in the last ten persons. It was their dubious behaviour that evoked doubts in the minds of Shamma's parents, the artist told media persons.

"Shamma Kasim is just the tip of the iceberg. The gang has established contacts with many artists and some of them have confided to the police the entire happenings. This is not just a one-off crime affair. A massive operation is underway to expose the film stars," said Sakhare.

The modus operandi of the gang is as follows. They collect the contact numbers of the gullible stars, approach them with marriage proposals, roles in films, advertisement films and fully paid trip to West Asian countries for stage shows.

After the stage shows are a façade for their anti-social and anti-

national activities. There are enough links pointing towards smuggling of gold and narcotics making use of the services of these stars," said a senior police officer on condition of anonymity.

The gang members are skilled enough to take pictures and videos of these unsuspecting stars and later they blackmail them with these pictures. "Many have fallen into sex trade as well as gold/narcotics smuggling as a result of this tactics," said the police officials.

Mankombu Gopalakrishnan, dubbing director, lyricist and script writer, is of the view that many upcoming stars and mimicry artists in Mollywood (as Malayalam film industry is known) might have fallen into this trap. "The last two years have been a period of crisis due to the floods of 2018 and 2019. The youth who has been devoted to cinema, more than the income

from films, these stars were surviving on the income from stage shows. The floods and the corona pandemic derailed their livelihood and most of them are facing uncertainty," said Gopalakrishnan.

Lalithasree, actress and dubbing artist, based in Chennai, too agreed to what Gopalakrishnan said. "Their dreams have no borders and limits. Whatever they earn is squandered away through shopping and high style living. They never expected the nature's fury and the corona pandemic would strike them like this. I have the case of Sushant Singh Rajput before us. I'll not be surprised if some stars from Malayalam film industry choose the path of Rajput. Situation is really bad," said Lalithasree.

Ernakulam Police is probing the matter. Ten persons have been arrested so far and three are managed to get bail and come out.

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Covid-19 claimed 65 persons in Tamil Nadu on Saturday while 4,280 more persons were diagnosed with the pandemic in the State.

The Tamil Nadu Government has started making arrangements like increasing the number of beds and hospitals to accommodate more cases as there are no signs of the pandemic getting subsiding in the near future. By Friday, Vijaya Hospital, one of the largest private corporate hospitals offering medical care at reasonable rates was shut down following many medical staff testing positive.

The total number of persons tested positive for the pandemic till date reached 1,07,001 while there are 44,956 active patients in the State. The only information which offers some hope is that the number of persons cured of the pandemic in the

On Saturday, 2,214 patients were discharged from various hospitals in the State and this took the number of persons cured of the pandemic till date to 60,592

State. On Saturday, 2,214 patients were discharged from various hospitals in the State and this took the number of persons cured of the pandemic till date to 60,592.

The State Government in its mission to identify and isolate the coronavirus continued to open more laboratories as part of its aggressive testing. The day saw three more laboratories starting testing for covid-19 taking the total number of laboratories in the State to 94. Tamil Nadu is ahead of other States in the number of testing. While Maharashtra with a population of 12.31 crore tests 8,521 persons per million, Tamil Nadu's figure is 63.64 persons for every million. Neighbouring Kerala

tests 7,087 per million of its population

On Saturday, 35,426 persons were tested all over the State and total number of persons tested till date reached 1.25 million.

Out of the 65 who breathed their last on Saturday, 59 died with comorbidities. Chennai accounted for 37 deaths.

The capital city continued to lead the table with highest number of covid patients. 1,842 persons in Chennai were diagnosed with the pandemic on Saturday. Chengalpatt (215), Kancheepuram (134) and Thiruvallur (251) the three neighbouring districts which have been locked down till July 5 along with Chennai did not show any signs of abatement.

Madurai tested 352 positive cases while Thiruvannamalai (173) and Ramanathapuram (149) emerged as areas of worry for the authorities.

Covid-19: 5 deaths in Noida, CMO among 83 new patients

PTI ■ NOIDA (UP)

Uttar Pradesh's Gautam Buddha Nagar on Saturday recorded five more deaths due to Covid-19, while 83 more people including the chief medical officer, were found positive for the infection in the district, official data showed.

The death toll due to the novel coronavirus has now reached 28, while the tally of positive cases rose to 2,646, the district health officer said in a state, according to the data released by UP Health Department.

The number of active cases came down to 972 from 1,005 on Friday, as 105 more patients were discharged after treatment, the data showed.

So far, 1,646 patients have got discharged from hospitals in the district, it showed.

The recovery rate improved to 62.20 per cent from 59.98 per cent on Friday. It was 61.60 per cent on Thursday, 67 per cent on Wednesday, 65.36 per cent on Tuesday and 64.76 per cent on Monday, according to official statistics.

The mortality rate of positive patients grew to 1.05 per cent from 0.89 per cent on Friday, according to the statistics.

CMO Deepak Ohri had developed influenza-like illness after which he was tested for Covid-19 and resulted in positive, Gautam Buddha Nagar officials said.

"He has been admitted to an isolation ward for treatment. His condition is stable," District Surveillance Officer Sunil Dohare said. Meanwhile, senior doctor Nepal Singh will officiate as the chief medical officer of Gautam Buddha Nagar, the officer said, adding the CMO's office has been sanitised as per protocols for Covid-19.

On the other hand, 3,328 tests were carried out for Covid-19 across Gautam Buddha Nagar on Saturday, according to official data. Of the total tests, 20 were TrueNat, 1,512 were RTPCR and 1,796 were antigen-based tests, the data stated, adding that 1,488 surveillance teams were deployed for door-to-door screening in the district.

Gautam Buddha Nagar currently has the second highest active cases of Covid-19 after adjoining Ghaziabad district (1,118) in the state. They are followed by Lucknow (490), Kanpur Nagar (328), Meerut (283), Varanasi (231), Aligarh (210), Bulandshahr (167) and Mathura (153), the data stated.

No let up in cases as 240 more test +ve in Kerala

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

There was no let up in the number of coronavirus cases in Kerala as 240 persons were diagnosed with the pandemic on Saturday. This is the highest number to test positive for coronavirus in the State till now. The daily new cases release issued by Health Minister K K Shylla.

This is a major setback for Kerala which had declared on May 8 that the coronavirus surge has been flattened in the State. However, the new pandemic has been totally eliminated. But the Covid-19 virus has returned with full 'vigour' and afflicted more number of people.

The release said that as on Saturday, there were 2,129 persons under treatment in various hospitals. The day saw 209 patients getting cured of the disease and reaching home safe.

The minister put the blame on the expatriates and people who returned to Kerala from other parts of the country for the hike in the number of cases. Out of the 240 persons diagnosed with the pandemic on Saturday, 152 were from foreign countries while 52 were from other States of India, said the release. 367 persons were hospitalised on Saturday, while 135 hotspots in the State.

Situation in Ernakulam and the capital city of Thiruvananthapuram continued to be grave on Saturday. Community transmission of the pandemic has become a reality in the capital city making it a dangerous zone to visit.

Kadakkapalli Surendran, minister for health and social administration (devaswam) and cooperation pleaded with the people of the capital city to maintain social distancing and wear face masks without failure. "What I see in the city is micro-shopping centres, shopping malls, public parks, where people openly violate the covid-19 guidelines. This is disappointing and worrisome," said the minister who cautioned the people that if they do not take the administration may have to resort to extreme measures.

Shops and establishments have been asked to down the shutters by 7pm. The main vegetable and commodities market at Palayam and Chalai has been closed down.

4 DIE IN BENGAL POLITICAL CLASHES, BOMB BLAST

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Four people died in Bengal on Saturday as a result of a clash between the ruling Trinamool Congress and the Socialist Unity Centre of India (SUCI) at Kulti in South 24 Parganas. The other two died while making bombs which were exploded in a house in Murshidabad district, police said.

In the first case a TMC worker was allegedly lynched by a 300-strong crowd mostly led by reported SUCI workers after a senior leader of the party was reportedly killed by the TMC men.

While a district Trinamool leader Saikat Mollah said the SUCI and the CPI(M) goons attacked and hacked a local TMC leader Ashwini Manna to death. The death was a result of clashes between the two sides that continued for several hours, locals said.

On the other hand SUCI leadership said that one of their district committee members Sudhanshu Jana was abducted from his house by the Ashwini's men where after he was killed and hung from a tree.

Local media said that the clash was the result of a power tussle at Manipuh-Baikunthpur panchayat others said that things came to a flash point after Sudhanshu gheraoed the local TMC office alleging nepotism and corruption in distributing post Amphan relief.

"As people came out in large number to protest against massive corruption in distribution of relief funds to the people—as is the case throughout the State—the TMC leader Ashwini Manna went out with his supporters to teach the SUCI leaders a lesson and went about torching their houses. This led to a major riot when villagers mounted a counter attack," former SUCI MP Tarun Mandak said.

A large police force has been deployed in the sensitive area and investigations are on, district authorities said.

The second incident happened at Suti town in Murshidabad district's Jangipur sub-division where two goons died while they were making bombs. Some other people have been injured and were being treated in a nearby hospital, police said adding the house has been damaged completely, and its owner is on the run.

The wife of the house owner was being questioned in connection with the incident, the officer said.

Fresh surge in cases causes alarm in Agra

PTI ■ AGRA

With 14 new Covid-19 cases and three deaths in the last 24 hours, alarm bells have begun to ring in the Taj city. The district authorities have reviewed the grim situation and scaled up testing in the hotspots.

In view of the spike in cases, the authorities have again raised the number of containment and buffer zones to 68. Earlier, the number had dropped to 54.

The new cases have taken the tally to 1,267. Six patients were discharged after recovery. The death toll now stands at 90, while the total number of discharged patients is 1,040. Health officials said the number of active cases now was 137.

The recovery rate is 82.09 per cent.

Ram temple trust members to meet on July 18 in Ayodhya

PTI ■ AYODHYA

Ayodhya: Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra trust will meet here on July 18 to discuss the way forward of temple construction and the date for bhoomi puja (land worship) in Ayodhya. The trust members have been sent to all the members of the trust.

"The trust meeting has been called in Ayodhya on July 18. Right now stones which have gathered moss are being cleaned," the trust general secretary Champat Rai said.

He said there is no discussion among the saints on the issue of increasing the height of the temple. "I have met 200 saints and seers in the last 15 days," he said. He said the work of lining is being done on the levelled land. The line disappears due to rains. Now the temple site is being demarcated with pegs. The L&T company is doing this work. He said that any statement on the start of temple construction and 'Bhoomi Pujan' in the month of Shrawan is just imagination. No decision has been taken yet, he said.

Shri Ashish Sompura, son of the chief architect of the Ram temple model has taken the charge of the technical work. He oversaw the workshop. He said, "The stones have been lying here for a long time. They have turned black and are being cleaned to shine."

Talking about increasing the height of the temple, Sompura said, "It will be decided in the trust meeting. But the old stones will be used. The stones will be coated so that they do not lose shine. Some stones have degraded and will be changed. The life of these stones is about 1,000 years."

Akshay Kumar's flying visit to Nashik stirs row amid lockdown

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Bollywood mega star Akshay Kumar's recent 'secret' flying visit to Nashik and his private nearby resort for some medical treatment has sparked a controversy over the 'secrecy' maintained and the manner in which the actor managed to obtain necessary permissions for his visit, the local media and his private helpalad and stay at the resort.

Three days after Akshay flew in a private helicopter and landed at a private helpalad of Sapkal Knowledge Hub, at Anjaneri on the outskirts of Nashik and later stayed at a luxury resort 'Grape County' located on the Trimbakeshwar Road, a lot of details of his 'secret' visit to the grape city have emerged.

According to available information, the actor was received by a police escort from the educational institution and some district officials on his arrival at a private helpalad of Sapkal Knowledge Hub. Even at the resort, police officials were present. However, a lot of 'secrecy' was maintained about the actor's visit to Nashik.

Asked whether the actor had obtained necessary permissions from the authorities for his visit, Maharashtra Food & Civil Supplies Minister Chhagan Bhujbal feigned ignorance about the actor's visit, saying as it did in the midst of the ongoing lockdown.

Bhujbal, who incidentally the district guardian minister of

Virus damages endocrine system badly

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

People with endocrine disorders may see their condition worsen as a result of Covid-19, researchers have said in a study published in the journal of Endocrine Society.

The virus that causes Covid-19 binds to the ACE2 receptor, a protein which is expressed in many tissues. This allows the virus to enter endocrine cells and cause the mayhem associated with the disease, said study researcher Noel Pratheparan Somasundaram from the National Hospital of Sri Lanka.

"We explored the previous SARS outbreak caused by the very rictiviral virus SARS-CoV-1 to advise endocrinologists involved in the care of patients with Covid-19," he said.

According to the study, SARS-CoV-2 can cause loss of smell and gain entry to the brain. In past coronavirus infections such as the SARS epidemic in 2003, many patients developed a post-viral syndrome with fatigue.

This could in part be caused by adrenal insufficiency, a condition where the adrenal glands do not make enough cortisol, as a result of damage to the pituitary system. During the SARS epidemic, patients who developed adrenal insufficiency typically recovered within one year.

"Testing for cortisol deficiency and treating patients with steroids may become a vital treatment strategy," Somasundaram said.

"Very recent studies have demonstrated lowered mortality in severely ill patients with Covid-19 treated with the steroid dexamethasone," Somasundaram added. According to the researchers, Covid-19 also could lead to new cases of diabetes and worsening of existing diabetes.

The SARS-CoV-2 virus attaches to ACE2, the main entry point into cells for coronavirus, and disrupts insulin production, causing high blood glucose levels in some patients.

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Delhi BJP reorganisation process begins; 35 teams formed to shortlist names for block unit presidents

PTI ■ DELHI

The process of reorganisation of Delhi BJP has begun with the formation of 35 teams to shortlist names of local leaders to be appointed as presidents of the party's block units. The 35 teams, each comprising two senior leaders, will shortlist by July 9 the names of potential block-level workers to be appointed as presidents. The shortlisting process will begin from July 6, said a senior Delhi BJP leader.

The party has decided to keep the upper age limit for block presidents to 45 years in order to groom young leadership at the local level. There are 280 block units of the BJP in Delhi.

BJP a party for service of society, says Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Saying that the BJP is not a "election winning machine" but an organisation for the service of the society, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday lauded the "seva" of the party workers in the time of coronavirus crisis and suggested that every 'mandal', district and State prepares a digital work on its experiences during the pandemic and releases it by September 25, on the birth anniversary of the Bharatiya Jan Sangh and BJP ideologue Deen Dayal Upadhyay.

The Prime Minister, who was reviewing the work of party workers in the last four months of crisis and watching the presentations of seven BJP states through video conferencing, said the digitalisation from all tiers could be converted into one that of the entire country, "inspiring the future generation", not only within the country but globally too.

Modi said digitalisation should be done at least in three languages—mother tongue, Hindi and English. He said the work would give a great strength and inspiration to those who would get to read the "commendable service" done by lakhs of people during

the pandemic. Almost all top leaders, including BJP President J P Nadda, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, and BJP-run State Chief Ministers including Yogi Adityanath, Shivraj Singh Chouhan and BJP state presidents were present in the BJP Headquarters here. The Programme was titled "Seva hi Sangathan".

Modi said he was proud that BJP proved that "service" was its primary aim and power was only a means to an end.

"This tradition we inherited from our founding fathers and their hard work." He said some observers see an organisation in context of elections only. "For us organisation is not an election winning machine, for us organisation is for everyone's happiness and their hard work."

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Modi asked all state units to be alert and aware of the approaching festival season as 'coronavirus danger is still the threat'.

He asked the state units to send their presentations directly to him.

Nadda said 22 crore food packets were distributed in the last 68 days and 5 crore "Modi ration kits" were also delivered.

states including the election-bound Bihar as also Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Delhi and Assam. All the presentations detailed the distribution of food packets, face masks, 'Paduka' and help rendered to stranded migrants in reaching their native places. Bihar state unit president maintained that but for the help provided by them not even 10 per cent of migrants could have made it to their homes during the lockdown.

Intervening during the Bihar session, the Prime Minister briefly spoke in the native language while lauding the work done by the party workers in Bihar and Bihar has a great challenge and will have to work with the same zeal in future.

Similarly, he congratulated Assam unit saying they worked pro-actively and the work is going well with people's participation in BJP increased in the state.

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Modi exhorts tech community to participate in 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat App Innovation Challenge'



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Innovation Mission are launching the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat App Innovation Challenge', the prime minister tweeted, sharing the link to the LinkedIn post.

Modi had given a call for an 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' (a self-reliant India) and had urged people to be 'vocal for local products'.

He said the app innovation challenge is for those who have such a working product or if they feel they have the vision and expertise to create such products.

"I urge all my friends in the tech community to participate," he said while sharing the write-up "Let us Code for an Aatmanirbhar Bharat".

India has a very vibrant tech and start-up ecosystem, which has done India proud nationally as well as globally, Modi said.

The country's youth have excelled in providing tech solutions across sectors, he said.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has also brought about a big disruption, which is being tack-

led through the use of technology to aid our day to day lives, the Prime Minister pointed out.

Everyone is aware of the huge potential of the market and the scale products can achieve if they can satisfy the demand, he said.

"Nowadays, we are seeing huge interest and enthusiasm among the start-up and tech ecosystem to innovate, develop and promote homegrown apps," Modi said.

"Today, when the entire nation is working towards creating an Aatmanirbhar Bharat, it is a good opportunity to give direction to their efforts, momentum to their hard-work and mentorship to their talent to evolve apps which can satisfy our market well as compete with the world," he said in the write-up.

To help the start-up and tech community achieve this objective, the challenge will run in two tracks, which are 'Development of Existing Apps and Development of New Apps, Modi explained.

This challenge will be jointly hosted by the Government and members of the tech community to make it more holistic, he said.

The Government recently banned 59 Chinese apps, some of them immensely popular like TikTok and Shareit, on grounds of ensuring security and safety of Indian cyber space.

SIMMERING INDO-CHINA TENSION

Cong reminds Modi of following 'raj dharna'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Leh and addressed the soldiers, the Congress on Saturday said time has come for him to follow his "raj dharna" and tell the people of the country about the reality of Chinese occupation.

The grand old party also countered BJP's claim that it was only Modi to visit a frontline. Former Union Minister Kapil Sibal said former prime ministers Indira Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri had also visited forward locations to boost the morale of Indian soldiers and Jawaharlal Nehru too had also visited soldiers in the forward locations in NEFA in 1962 to boost their morale.

"But it appears that our prime minister stayed 230 km away in Nimu, Leh," Sibal said, taking a swipe at Modi's visit.

Posing a set of five questions to the Prime Minister, Congress asked Modi to say whether the actual picture of "China's occupation of our territory" up to the "Finger 4 Ridge" in the Pangong Tso area depicts the truth on the ground.

Sibal used satellite images of Ladakh's Pangong Tso from May and June to show Chinese structures in the area and asked the Prime Minister to at least speak the truth about it.

Sibal also asked Modi to stop "red eyes" to China, and protect Indian territory.

to look eye-to-eye at China and unequivocally tell them to retreat from their illegal occupation of Indian territory. Mr Prime Minister, this is the only 'raj dharna' that you must follow," Sibal said at AICC virtual Press conference.

"They say 'pictures do not lie'."

"Have the Chinese occupied our territory in Galwan Valley, including 'Patrol Point 14', where our 20 jawans of the 16 Bihar Regiment made the supreme sacrifice? Has China also occupied Indian territory in the Himalayas?" the Congress leader asked.

"Has China occupied our territory up to 'Y-Junction' (18 kms inside the LAC) in the Depsang plains, threatening India's strategic oil pipeline, which is our lifeline for our military supplies to the Siachen glacier and Karakoram pass?" he asked.

On Modi saying this is not the India of 1962 and the Chinese expansionism is over, the former Union Minister said Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of the country, had told China then that India will never accept the Chinese claim-line.

According to Sibal, Nehru wrote to China, saying India will never submit to the demand for it to accept the

Chinese 1959 line, whatever the consequences and however long and hard the struggle may be.

The Congress leader said paradoxically, the Chinese 1959 line clearly depicted the entire Galwan Valley in India and it was only on June 16, 2020, a day after the fatal incident in the China formally laid claim, for the first time, to the entire Galwan Valley.

"Isn't it correct that the local councillors of Ladakh, including BJP councillors, submitted a memorandum to Prime Minister Modi in February about the capture of our land by China? What action did the prime minister take? Had he acted, wouldn't we have been able to pre-empt additional Chinese transgressions?" Sibal asked which was also seconded by his party colleague and a former Jammu Kashmir Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad.

In a clear message to China, Modi himself said the state of expansionism is over and that India's enemies have seen the "fire and fury" of its armed forces, as he made an unannounced visit to Ladakh, signalling India's firmness in dealing with the border row with the neighbouring country.

In an address to troops in Nimu, the prime minister paid glowing tributes to the 20 Indian soldiers killed in the Galwan Valley clashes and urged the competent authority to take the necessary steps to honour the valour of the armed forces as echoing in every part of the country.

Health Ministry revises dosage of Remdesivir for Covid-19 patients



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry on Friday revised the prescribed dosage of the novel drug Remdesivir for coronavirus patients for six days to five.

According to the updated version of its Clinical Management Protocol for the coronavirus released by the Ministry, the patients must be injected with 200 milligram of

Remdesivir on day one and 100 milligram for the next four days.

The Ministry had on June 13 allowed the use of remdesivir for "restricted emergency use" in moderate coronavirus cases.

Hyderabad-based drug-maker Hetero has been approved to manufacture remdesivir for the treatment of coronavirus patients.

Last month, the company had said that it will deliver the first set of the medicine to Maharashtra, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat at a price of ₹5,400 per vial.

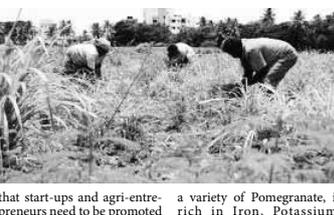
Modi stresses on need to adopt organic-natural farming practices on a cluster-based approach

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Reviewing the progress of R&D research, extension and education in India through video conference, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday stressed the need to adopt organic and natural farming practices on a cluster-based approach. He exhorted the need to create awareness and talent among farmers.

He highlighted the need to leverage information technology to provide information on demand to the farmers. PM Modi also directed that Hackathons may be organised twice a year to solve identified problems and meet design needs for tools and equipment that can reduce drudgery if farming activity, given that a large number of farm workers are women.

They said the PM appreciated the efforts towards development of Pomegranate, rich in Iron, Potassium, Vitamin C and Anti-oxidants. Genders are being promoted through Krishi Vigyan Kendras. Pilots were conducted in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh involving 76 Krishi Vigyan Kendras and 450 model farms. In its presentation ICAR highlighted the Magic seedler in Punjab, Haryana and Delhi to address the problem of stubble burning after the harvest of paddy crop. There is a reduction of 52% in burning events in 2019 in comparison to 2016.



that start-ups and agri-entrepreneurs need to be promoted to ensure innovation and use of technology in agriculture and allied sectors.

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The PM highlighted that avenues for enhancing bio ethanol from sugarcane and other crops need to be explored.

In an effort to bolster the Magic seedler in Punjab, Haryana and Delhi to address the problem of stubble burning after the harvest of paddy crop. There is a reduction of 52% in burning events in 2019 in comparison to 2016.

Zoya Khan becomes India's first transgender operator of Common Service Centre



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Zoya Khan from the Vadodra district of Gujarat has become the first transgender operator of the Common Service Centre (CSC) in India.

Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology, Ravi Shankar Prasad shared the news with her pictures of working in the office on his Twitter handle.

"Zoya Khan is India's first transgender operator of Common Service Centre from

Vadodra district of Gujarat. She has started CSC work with Telemedicine consultation. Her vision is to support the transgender community in making them digitally literate & give them better opportunities," he said.

Common Service Centres are facilities provided by the Government of India for delivering e-Services to rural and remote locations where availability of computers and Internet was negligible or mostly absent.

Modi's visit to military hosp in Leh —

Army rubbishes claim over hastily assembled hosp, fit soldiers posing as injured



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Army on Saturday termed reports in social media as 'malicious' claiming a hastily assembled hospital and fit soldiers posing as injured during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to a military hospital in Leh on Friday.

Taking exception to reports hinting the event was staged, the Army said these were "malicious and unsubstantiated accusations" in some quarters regarding the status of the facility visited by the Prime Minister.

It is unfortunate that aspersions are being cast on how our brave Armed Forces are treated. The Armed Forces give the best possible treatment to their personnel, the statement said.

The Army clarified that the said facility is part of the Crisis Expansion capacity of 100 beds and is very much part of the General Hospital complex.

The COVID-19 protocol had necessitated some wards of the Magic seedler in Punjab, Haryana and Delhi to address the problem of stubble burning after the harvest of paddy crop. There is a reduction of 52% in burning events in 2019 in comparison to 2016.

The injured braves have been kept there since their arrival from Galwan to ensure quarantine from Covid areas.

Army Chief General MM Naravane and the Army Commander have also visited the injured braves in the same location on earlier occasions, it said

quarantine from COVID areas. Army Chief General MM Naravane and the Army Commander have also visited the injured braves in the same location on earlier occasions, it said.

After the bloody skirmish on June 15 in the Galwan valley leaving 20 Indian army personnel dead, the injured soldiers were kept there to ensure isolation from COVID-19 affected areas.

On a surprise visit to Ladakh on Friday, Modi addressed troops at Nimu outside Leh and later visited the Leh military hospital and met the soldiers.

Stop-gap: TBP director continues to helm BSF

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The BSF that secures the frontiers on Bangladesh and Pakistan continues to be headed by the TBP Director General SS Deswal in a stop-gap measure for the last nearly four months after the former chief Vivek Johri was repatriated to his parent Madhya Pradesh cadre on March 11.

The ITBP is the designated border-guarding force and Lead Intelligence Agency on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China while the BSF is in a similar role along the frontiers with Bangladesh and Pakistan.

For the last over two months, the Indian Forces are in a stand-off positions with the Chinese Army at several points along the LAC in eastern Ladakh where the role of the ITBP has further increased as additional troops have been

rushed to augment a matching response to the buildup of the Chinese forces amid the tensions between the two countries.

The BSF also faces additional threat along the International Boundary (IB) of Pakistan in Rajasthan and Punjab as Pakistan's army is a "brother" army for Chinese counterparts and can potentially play a spoilsport in the event of an escalation with Beijing. The need for a full-fledged chief of the BSF is the need of the hour, insiders said.

While Johri is a 1984 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the Madhya Pradesh cadre who heads the police in the State, Deswal is a Haryana cadre officer of the same batch and took additional charge of the BSF on March 11 when the ITBP was one of the lead forces managing quarantine facility

in the country to screen and quarantine at the Chhawa camp here, the Indians and foreigners evacuated from Wuhan which was then the epicentre of the Covid-19.

Besides the charge of ITBP, Deswal continues to hold the additional responsibility of the BSF till now.

"Consequent upon repatriation of Vivek Johri, 1984, IPS officer of MP cadre, Director General Border Security Force to his parent cadre, competent authority has approved that SS Deswal (1984) batch IPS officer of the Haryana cadre, DG, ITBP (Indo-Tibetan Border Police) shall hold additional charge of the post of DG BSF vice Shri Vivek Johri, till the appointment and joining of the successor or until further orders, whichever is earlier," an order issued by the Home Ministry on March 10 had said.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY
KANKE, RANCHI-834006 (JHARKHAND)
Corrigendum
With reference to earlier published notice in this newspaper on dated 22.06.2020 for inviting tender for appointment of agency for watch and ward services at Central Institute of Psychiatry, Ranchi, few modifications have been made and a Revised Notice is uploaded on our official website i.e. www.cipranchi.nic.in as well as in CPP Portal Website i.e. at the www.epdure.gov.in.
Sd/- Director
CIP, Ranchi, Jharkhand

MADHYA PRADESH MADHYA KSHETRA VIDYUT VITARAN COMPANY LIMITED
(Govt. of M.P. Undertaking)
NISHTHA PARISAR, BHULLEE NAGAR, GOVINDPURA, BHOPAL-23
Phone No. 0755-260233-36, Fax : 2589821
No.MD/CZ/SE/IT/733
Bhopal, Dated : 04.07.2020

TENDER NOTICE
MPMKVVCL, Bhopal, invites bids for following item through e-tendering

Tender Specification Number	Particulars	Approx. Value (Rs.)	Tender Fee (Rs.)	Date of Pre-Bid Conference	Date of opening of tender
MD/CZ/SE/IT/Tender/34 Dt. 04.07.2020	Appointment of an agency for AI Powered Automated Conversation Recognition and Response System at MPMKVVCL, Bhopal.	3.12 Crore	5000+GST @ 18%+5900 Plus at Processing Fee	17.07.2020 at (12:00 pm)	28.07.2020 at (03.30 pm)

Other details are available on Company website <https://portal.mpcz.in> & www.mptenders.gov.in
M.P. Madhyam/97832/2020
CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (IT)

Jio killer app serves ₹13,500 pa spoiler on Zoom party

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

While video conferencing on Zoom has a 40-minute limit on group meetings in its basic or free plan, JioMeet, soft launched on Google Playstore and iOS on Thursday, has a 24-hour limit on group meetings, absolutely free.

Based on rate card of Zoom below where \$15 per month is the charge for more than 40 minute meeting time (which is equivalent to \$180 on an annual basis) to the host. In an apple-to-apple comparison, JioMeet is providing the same functionality and more, free of cost. This translates to ₹13,500 of spoiler savings for a host per year.

Zoom in a statement on JioMeet said, "Zoom has experienced intense competition since it was established in 2011 and yet we have become the platform of choice for millions of participants around the world.

We know what it takes to become the unified communications platform we are today including the immense amount of work and focus required to create our frictionless user experience, sophisticated security, and scalable architecture."

The zero restriction on time limit targets is disrupting the Zoom digital experience. For instance in education, with 24-hour free JioMeet sessions, teachers will not be required to cut short their classes as they are forced to wrap up Zoom sessions. Likewise, brokers and any others needing constant and prolonged group video connectivity.

Collaborative cultural, social, musical, spiritual and events can be held which are livelihood source of performers and continue to get social structure and fabric alive. Likewise democratic events.

Besides a price tag of zero, in terms of features and functionality, JioMeet offers several advantages. In a Zoom meeting, users can't expand a participant's video.

National and international seminars will experience complete migration a similar limitation because without any entry fee they can host their research - and conversation can spill over beyond 40 minutes easily for mutual benefit.

Sales demonstrations, especially, say, SMEs, kiranas, will be disrupted leading to enabling e-commerce. Likewise, brokers and any others needing constant and prolonged group video connectivity.

Collaborative cultural, social, musical, spiritual and events can be held which are livelihood source of performers and continue to get social structure and fabric alive. Likewise democratic events.

Besides a price tag of zero, in terms of features and functionality, JioMeet offers several advantages. In a Zoom meeting, users can't expand a participant's video.

JioMeet meetings users can expand any participant's video or Shared Screens video by a double tap.

JioMeet has 2 advanced meeting settings over and above Zoom options. Allow participants only from your organization: If enabled only users from host's organization (eg tcs.com or hll.com) can join that meeting. No potential snoops from other IDs.

If it does not allow guest users. If enabled every user will be required to Sign Up before joining the meeting hence restricting anonymous users from joining the call.

Unlike Zoom, JioMeet users can switch from one device to another without dropping out of the call. Zoom allows Sign Up only with Email ID.

JioMeet also allows sign up with Email Id and mobile number.

Inside the call, Zoom

shows 4 participants at a time on a single mobile screen (for others, users need to scroll through multiple pages).

JioMeet allows 9 active participants on single mobile screen.

'Threatened' Zoom says not worried about JioMeet competition

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

With Reliance Jio launching a Make in India free video-conferencing application JioMeet that directly takes on Zoom, the US-based company said on Saturday they are not worried about the upcoming competition and know what it takes to become a successful unified communications platform.

JioMeet offers enterprise-grade host control and security that can be used for 1:1 video calls and hosting meetings with up to 100 participants. The application has

already been downloaded more than 1,00,000 times on Google Play Store within no time. Zoom has experienced intense competition since it was established in 2011, and yet we have become the platform of choice for millions of participants around the world," the company said in a statement. "We know what it takes to become the unified communications platform we are today, including the immense amount of work it takes to become the user-friendly interface enhances overall conferencing experience."

Zoom added JioMeet has created a solid buzz in India. Other highlights in the desi video meet app include easy sign up with either mobile number or email ID, meeting in HD audio and video quality. It offers support where the users can click on a JioMeet invite link and join from his or her browser without downloading the application.

Back-end technology optimises experience with HD video quality even at lower bandwidths and intuitive and user-friendly interface enhances overall conferencing experience.

REGENT ENTERPRISES LTD
Registered Office: E-205 (I.G.F.), Greater Kailash-II, New Delhi-110 048
Phone: 011-26213191
Email: regentdelhi@gmail.com
CIN: L550021994PLC153163
Website: www.regententerprises.in

NOTICE
Pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Paragraph 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, we hereby give notice that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on 14.17.2020, Thursday, the 16th day of July, 2020 at 4.00 pm. We also consider and approve and take on record the Audited Financial Results along with Audited Report of the Company for the quarter and year ended on 31st March 2020.

Pursuant to this trading window for investors shall remain closed upto 48 hours of declaration of the results for all designated persons, their immediate relatives and all concerned persons as amended. The same Financial Result of the Company will be made available on www.regententerprises.in.

FOR REGENT ENTERPRISES LTD
Place: New Delhi | Sd/-
Date: 04.07.2020 | Vikas Kumar
Whole Time Director
DIN: 05308192

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Office of the Tender Officer
Details of the Tender Notice of Railway are given as under:

TENDER NOTICE NO. 55/2020
Dt: 03/07/2020
SUPPLY OF STORES ITEMS
e-Procurement Tender Notice

The following Tenders have been floated online. Tenderers are requested to visit the website www.irps.gov.in and submit their offers online. The Tender Description, City, EMIS, SD may be seen by the users. Offers submitted manually will not be accepted. Offers by post will not be entertained. Tender Closing time is 14.30 hrs of the Due date of the Tender. For all indigenous offers, EMIS will be accepted only via online system as available on www.irps.gov.in.

Tender No.	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
82.20.5106	High Flow Nasal Cannula
80.20.5001	Lube Oil 15W 40
84.19.5003A	Composite Decorative Glass Fabric reinforced Plastic sheet
93.19.1031A	Composite Plywood
83.20.1550B	White Security Bond Paper
29.20.1399	Axle Box Bearing

Note: - Due dates of Tender Opening: S.No. 1 on 22.07.2020, S.No. 02 to 03 on 27.07.2020, S.No. 4 to 5 on 28.07.2020, S.No. 05 on 07.08.2020.

Beside above mentioned tenders there are other tenders having value below Rs. 25 lakhs.

For details, please visit Railway website above.

Principal Chief Materials Manager/ A0835
Secunderabad.

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, please visit website of <http://www.irps.gov.in> or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

Coal production nil in most mines during 3-day strike: Trade union leader

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The three-day nationwide strike by coal workers against the Government's decision to open the sector for private players led to almost nil production in most of the mines, and dispatch of the fuel was totally blocked, a trade union leader said on Saturday.

Five trade unions, including RSS-affiliated Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh of Coal India have been on strike since Thursday to protest against the government's decision to start commercial coal mining. "The three-day strike in coal industry is big success... In most of the mines (in all the three days), production of coal and the dispatch was totally blocked," Nathulal Pandey, president of HMS-affiliated Hind Khadan Mazdoor Federation, said. However, a Coal India official has said that coal production was 4.81 lakh tonnes on Thursday, which is close to 38 per cent of the normal 13 lakh tonnes per day, calculated as average of 10 days immediately prior to stoppage of the operations. CIL dispatched 5.78 lakh tonnes on the first day of strike. This is around 43 per cent of the normal 14 Lts/day, as per referred calculation. A coal ministry official said on Friday CIL produced 5.55 lakh tonnes of coal Friday, which is 42.7% of the 10 days average output (from the normal off-take of 12.969 lakh tonnes.

Liquidity to MSME rises as bank sanctions cross ₹1.10L cr

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Government is going all out to ensure that liquidity to MSMEs in the MSME sector are addressed on priority under its Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS).

As of July 1, 2020 public sector and private banks sanctioned loans worth over ₹1.10 lakh crore under the 100 per cent Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme, of which more than ₹52,000 crore has already been disbursed. There has been a big jump in sanctions in the last couple of weeks. And just in the last couple of days up to July 1 sanctions have increased by a whopping ₹10,000 crore while disbursement has increased by ₹7,000 crore.

In a tweet, office of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said: "As of July 1, the total amount sanctioned under the 100 per cent Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme by #PSBs and private banks stands at ₹1,10,343.77 crore, of which ₹52,255.53 crore has already been disbursed."

The ECLGS scheme is the

biggest fiscal component of the ₹20-lakh crore Self-Reliant India Mission package announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in May. To ensure that the scheme achieves its objective of providing adequate liquidity to the MSME segment during the current difficult period, the finance ministry has regularly held meetings with the banks.

A finance ministry statement said that banks from both public and private sector have contributed to the success of the ECLGS. Of the ₹52,000 crore disbursement, public sector banks have released ₹33,000 crore to about 12,59,000 MSME accounts while private banks have disbursed ₹19,000 crore to about 1,45,00,000 accounts.

Coal India, NLC India JV to pump in ₹12,000cr to install 3,000-MW solar power assets

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Coal India Ltd (CIL) and NLC India will jointly develop solar power assets of 3,000 MW with a likely investment of around ₹12,000 crore, sources here on Thursday said. The two State-run companies had on Friday said they would form a JV to develop 5,000 MW of solar and thermal power assets across the country. "A solar JV is already in process of formation with an initial capital of ₹10 lakh. Once the company is formed, the respective company boards will

decide the final contours of the project. At present, solar capex for each MW is around ₹4 crore," they said. The Government plans to impose 20 per cent basic customs duty on imported solar panels to boost the domestic industry, the sources said.

M Taj Mukarrum assumes charge of Director (Finance), POWERGRID

New Delhi: M Taj Mukarrum has assumed the charge of Director (Finance) of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) on 4 July, 2020. Prior to taking up this assignment, he was working as Executive Director (Finance), POWERGRID. M Taj Mukarrum has about thirty five years of experience in Power Sector which includes Long term Financial Planning, Financial Concurrence, CAPEX & O&M payments, setting of Detailed Project Reports (DPR)/Revised Cost Estimates (RCE), Coordination for Project Financial Viability Appraisal by external profes-



sional Agencies for Consultancy Business Vertical including Smart Grid and Energy Efficiency such as Electric Vehicle Charging (EV), Energy Audits, setting up Smart Grid Cities Infrastructure, Railway Electrification Projects.

Greater Noida Authority providing online services

Greater Noida: The Greater Noida Authority is providing online services for all its residents - farmers and investors. Due to coronavirus, most of its services have been made online by the authority. The desired information/information can be obtained as soon as people sit at home.

In order of the above, online services, Mitra App, Problem Solving System, WhatsApp and Helpline Centre are also working by the authority.

Through which continuous

efforts are being made for timely and timely disposal of applications, complaints and applications received by the Authority. In the order of the above, a brief description of the settlements made in a month through various online services, Mitra app etc.

A month ago, the facility of Citizen Dash Board was started under which any person of general public, institution, intellectual and journalists, etc can go to the above dash board to get the desired information, information and the latest status of pending case.

NFL records all-time high fertilizer sale of 12.85 LMT in Q1

New Delhi: Breaking all previous records, NFL has achieved highest ever fertilizer sale of 12.85 Lakh MT in first quarter (April-June) of this financial year.

This is about 21.5% higher than the sales of 10.57 LMT made by company in the first quarter of 2019-20.

Other than significant growth in Urea sale, P&K fertilizers also recorded a growth



SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that one lady **Name: Sangeeta, W/O: Shalender, R/O: H.No. WZ-520, 4th Floor, Naraina Village, New Delhi, Age: About 30 Years, Height: 5'3", Build: Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Complex: Medium, Hair: Normal Long Black, Wearing: Red Colour Suit, Salwar and Black Colour Leather Chappal** in foot has been missing since 22.06.2020 from her house. In this regard **DD No. 8A, Dated 23.06.2020** has been lodged at **PS, Naraina, Delhi**.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing lady but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing lady please inform the undersigned.

Web-site: <http://cbl.nic.in> SHO
E-Mail ID: cic@cbl.gov.in PS, Naraina, Delhi
Fax: 011-24368639
DP/135/WD/2020 Ph: 011-25891181, 25892010, 8750871122

SEARCH FOR MISSING BOY

General public is hereby informed that a boy (depicted in the photo) namely **Putul Kumar S/O Ramesh Bhatia R/O Village Punas, P.O. Biroli, P.S. & Diast, Samastipur, Bihar Age: 15 years**, has been reported missing since 30.01.2019 vide FIR No. 2129 Dated 30.01.2019 u/s 363 registered at Police Station - Inderpuri, New Delhi. His physical description is as under-

Complexion: Wheatish, Height: 5', Face: Round, Build: Thin, Clothing: wearing green colour shirt, blue colour pant and having chappal in feet.

Any person is having any information or clue about this missing boy may inform SHO, Inderpuri, New Delhi at E-mail: cic@cbl.gov.in or Website: <http://cbl.nic.in>, Tele No.: 24368638/24368641, Fax: 24368639.

SHO : P.S. Inder Puri, New Delhi
Ph. : 011-25832201, 8750871123

MUZAFFARPUR SMART CITY LIMITED

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (e-tender)
Muzaffarpur Municipal Corporation, MUZAFFARPUR (Bihar)
INVITATION FOR BIDS (2nd Call)
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

NIT No: 28/MSCL/2020-21
Muzaffarpur Smart City invites online proposals through this Expression of Interest for selection of a Agency to provide Green building consultancy to meet minimum GRIHA star rating for selected Buildings in the Administrative zone of Muzaffarpur city under smart city mission.

Sl.No	Description	Date
1	Online Sale/Download date of EOI documents	From 13.07.2020 (10:00 Hrs.) Till 20.07.2020 (14:00Hrs.) (www.eproc-bihar.gov.in) (Under Muzaffarpur Smart City Limited)
2	Pre EOI submission meeting	16-07-2020 (15:00 Hrs.) (At Conference Hall, MMC, Muzaffarpur)
3	EOI Submission Date (online)	21-07-2020 Till 15:00 Hrs.
4	EOI Submission in Hardcopy	21-07-2020 Till 15:00 Hrs.
5	EOI Opening Date	23-07-2020 At 16:00 Hrs.
6	Date for Presentation of methodology	25-07-2020 (15:00 Hrs.) (At Conference Hall, Muzaffarpur Municipal Corporation, Muzaffarpur)
7	Date for announcement of shortlisted bidders	28-07-2020 (Through E-mail to successful bidders)
8	Date(s) for Technical Discussions/ Clarifications leading to Formulation of RFP	30-07-2020 (Venue and Time will be announced)
9	RFP Publication Date (tentative)	31-07-2020

EOI document shall be available on website: www.eproc-bihar.gov.in
For Queries & Clarifications, send e-mail to: muzaffarpur@ulb@gmail.com & muzaffarpurmartcitymscl@gmail.com
Managing Director-Cum-CEO
Muzaffarpur Smart City Ltd.
PR No. 0003388/NI.No./2020-21

COVID - 19 PARCEL CARGO EXPRESS TRAINS

BOOK YOUR PARCEL IN TIME-TABLED PARCEL CARGO EXPRESS TRAINS (PCETs)

Northern Railway is operating Parcel Cargo Express Trains (PCETs) to ensure the faster and Time-Tabled delivery of parcel containing important and essential commodities. Interested rail users may book their parcels in these trains for its designated destinations and stoppages enroute. List of PCETs originating/terminating over Northern Railway is as under-

Parcel Spl. No.	Station From	Dep. Time	Station to	Arr. Time	Days of Run	Dates of run
00401	Guwahati	01:30	New Delhi	13:15	Fri, Sun	Upto 31.12.2020
00402	New Delhi	14:30	Guwahati	02:30	Tue, Thu	Upto 31.12.2020
00463	Howrah	17:30	Amritsar	08:45	Mon, Sat	Upto 31.12.2020
00464	Amritsar	18:00	Howrah	08:30	Wed, Fri	Upto 31.12.2020
00465	Guwahati	01:30	Amritsar	19:45	Wednesday	Upto 31.12.2020
00466	Amritsar	07:50	Guwahati	02:30	Friday	Upto 31.12.2020
00467	Howrah	17:30	Amritsar	06:30	Thursday	Upto 31.12.2020
00468	Amritsar	20:40	Howrah	08:30	Monday	Upto 31.12.2020
00621	KSR Bengaluru	17:00	Hazrat Nizamuddin	14:00	Wed, Fri	Upto 25.12.2020
00622	Hazrat Nizamuddin	21:00	KSR Bengaluru	18:30	Fri, Sun	Upto 27.12.2020
00761	Rengitjunta	06:00	Hazrat Nizamuddin	15:25	Tue, Sun	Upto 07.07.2020
00762	Hazrat Nizamuddin	06:00	Rengitjunta	16:10	Tue, Thu, Sun	Upto 09.07.2020
00763	Hyderabad Decan	19:30	Amritsar	09:10	Friday	Upto 25.12.2020
00764	Amritsar	05:00	Hyderabad Decan	18:20	Monday	Upto 28.12.2020
00901	Bandra Terminus	20:00	Ludhiana	03:00	Tue, Wed, Fri, Sun	Upto 14.07.2020
00902	Ludhiana	23:30	Bandra Terminus	06:30	Tue, Thu, Fri, Sun	Upto 16.07.2020

The parties interested to book their Parcels in these trains may contact the concerned Divisional Officer / Parcel Supervisor. Division wise contact numbers of concerned Officers / Supervisors are available on Northern Railway's website www.nrdianrailways.gov.in at About us-Covid-19 Parcel Trains section.

NOTE The time table and operation status of all the above mentioned trains can be seen on the National Train Enquiry System (NTES)

Note: (1) Parcel have to be loaded/unloaded within allowed halt/time. (2) No passenger is permitted to travel by these trains. (3) The trains will be escorted by security officials.

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1493/2020
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

US sends aircraft carriers to South China Sea

Washington: Two US aircraft carriers were conducting exercises in the disputed South China Sea on Saturday, the US navy said, as China also carried out military drills that have been criticised by the Pentagon and neighbouring states.



1,500 km (900 miles) and 90% of which is claimed by China despite the protests of its neighbours.

The purpose is to show an unambiguous signal to our partners and allies that we are committed to regional security and stability," Rear Admiral George M. Wikofo was quoted as saying by the Wall Street Journal, which first reported the exercises.

China dismissed the US criticism of its drills on Friday and suggested the United States was to blame for increasing tensions. US carriers have long carried out exercises in the Western Pacific, including in the South China Sea, according to the US navy.

At one point recently, the United States had three carriers in the region. China announced last week it had scheduled five days of drills starting July 1 near the Paracel Islands, which are claimed by both Vietnam and China.

The United States accuses China of trying to intimidate Asian neighbours who might want to exploit its extensive oil and gas reserves. Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam also lay claim to parts of the South China Sea, through which about \$3 trillion of trade passes each year.

WHO team to visit China next week to investigate virus origin

New Delhi: Amid global concern that China delayed giving information regarding the novel coronavirus outbreak, a team of WHO (World Health Organisation) will visit the country next week to investigate the origins of the virus and its spread to human beings.

What is needed now is a good investigation going back before December to find out where and how it jumped from animal to human. Was there any intermediate animal or not it directly jumped from bat to humans which are also possible? But have been implicated in other viral diseases - Nipah for example. It is possible it came directly. It is also possible that there was an intermediate animal-like in the case of SARS. That thorough investigation still needs to be done," she said.

Nepal's ruling communist party meet to decide PM Oli's fate deferred till Monday

Kathmandu: A crucial meeting of Nepal's ruling communist party to decide the political future of embattled Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli was postponed until Monday to allow more time for the top leadership to iron out their differences over his autocratic style of functioning and anti-India stances.

The meeting has been postponed as the NCP chairpersons Oli and Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda were busy holding internal consultations amid the rift in the party.

The Standing Committee meeting has been postponed until on Monday as both the chairs needed time for further discussions," said Bishnu Sapkota, the press advisor to Prachanda. The meeting was supposed to begin at the Prime Minister's official residence in Baluwatar to find a way out from the intra-party crisis which is dragging the ruling

N Korea says it has no plans for talks with US

Seoul: North Korea on Saturday reiterated it has no immediate plans to resume nuclear negotiations with the United States unless Washington discards what it describes as "hostile" policies toward Pyongyang.

Kim entered 2020 vowing to bolster his nuclear deterrent in face of "gangster-like" U.S. Sanctions and pressure. Cho's statement followed a series of similar declarations by the North since a change of longer gift meetings with high-profile meetings he could boast of as his foreign policy achievements unless it gets something substantial in return.

Kim and Trump have met three times since embarking on their high-stakes nuclear diplomacy in 2018, but negotiations have faltered since their second summit in February last year in Vietnam, where the Americans

Heavy rain floods southern Japan, over a dozen presumed dead

Tokyo: Heavy rain in southern Japan triggered flooding and mudslides on Saturday, leaving more than a dozen people presumed dead, about 10 missing and dozens stranded on rooftops waiting to be rescued, officials and news reports said.

Democracy books disappear from Hong Kong libraries

Hong Kong: Books written by prominent Hong Kong democracy activists have started to disappear from the city's libraries, online records show, days after Beijing imposed a draconian national security law on the territory.

Wong said he believed the removal of the books was sparked by the security law. "White terror continues to spread, the national security law is fundamentally a tool to incriminate speech," he wrote on Facebook, using a phrase that refers to political persecution.

Trump, Biden fight for primacy on social media platforms

Washington: On an average day, President Donald Trump sends about 14 posts to the 28 million Facebook followers of his campaign account, Joe Biden, delivers about half that many to an audience of just 2 million.

Trump pushes racial division, flouts virus rules at Rushmore

Mount Rushmore National Memorial (US): At the foot of Mount Rushmore on the eve of Independence Day, President Donald Trump made a direct appeal to disaffected white voters to support his re-election bid.

The discord was heightened as the Trump campaign confirmed during the president's speech that Kimberly Guilfoyle, a top fundraiser for the campaign and the girlfriend of Trump's eldest son Donald Trump Jr., had tested positive for the coronavirus while in South Dakota.

US envoy forges ahead with troubled Taliban peace deal

Islamabad: Washington's envoy to Afghanistan stressed Saturday the economic benefits of the peace deal with the Taliban, forging ahead with an agreement that has run into new political obstacles both in the US and regionally.

plans in support of peace can never start too early," Khalilzad tweeted. However, Washington has recently become embroiled in

criticisms of the deal. The agreement that the US signed a peace deal with the Taliban in February to end 19 years of war in Afghanistan. Khalilzad has sought to stress the economic benefits of the peace deal throughout his tour. In a series of tweets early Saturday, the US Envoy said he had met with the Qatar Investment Authority and the Taliban's chief negotiator Mullah Abdul Ghani, in the tiny Gulf state capital of Doha.

SEARCH FOR MISSING



Abhishek Singh is missing from his house since 11.06.2020 at 03:30 PM. In this regard a DD NO. 01A, dated 13.06.2020 has been registered at P.S. Hari Nagar, Delhi.

General public is hereby informed that one male named Abhishek Singh, S/o Sh. Yr Bahadur Singh, R/o: B-62, Tihar Village, New Delhi. Permanent Address: Village-Aghaw, Post & PS Bankata, Distt.-Devariyia (Uttar Pradesh) Age: 30 years, Height: 5'9", Complexion: Fair, Face: Oval, Build: Strong, Mentally Weak, wearing Green colour T-Shirt, Sky Blue colour Half Plant and Blue Chappal in feet, has been missing from his house since 11.06.2020 at 03:30 PM.

government for the visit. "A team is going to China next week to investigate the origins of the virus," Swaminathan told ANI. "What is needed now is a good investigation going back before December to find out where and how it jumped from animal to human. Was there any intermediate animal or not it directly jumped from bat to humans which are also possible? But have been implicated in other viral diseases - Nipah for example. It is possible it came directly. It is also possible that there was an intermediate animal-like in the case of SARS. That thorough investigation still needs to be done," she said.

WHO first got virus outbreak info from its office, not China



Geneva: China did not come first with information to the WHO, the World Health Organisation (WHO) that it had a problem in Wuhan following the virus outbreak late last year, according to the updated information the UN health agency posted on its website.

On January 21, 2020, the WHO's Country Office in China picked up a media statement by the Wuhan Municipal Health Commission from their website on cases of "viral pneumonia" in Wuhan, according to the chronology of events enumerated by the WHO.

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CRITICS OF US-TALIBAN DEAL SAY MILITANTS CAN'T BE TRUSTED

Washington: Critics of the US-Taliban deal say militants can't be trusted. The agreement that the US signed a peace deal with the Taliban in February to end 19 years of war in Afghanistan.

Intelligence officials, and two days later, the US and Taliban signed an agreement in Qatar. The agreement takes the way for America to end 19 years for Afghanistan and gives Trump a way to make good on his promise to end US involvement in what he calls "endless wars."

Teenagers only have to focus on themselves - its not until we get older that we realise that other people exist
— Jennifer Lawrence



Grasping Guruism
Unfettered devotion is how spiritual journeys begin. They culminate with the realisation of the divinity within



Truth is simple, spontaneous
We can't change nature's course. But we can negotiate with the challenges coming our way intelligently and minimise the damage



COVID TAILS

KEEPING THE HOPE ALIVE

With only essential services being permitted during the lockdown, CGS Hospital in Gurugram, remained open to deal with all sorts of veterinarian crisis. From feeding the strays to handling emergency surgeries, all vets were on duty with staff, in spite of the possibility of Covid-19 exposure on a regular basis, writes DR SALISHA WHITNEY CORREIA

"We are serving a mission much greater than ourselves, and in helping the voiceless at this time of strife, we are truly following the Veterinarian's Oath"

The novel coronavirus, COVID-19, has caused a sudden change in the operations worldwide. With the lockdown commencing March 22, 2020, citizens were urged to stay at home to contain the spread of the virus. To keep ourselves entertained, many of us resorted to watching online films, many of which were ironically based on Virus outbreaks! One noticeable feature in most of these 'End of the world' themed movies is the absence of the adversities faced by animals/pets.

The sudden home confinement of the human race has altered the lives of animals, pets and strays alike. On the one side, nature was its best with self purification of rivers, migratory birds returning to nest, turtles seen on the Mumbai coast after decades, multiple sightings of peacocks, etc. and then, you have the species that has domesticated itself over the years, namely, cats and dogs suddenly left stranded without a constant source of food owing to closure of restaurants and malls. Pet dogs had to be restricted to relieving themselves on a balcony or a diaper mat at one end of a room due to confinement constraints. All outdoor activities for pets came to a halt. Many pet owners have mentioned that their pets were initially overjoyed to have their parents home all day. As with us, everyone wants their space, and pets started demanding some quiet at home. Then came the question of pet health care...

With only essential services being permitted during the lockdown, veterinary clinics remained open for limited hours with curtailed staff. CGS Hospital (a unit of CGS Charitable Trust), which is a part of the philanthropic wing of DLF Ltd., situated in Gurugram, remained open only for emergency cases primarily only during the first week, but later due to increased number of pet illness cases, surgeries, pet hospitalisation and critical care requirements, the hospital was routinely functional. Most of the pet clinics being closed or running for a few hours only with shortage of staff caused an increase in footfall at CGS during the lockdown period. All vets were on duty with staff, even though

it was difficult at times for veterinary nursing staff to cross the Delhi border and no public transportation in Gurugram as well. Veterinarians at the hospital were extremely committed to helping pets in need in spite of the possibility of Covid-19 exposure on a regular basis.

The Pasha wing, a dedicated unit of CGS Hospital committed primarily to serving destitute dogs and cats was also functional daily to help stray dogs and cats as most NGOs also were providing only Emergency cases. A notable mention is the successful surgery of stray dog, Ruby, who was struggling to deliver at the side of the road for two days, and owing to the lockdown, her regular feeders and caretakers couldn't reach her. However, one family managed to bring her in the wee hours of the morning for an emergency Caesarean section that managed to atleast preserve the life of one puppy after rigorous veterinary neonatal care. The jubilant cries of that healthy puppy gave reward to the attending vet's sleepless night!

With restaurants and roadside eateries shut, as an initiative to help the hungry and starving stray dogs and cats, CGS Hospital provided fresh food to approximately 300-500 stray dogs. These strays were fed twice daily by the hospital team.

It is only when one believes that there is light at the end of the tunnel, can one emerge as one's best self and truly help another selflessly. This was aptly showcased by two daily wage labourers who when rummaging through the garbage at Sikanderpur found an emaciated sickly puppy. They immediately rushed on foot to the hospital for urgent veterinary care and continued to bring that puppy for the next five days, both in the morning and evening for necessary treatment. "Blessed is the man who has nothing and yet gives". They even managed to rustle up a small leash and collar and gave the chap a name — Lucky! And indeed, lucky he was! This incident moved me to tears and reinforced our belief in the goodness of humanity.

"Fearing Pandemic Covid-19 is not the answer to the current situation. CGS Hospital is here to help you and your pets. We are reaching out to both pet owners to quell doubts regarding the spread of Covid in pets," says Dr. Samar Singh Mahendran, Director, CGS. The CGS Vets also provided free tele-OPD assistance to our regular



DR. SAMAR SINGH MAHENDRAN
Director, CGS Hospital

FEARING PANDEMIC COVID-19 IS NOT THE ANSWER TO THE CURRENT SITUATION. CGS HOSPITAL IS HERE TO HELP YOU AND YOUR PETS. WE ARE REACHING OUT TO ALL PET OWNERS TO QUELL DOUBTS REGARDING THE SPREAD OF COVID IN PETS

clients who were unable to bring their pets to the hospital.

During the 100 days of lockdown, the hospital kept even functional advanced diagnostics like Computerised Tomography (CT) Scan, which was exceptionally beneficial to diagnose a disc prolapse in suddenly paraplegic Labrador, Max. Dr. Vikash Ghoshan, a certified veterinary radiologist at CGS hospital said: "Unfortunately due to the lockdown, many veterinary clinics and external labs weren't open routinely and pets were affected. We managed to diagnose three cases of long standing intestinal perforations via abdominal CT Scans and successfully operated and saved the lives of those pets. The joy and satisfaction of a life saved is the ultimate reward."

Outdoor pets sometimes find it hard staying indoors and numerous reports of falls of cats and dogs from high rise building terraces and balconies during the lockdown was strange. Three cats had to undergo surgery to repair their hard palate injuries. Mirza, the yorkie who had a Humpty-dumpty like fall and fractured his femur, has recovered well post fracture stabilisation surgeries at the Hospital. It is best that pets aren't allowed to venture out onto roof tops on their own and are supervised when left on balconies to relieve themselves.

Stray dogs seemed to have claimed the streets during the initial lockdown phase but as the lockdown opened, a drastically high number of road accidents resulting in fractures were noticed sadly.

Pet shops in most areas were closed and even online supply of pet supplies was lagging behind. Regular deworming and ectoparasite treatment was not easily available to pet owners and thus began the vicious cycle of intestinal worm infestations.

Lyla, a friendly Doberman was presented with the complaint of chronic vomiting. She was diagnosed with oesophageal nodules via an Endoscopy and is getting the appropriate medical treatment she deserves.

Minimally invasive diagnostic and surgical options have been in focus in the medical world recently. Lyla and many other pets have benefited from Endoscopic and laparoscopic procedures at the hospital.

Richard, the diabetic Labrador, had his vision restored just this month at the Ophthalmology Unit of CGS hospital.



Dr. Shiram Ganesan, the veterinary ophthalmologist has treated many emergency eye trauma cases, corneal ulcers, glaucoma and cataract cases in pets during this lockdown period, referred from far and wide. Some pet owners have crossed state borders with special permissions just to treat their pets' ocular issues due to lack of such expertise at their towns.

Loneliness and a need for companionship has lead to a sudden surge in the number of puppies adopted or purchased in Delhi NCR. Sadly, many of them tend to fall prey to viral infections like Parvo virus and require hospitalisation. The hospital infectious ward was filled during the lockdown phase but thankfully, most puppies emerged triumphant over the disease. There is always a special bond between each vet and a Parvo survivor puppy. Having personally treated quite a few during this phase and now vaccinating them post recovery, it is always a special experience for me. There is no thank you as heartfelt as seen in the eyes of a Parvo survivor pup!

These are only a few examples of pets helped by dedicated vets at CGS Hospital. Veterinarians all over the world need to be applauded for the wonderful work they are doing in spite of the odds. It is our profession, but also our passion to serve the voiceless.

With resilience and peer support, not only the vets, but each and every employee of veterinary hospitals and clinics continue to brave the odds, providing valuable service to the dogs and cats that come to them. We believe in our hearts that we too are COVID Warriors!

The writer is a post graduate veterinary surgeon practising at CGS Hospital, Gurugram.



A MAN SHOULD FIRST DIRECT HIMSELF IN THE WAY HE SHOULD GO. ONLY THEN SHOULD HE INSTRUCT OTHERS — GAUTAM BUDDHA

GRASPING GURUISM

Unfettered devotion is how spiritual journeys begin. They culminate with the realisation of the divinity within, says HINGORI, as he shares what makes a guru



You, me, the birds, the bees, the tree, its roots and every atom in the cosmos, are part of the same source — the supreme consciousness. Experimentally understanding this is where we need to get to. The buck starts from, and eventually comes back to you.

We aspire for divinity even though we are already divine, unaware of our true whole self. Instead, we search for divinity in other people, places and things. Which door we knock on is all destiny's play, and if destiny is kind to us, we will find on the other side of the open door, a *Siddh* Guru, who will lead us onto the path of spiritual evolution, back to our true selves.

In principle a guru is not a person, but a concept that embodies infinite wisdom and universal knowledge. Thus, in a guru-disciple relationship, the disciple emulates not the person he refers to as his guru — but his *gunas* (qualities). With all the technology, information and spiritual content being so easily available in every language, do people still need a guru?

Most of us know ourselves at a superficial level. That is, what we perceive ourselves to be. Or worse, what we believe others perceive of us.

A *Siddh* Guru who has the intuitive knowledge to recognise you beyond your physical self, knows you at the

three distinct levels of the body, mind, and spirit. He knows you not only in the physical form you are in now, but also who you were and will be in lives of the past and future. A *Siddh* guru always knows the strength of a potential disciple's spirit. He will also try to sense the connection between the person's destiny and his spiritual growth.

Nobody can introduce you to yourself better than you do. By introducing you to your guru, he introduces you to your destiny and *gunas*, helping you to accept yourself on an as-is-where-is basis. He leads you to understand and engage in self-acceptance and self-respect leading to an egoless self-worth of your own spirit.

Only when a disciple understands the totality of who and what he is, can he play music to the words 'Tat Twam Asi' or 'That You Are' which means, at the core, you are a part of the consciousness supreme.

This responsibility is immense. The concept of a guru is far more exalted and profound, because not only is he a role model, he takes on the disciple's karmic debt and leads him out of it to whatever extent possible. It is imperative for the guru to ensure the disciple's spiritual transformation.

On his journey towards spiritual advancement, a disciple goes through various stages of evolution, from *shradha* (devotion) to *bhakti* (worship),

A GURU GIVES KNOWLEDGE, GATI AND CLARITY; FACILITATES THE LIFTING OFF OF THE VEIL OF MAYA; AND WALKS YOU THROUGH EVERY STEP OF REALISATION THAT THE WORLD WE PERCEIVE IS ONLY A DELUSION, THE REALITY LIES BEYOND IT. HE TEACHES YOU NOT ONLY TO ACCEPT BUT ALSO TO LIVE THIS REALITY

The final stage however, is not of worshipping the guru, but instead, worshipping the guru within YOU. While devotion is a matter of heightened emotion, acceptance is a more centred approach without emotion as its power source. Therefore, even though the journey may start with devotion, it ends with acceptance and self-worship.

It is not easy to assess the stage of evolution of spiritual people. There is no standard metric. A man on the street may be more spiritually advanced than one in saffron. Looks and style, knowledge of scriptures and oratory abilities do not necessarily a spiritualist make. There are other attitudes and practices, coupled with destiny and intent that make an individual rise on the spiritual ladder. A guru looks for certain qualities in his disciple:

Sense of Awareness: For a disciple to observe his own thoughts, reactions and actions, which your guru may require you to change for your improvement.

Flexibility: your guru may want for you to have mouldability and nimbleness to change behaviour and reaction patterns set from past experiences.

Non-dogmatism: Dogmatic thinking chains one down to rituals, defeating the purpose of seeking from the illusion that is *maya*. A guru wants a disciple to let go of this one

form of execution.

Sense of Sacrifice: There cannot be service without sacrifice and practice. To acquire certain spiritual skills, one may need to sacrifice certain pleasures.

Sheer Guts: Spiritual service includes safeguarding people against such external forces and negative energies transmittable through practices like black magic.

Initiative: While philosophy does sound impressive, it takes initiative and intent to put that philosophy into practice and go beyond expected levels of attainment and act intuitively.

Obedience: Disobedience and obedience are the snakes and ladders in the game of *Gurumati*. Disobedience leads your guru to relinquish his responsibility towards you as you have shown a lack of faith in him.

Loyalty: Loyalty to the guru and his mission is a critical component for acceptance by any spiritual master.

Spiritual training in physical presence of the guru ensures an interaction, where one learns not only through theory but also from the teacher's responses, body language, instant corrections and so on. The guru often leads by example and it is a disciple's curriculum to perfect the prescribed practices and not just understand the theory. There is vast difference between attending a lecture in a classroom and reading scriptures online.

Discipleship needs continuous monitoring and interaction. Such training includes rewards and admonitions. Many use their guru as a crutch, and not a launch pad. It is necessary for one to understand that a guru is the remover of ignorance and the one who bestows internal knowledge.

Physical presence of the guru is a luxury one cannot bank on for an extended period of time. His teachings and philosophy will succeed him. As a tribute to the teacher, the disciple must implement a collection of his teachings and instructions.

Many a *siddh* guru can awaken the power of knowledge or intuition in his disciple by using his own spiritual energy. A guru gives knowledge, *gati* and clarity. A guru facilitates the lifting off of the veil of *maya*. He walks you through every step of realisation that the world we perceive through our five senses is only a delusion. He teaches you to go beyond it. He teaches you not only to accept but also to see and live in this reality.

The guru introduces the disciple to the disciple's inner being, and within that being lies the ultimate guru. Wishing you luck in the journey of finding the divine within.

The writer is the author of *Hingori Sutras* series of spiritual books



HIDDEN SOULS
PRAMOD PATHAK

The new scourge



Human mind is the main source of stress as well as its main victim. Stress has always been a major psychosomatic issue afflicting human health from ancient to the modern times. For the ancient man, the problem was anxiety of the uncertain. Little knowledge, naturally, proved dangerous. The irony is that with more knowledge, we worry more now. As technology infiltrated our lives, life got derailed, and went offline. George Orwell's proverbial big brother is getting bigger causing more and more anxiety and stress to human beings. *Aadhar* that was supposed to make life easier has become a cause for concern. While the banks are insisting on data and digitisation, the cyber thugs are swindling money from accounts with consummate ease giving sleepless nights to the customers. But this is not the only cause of online driven anxiety. The *Coronakaal*, as we can call it now, is giving a double whammy. On the one hand warnings galore from many sources are scaring people to abnormal levels, while on the other, the work from home is making many experience virtual hell. A new mega organisation, the online CEO, has emerged on the scene. Relaxing in the cool climes of homes the corona age boss is keeping all employees in his loop on the toes. Shooting mails at the oddest of the hours he is issuing directives by the minute. One step forward two steps backwards, that is the nature of command, because he himself is not sure what to do. Needless to say all this is leading to excessive stress as the hapless employees are continuously on alert for the next mail or WhatsApp message on their mobiles. These nightmarish experiences are slowly but surely threatening to become a full blown health crisis. Already, anxiety and stress related disorders are on the rise and frustration is leading to depression and even suicides. And you cannot blame this on Corona only. It is the big bug, the bloated bossy ego of haughty minded people that is the root cause. While Corona related data of distress is available, the online distress is making life more miserable. People are already feeling the Zoom fatigue which may be a generic expression for all the different online platform related stress. There is ample evidence to suggest that exhaustion from excessive video chatting is harmful to both mind and the body, as the total psychobiology gets affected. It is time we thought of a tweak in workmen's compensation act to include executives who are increasingly becoming victims of on line stress due to idiosyncratic fancies of some people. There could not be a better time to enact the right to disconnect legislation that is waiting assent as a private member's bill, given the agony and torture employees are subject to. Many western nations already have such legislation in place to protect employees from online firing directed at them. Not only privacy and freedom but life as a whole is at stake as this round the clock monitoring and maneuvering is driving people crazy. As oldpeak is being replaced by newpeak in a new Orwellian global order, human beings become puppets tied to online strings. And the key deliverables in this new order are stress and anxiety. What Orwell visualised in 1984 is being realised in 2020.

Pathak is a professor of management, writer, and an acclaimed public speaker. He can be reached at ppathak.ism@gmail.com

Vedic astrology & earthquake

Indian astrology, using the *Panchang*, can calculate the upcoming astronomical events with complete accuracy, says ACHARYA PRAVEEN CHAUHAN

The world today is technologically very advanced. But, despite these advancements, no invention till date has been able to predict the occurrence, place of origin or the frequency of the earthquake. Although the science of seismology is successful in setting up departments and a Richter scale to measure an earthquake, but, they are still lacking in predicting time, place and frequency of an earthquake. Scientists only accept a handful reasons behind the occurrence of these earthquakes — movement of tectonic plates; breaking of rocks within the earth surface; increase of temperature in the innermost earth surfaces leading to gas formation and eventually volcanic eruption.

Vedic Astrology is part and parcel of the Vedas. Astrology is the science of knowing what lies the future. The utility of astrology is as clear as that of meteorology. But, a meteorological department can only predict the weather for only a few days with the help of their devices.

Indian astrology contains a few pointers about the future of earthquakes, with the help of which the astrologers predict the occurrence of these earthquakes. However, Indian astrology, using the *Panchang* can calculate all the upcoming astronomy events with complete accuracy.

Eclipse and earthquake: No earthquake ever happens during the eclipse period. However, there is a probability of earthquake in the coming post-eclipse lunar phase of full moon or new moon (*Purnima* and *Amavasya*, respectively).

Time of earthquake: As per vedic astrology, the probability of occurrence of the earthquake is high during mid-day (12 pm) to sunset and from midnight to sunrise.



Retrograde Planet and earthquake: When major planets such as Jupiter, Mars and Saturn move to retrograde, there is a chance of earthquake.

Planetary transits and earthquake: In Planetary transit, apart from the position of major planets such as Jupiter, Saturn and Mars, there should be a conjunction in the positions of major astronomical bodies such as Moon and Rahu, like: Mars and Saturn should be opposite to each other; Sun, Mars, Saturn and Rahu in Kendra (1st, 4th, 7th and 10th house of horoscope); Sun, Mars, Saturn and Rahu transit to 8th house of horoscope; *Shadasthak* Yoga of Mars and Saturn, Mars and Rahu, and Sun and Mars.

Such planetary transit situations

increase the prevalence of an earthquake.

Months and earthquake: As per Vedic astrology, there is a high-probability of earthquakes during summer (mostly May and June) solstice, and winter (mostly December and January) solstice.

Meteorite and earthquake: There are several meteorites in the universe. But, when these meteorites are in proximity to the earth or sun, the chances of the occurrence of the earthquake increases.

Apart from these, the position of Uranus, cruel planets (*kur grah*) and the collision of stars too have an important role in bringing about a disastrous and devastating earthquake.

The writer is a Delhi-based Astrologer and Palmist and can be reached at info@astropraveen.com

What matters in the long run

One must figure out what suits one's nature, circumstances, available resources, while in quest for God, writes AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

The answer is quality of life. The word quality is defined as the standard of something when it is compared to other things like how good or bad something is. Why is quality of life important? Because we are eternal souls and very small. This smallness is in comparison to God, whose parts we are, who is far too big to be really comprehended by the human brain. God is omnipresent. The Cosmic design does not allow us to ever get bigger, because these bigger souls will begin clashing for supremacy.

How can we improve our situation? The answer again is we can improve the quality of our lives. Usefulness comes first. In this material world people are respected/given attention as long as they are useful for everyone. In my case, if I spend a lot of time establishing a better connection with God by doing various spiritual practices, I am given respect for doing that. Rather my family feels more secure due to my spiritual acts. Following *dharma* is very important for me. This defines my personality. Doing 'naryopkar' (good deeds by helping others) is similarly very satisfying to me, that is whatever I can do, limited as I am due to my resources.

Resources are important to me. I am still engaged in doing business. These resources allow me facilities and comforts, which are important to me. Essentially, I am a householder, becoming a *samanyasi* is not my goal in this life. Writing on spiritual topics, which relate



to current events as far as possible gives me enormous satisfaction, because God is involved in this activity. He guides. This activity actually gives me the maximum satisfaction. I mostly judge myself on the progress made on this front.

Lastly, my connection with God provides to me everything superior like peace, bliss, support, security, guidance, wisdom, help, energies of various kinds like 'atmabala' — the strength of the soul, maintenance of my family and forgiveness for mistakes made by me, inadvertently of course. Thankfully, there is a good connection between God and me. I mostly get God's guidance during my sleep in night, which I can recollect upon getting up.

Everyone must figure out what suits one's nature, circumstances, available resources, etc. However, the following guidelines will be quite handy in establishing what will enhance the quality of one's life. Our lives revolve around our duties, therefore, we have to keep them uppermost in our minds. Similarly, *dharma* should define our

character and attitude. Without them, the quality can be ordinary only. What we are doing must be lasting. This is ensured by a connection with God, who controls everything mine or yours. And this connection will ensure peace, without which there is no superior existence.

In the end, I must mention that sense-enjoyments occupy an important place in our lives, but these should be appropriate only, that is what is required indeed by our bodies, minds, intelligence, etc. Anything beyond degrades; does not enhance the quality of life. Sense pleasures of momentary nature are always temporary. They should not dominate our psyche. Only then, we will advance in the quality of life index. And this effort should be ongoing life after life, because we exist eternally. We should ensure that the next life will be better than the present one. The Cosmic design allows this continuity; we should take advantage of it. After all, the next life will also surely come.

Bishnoi is a spiritual writer and can be reached at spiritual@ajitbishnoi.com

India, China's quest for influence in S Asia

Even as the whole world is facing an unprecedented global health and humanitarian crisis with the rapid spread of Covid-19 pandemic, China sees this as an opportunity to push her geopolitical agenda. And, the same is explicitly evident in South Asia and the Indian Ocean region where China is unmistakably aiding her geopolitical agenda with humanitarian assistance. Unlike India, the Chinese approach in South Asia or in the Indian Ocean region (IOR) is neither benign nor in accordance with the principle of mutual benefits and inclusiveness. In fact, it is merely guided by China's national interest. And, interestingly, amused with growing Chinese influence in their economic and security domains, many small countries of the region are not interested to realise the long term consequences of China's growing clouts. As most of the small countries of South Asia and the IOR are set to face worse economic crisis in the post Covid period, China is ready to exploit the situation for its own political, economic and strategic gains.

The recent report titled "A Global Survey of US-China Competition in the Coronavirus Era" by Hudson Institute, the USA, explicitly mentioned that China's immediate goal in South Asia is to limit any "defiance" from India and thwart its expanding partnership with the US. China's penetration into India's region of influence (South Asia and IOR) is indeed a strategic loss for India. The neighbours in the Chinese debt trap are undoubtedly a potential threat for India's security. Further, the report rightly mentioned that now China, the second largest economy in the world, is succeeding its South Asia strategy through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which distributes loans and invest in large infrastructure projects across the region.

After Pakistan and Sri Lanka, now Nepal, despite some resistance from its own citizens, is preparing to plunge into Chinese debt trap. Nepal's recent political adventure, the constitutional claim after updating the country's map without historical facts and evidence, is merely a conspiracy by ruling political party to ignite the anti-India sentiments for immediate domestic political gains and to appease China. Certainly, it will not be prudent to blame India's neighbourhood policy for such a middle



in the Indo-Nepal bilateral ties.

The small countries of the region such as Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Maldives choose to prefer "omni directional friendship with shifting tilts" where ruling party or parties and their leaderships primarily determine the direction of the tilts. The change of guards in Sri Lanka and Maldives in 2015 and 2018 respectively assured the curtailment of Chinese influence in their respective countries. The ouster of the pro-China Mahinda Rajapaksa Government in Sri Lanka in 2015 and the Abdullah Yameen Government in Maldives in 2018 was sighing of relief for India; while to India's chagrin, KP Oli returned as Prime Minister of Nepal in 2018.

India, China's jostle for influence

in the region is continued during pandemic also, although, means and intentions are not the same. Yet, mid of the Covid-19 crisis, India has scaled up its diplomatic outreach and humanitarian assistance in the most part of the world, including South Asia and the IOR. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's initiative to create an emergency Covid-19 fund for SAARC countries, India's Covid medical diplomacy and the Indian Army and Navy's initiatives to help the neighbouring countries to deal with the growing numbers of coronavirus cases in such an unprecedented situation at domestic front, must be appreciated. India's Covid medical diplomacy is not only about export of medicine, but also includes online training programme for the

officials of health-care professionals of SAARC countries and dispatch of the teams of military doctors to Maldives, Nepal and Kuwait. India supplied medicine, both on commercial and the grant basis, to more than 100 countries. But immediate neighbourhood remains the key priority for India as it supplied the medicine to immediate neighbours by Indian aircraft and Air force flights and to others by commercial couriers.

For India, Covid-19 pandemic is an occasion to coordinate, cooperate and lend assistance to smaller neighbours to fight against pandemic and create greater impact in the long term. Medical diplomacy has emerged as an effective tool of India's Covid diplomacy, and certainly

enhancing India's goodwill with many countries. But China is not behind; during the Covid pandemic, China is enhancing its influence in the region by providing medical hardware and other assistance to smaller countries of the region. China, which has already made her potent presence in the region through various means such as economy, trade, defence and soft power, is now ready to neutralise the Indian efforts in her immediate neighbourhood. And, undoubtedly, this is one of the key reasons why despite the good intention and approach India's neighbourhood first policy has not been much successful in last decades to meet the expectations.

How to manage China's rising profile in South Asia in the post-

Covid period will certainly be an uphill task for India. However, it was never an easy task for any extra regional powers to dominate the periphery of any regional power; advantage of geography blends with good neighbourhood policy might help India to balance China in the region. Although, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to regain its influence in the region India is making all efforts to engage neighbours more meaningfully, but the situation demands some extra efforts and calibrations. Finding ways to correct the past mistakes in the neighbourhood policy is one of the most daunting tasks for India's foreign policy makers.

In the neighbourhood, India needs to embrace the logic of economic interdependence and ensure the timely completion of ongoing connectivity and development projects. During his six years of tenure, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited all neighbouring countries and ensured satisfactory progress on political, diplomatic as well as physical connectivity fronts. New Delhi seems determined to connect eastern neighbours through BBIN (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal) sub-regional initiative and with the construction of more than 10 new check points to facilitate trade and movement of vehicles along the borders of eastern neighbours: Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Myanmar. Complaining against Chinese economic influence in the neighbouring countries and China-linked security concerns in India's vicinity, intangible or tangible, is indeed a futile exercise. However, India should avoid the habit of downplaying China-related security concerns in South Asian water. The China's base and port strategy in South Asian littoral states or in the IOR or presence of Chinese submarines in the Andaman water are definitely not only to serve the China's commercial interest. To balance China in South Asian water or in the IOR, beside the capacity building and capacity enhancement, with or without Quad India should not hesitate in engaging the US and other like-minded major and middle powers in the region, especially in the vicinity of the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

(The writers are Delhi-based International relations and foreign policy analysts)

China, which has already made her potent presence in the region through various means such as economy, trade, defence and soft power, is now ready to neutralise the Indian efforts in her immediate neighbourhood. And, undoubtedly, this is one of the key reasons why despite the good intentions and approach, India's neighbourhood first policy has not been much successful in last decades to meet the expectations. India needs to correct the past mistakes in the neighbourhood policy to overcome Chinese sinister designs



AMIT KUMAR



SMITA TIWARY

OTHERVOICE

A mission towards Atmanirbhar Bharat

During Covid times, as we prepare ourselves for a new world, our focus has to be on the importance of indigenous research and development of impact-driven innovation that is key for India's march towards an Atmanirbhar Bharat



RENU SWARUP

The unprecedented situation which has arisen globally because of the Covid-19 pandemic has brought before the world many valuable learnings — sustainable and collaborative practices to become self-reliant are the trust harbingers of healthy societies, economies and healthier nations. As we battle Covid-19 today and reconcile with the possibility of a new endemic infectious disease, we must realise that "atma nirbharta" is the only way to not only cushion us from the socio-economic blow that this pandemic has dealt us but also prepare us for what lies ahead in the late Covid-19 world. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given a clarion call to all our scientists, start-ups, industry saying that "a self-reliant India is the only way forward — Atmanirbhar Bharat."

The Department of Biotechnology (DBT), since its very inception in the late 80s, has been committed to delivering solutions for societal challenges with a focus on "Make in India." Today, as we are positioned from discovery research to translational research, from academia to startups from institutional collaboration to knowledge translational clusters DBT has transformed the scientific innovation spectrum in India.

As appropriately said by our Prime Minister it is imperative that we don't conflate a self-reliant India with a self-centered India. International



cooperation and collaboration are at the core of self-reliance — India's progress will undoubtedly contribute to global progress. The Department of Biotechnology and its Public Sector BIRAC (Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council) has epitomised this value by initiating multiple collaborative research and development programmes with several countries and philanthropic organisations in diverse areas of biotechnology.

Vaccine research and

development has been a core focus-area for DBT. In a matter of national pride, in 2018, ROTAVAC — a vaccine to fight rotavirus developed with support from the Department of Biotechnology — became India's first indigenous vaccine to be prequalified by WHO. Rotavirus is a highly contagious disease that claims lives of nearly half a million children every year across the world — prequalification allowed ROTAVAC to be procured by GAVI and UN agencies for use in low and middle-income

countries. Today 1 out of 6 children in the world receive India-manufactured vaccines. In 2019, DBT launched the Ind-CEPI mission programme aligned with the Global CEPI, to calibrate efforts on developing vaccines for diseases in India that could have epidemic potential, even as it prepares a multi-year plan to focus on development of vaccines for malaria, dengue, chikungunya and tuberculosis.

Similarly, since 1987, the Indo-US Vaccine Action Program (VAP), a bilateral

programme of the DBT, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India; and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases of the National Institutes of Health, the USA, has supported countless research and capacity strengthening programmes in priority areas like viral hepatitis (such as hepatitis C), typhoid, rabies, rotavirus diarrhoea, acute respiratory infections, tuberculosis, parasitic diseases (leishmaniasis, malaria), HIV co-morbidities, streptococcal infections and dengue. It's no surprise then that the Indo-US VAP has been recognised internationally as a model bilateral programme in biomedical research. The Indo-EU collaboration for development of an influenza vaccine is another such example.

In our effort towards self-reliance, Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), established by the Department of Biotechnology, has consistently exemplified the ideation-to-innovation model by identifying and incubating efforts towards needs-based product-focused research and development.

More recently, in the fight against Covid-19, DBT-BIRAC has led from the front. Within the first few weeks of the Covid-19 pandemic, DBT-BIRAC announced a Covid-19 research consortium to develop safe and effective biomedical solutions to combat SARS-CoV-2. The consortium

received an overwhelming response and has, so far, supported over 70 proposals for development of diagnostics, vaccines, novel therapeutics, repurposing of drugs and other technologies to find solutions for the healthcare challenges of this pandemic. More than 20 different Vaccine Candidates are being developed by our indigenous developers from industry, startups and academia.

A true example of our mission towards self-reliance is the development of indigenous diagnostic kits for Covid-19. In March 2020, when the first few testing activities began, we were totally dependent on imported kits. The Government took immediate action and with a combination of enabling policies and funding opportunities, today we have over 20 Indian manufacturers and a kit production capacity of more than 1 lakh kits per day. To meet this requirement, the Department of Biotechnology and BIRAC through the National Biopharma Mission have set up a manufacturing complex at AMTZ Vishakhapatnam. The requirement of indigenous components, reagents and other related parts is now being met through N-BRIC, a National Biomedical Resource Indigenisation Consortia set up in a PPP model to cater to our needs to meet the targets of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

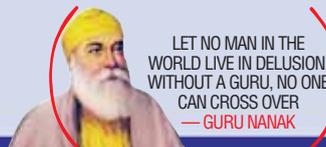
BIRAC has been fast tracking many innovations such as

glucose-monitoring and hypertension monitoring which are critical in Covid-19 management. Similarly, several companies are being supported to scale-up production and manufacturing of testing and screening kits, PPEs, ventilators, etc. From extending financial support to solutions that are ready for deployment to accelerating vaccine development and encouraging vaccine research, DBT-BIRAC are playing a catalytic and enabling role in battling Covid-19 with indigenous solutions through its 16 research institutes, more than 1000 startups, and 50 bio-incubators. The DBT-BIRAC team is also working along with the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) to provide a rapid response regulatory framework for the discovery to delivery process of Covid-19 innovations.

As the world is looking at finding quick solutions for meeting the huge healthcare challenges which Covid-19 outbreak has brought before us, our effort is to ensure that our innovations continue to focus on scalability, sustainability and replicability.

As we prepare ourselves for a new world, our focus has to be on the importance of indigenous research and development of impact-driven innovation, this is key for our march towards an Atmanirbhar Bharat.

(The writer is Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, Government of India)



YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19
This week you would be conscious about your health and devote time towards your well-being. Every action makes a difference. Think positive, follow wellness practices and remember that healthy mind stays in a healthy body. Success is guaranteed. On the career front, you need to be alert, agile and patient as you attempt to juggle between your family, friends, work, finances, health and new challenges this week. Prioritise your needs and activities and carefully manage your time. Financial constraints may be felt and you may find it difficult to start a new venture due to lack of funds. You will feel lucky in the matters of the heart. Things are smooth and you will enjoy the company of your loved ones.

Lucky number 22
Lucky colour Red
Lucky day Wednesday



LEO July 23-Aug 22
Bring balance in work and family; body and mind. You are very imaginative and spend a lot of time thinking, dreaming and weaving stories. The desires and passions would be on a high this week, making you a weak person. Your efficiency may go down. Physical exercise will help you stay grounded. On the career front, things will move as per your desire, giving you much scope and hopes for the future. Be prepared for a surprise. An important project may be assigned to you. You may work for a cause and attain immense satisfaction. You are caring and generous to the needs of your loved ones and devote a lot of time looking after them. You may feel alone in the later part of the week and may plan something exciting with your loved ones.

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Blue
Lucky day Thursday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21
Working on keeping a balanced perspective about life will help you to stay healthy this week. Moderation is an important part of living a sensible and healthy life. Those suffering a health issue, must consult their doctor and get themselves examined. On the professional front, you are the leader and people will look for your guidance. Focus your attention completely on your goal and be very careful not to reveal any weaknesses or personal doubt. Through will power and self-control you will come out with the solutions for tough times. You enjoy the company of friends and relatives. Things should be going well especially on the love front. You can look forward to at least one pleasant reunion with someone that you have been apart from for some time.

Lucky number 19
Lucky colour Sky Blue
Lucky day Friday



TAURUS April 20-May 20
Some negative forces are at play against you this week. Be cautious of your health. This is a time when you need to watch out against pressure — overwork, exertion, and stress. Addictions and obsessions could get dominant upon you. Pay attention to diet, exercise, and making time to rest and eat healthy food. Career-wise, new job opportunity is on the cards. If you are trying to switch over or looking for new roles and start-ups, the time when you are called for. Those in business will earn good money this week. This is still a time that calls for financial restraint. Save for the hard days. Be open to new possibilities and stimulate your imagination to allow your talent to unfold. You may end up or put to close a stale relationship with the one you loved.

Lucky number 18
Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Friday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22
This week is good in terms of health. You are in a mood to entertain and socialise. This will prove to be refreshing, rejuvenating and give you hopes and dreams. Joy and celebrations are on the cards. Career-wise, this week is mixed with positive and negative energies. You have both mental and physical agility. Anticipation makes you an avid learner and an excellent student. Your sharp mental skills would moderate you to perform exceptionally well. You will experience a sudden personal growth if you use your energies for something meaningful. This is a good time for you in terms of a relationship. If you are already committed, make sure that your communication is very clear. Ensure to take some time to talk to each other.

Lucky number 6
Lucky colour Pink
Lucky day Friday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19
Some external forces are likely to cause worry this week. Health may be the other reason for stress. Trust your instincts and don't fill yourself with negative feelings. Do not get upset and restless. Meditation, yoga and Pranayam activities would be good for you at this time. Gather your strength and self-confidence. Professionally, your work will pick up momentum, though, in the beginning, you would be slightly apprehensive and negative. In later part, you may be all fired up on the issues that you are particularly passionate about. This week if you have set your mind to accomplish your goals you can achieve anything you desire. You will fall short of words to express yourself when it comes to love. True love allows for space between the lovers.

Lucky number 21
Lucky colour Magenta
Lucky day Wednesday



GEMINI May 21-June 20
Health-wise, things would be satisfactory. You will experience prosperity, progress and happiness this week. You are likely to have several clear flashes of important spiritual insights during this period. Share and discuss with others, you are all on a spiritual journey, and your insights are likely to be valuable for others. Some doubts on the career front will become clear but all is not revealed at this point. This week you are focused in your approach. A pleasant surprise may be coming your way soon concerning work. You may come up with some new processes that make your work-life simpler and less stressful. This is the time to stay away from building new relationships. Time is not right for deep bonding and pure love.

Lucky number 12
Lucky colour Golden
Lucky day Sunday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22
Health-wise, this week will be fabulous. If you are waiting on test results of some kind, they are likely to be good. You will be calm, relieved and inspired. You are in touch with your spirituality now and that makes it a great time for you to reach out to others, and to share your wisdom and joy. Something may be troubling you concerning your professional life. Worrying about your job is not going to help matters. Focus on what you can control, and try to leave your anxiety behind. Be open and straightforward in your approach to work. There are many hassles on the personal front. Your spouse may have other priorities in life than your love. This is not a time to act out in rage, instead, look at the situation from a place of love and compassion.

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Monday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18
Health needs attention. Find means to relax. Laughter is the best remedy. The stress of work could be neutralised by enjoying yourself and create a lighter environment. Bring balance in everything that is associated with exercise. Make it a way of living, relaxation and your emotional and mental wellbeing. On the career front, you are successful in performing tasks that involve cooperation and team harmony. You are going to get a great deal accomplished with high spirit in a short period. If you are committed, your relations will be more mature and have understanding. This is a good time to take important decisions related to the relationship. This is the time when you can fuse life in dead relationships.

Lucky number 10
Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Tuesday



CANCER June 21-July 22
Medical issues need immediate attention. You may need to change your routine, environment or experiment with different spiritual traditions. Listen to your body. Groomed look and good communication skills work wonders at work. Focus on your working style, attitude and your dealings with the people around you. Bring desirable changes if you see that things are not moving as per your requirements. Be a good listener. Co-operation and harmony at the workplace will get you great results. This week does not predict a sound relationship. You may feel emotionally hurt and broken. Love relationships could be disheartening. Try to sort out the differences and find a solution.

Lucky number 9
Lucky colour Orange
Lucky day Saturday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21
This week you will not compromise on health issues, which is good. You can create order out of chaos by carefully categorising your thoughts and mapping out what needs to be done in order to solve the problem. Try to be a little flexible, sensitive and soft in your approach. Career-wise, you have a sharp mind and are ready to take risks. Your professional approach at this time will benefit you. Avoid silly debates otherwise, you will find yourself in a heated argument. You'll find a solution to a recent quarrel but don't let your pride stop you getting immediate clarification. This is an excellent time for a new relationship. If you are already committed, your relationship may move to new, higher, more fulfilling levels. Your confidence level will be high.

Lucky number 20
Lucky colour Indigo
Lucky day Tuesday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20
You need attention and care of the loved ones. Any health problems manifesting now may be a result of neglected emotional issues. Create your energy and enthusiasm. Find the most upbeat and spiritually aware person that you know, and talk to him/her about what makes them tick. You will learn helpful things. You may have recently come through a very difficult time on the career front. Make sure that you don't make the same mistakes that will contribute to the problem. Worrying about your job is not going to help matters. You are not in a mood to tolerate boss order or higher tone. Patience is the key. You are fully charged up with emotions and sentiments. You try to fulfil the demands of loved ones. This is a good time to express feelings if you love someone.

Lucky number 3
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Wednesday

Madhu Kotiya is a tarot card reader, spiritual healer, and Founder, MShezaim Institute of Tarot and Divination. Contact details: madhu@indiatarot.com, www.indiatarot.com, M. 9873283331



ASTROTURF
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Truth is simple, spontaneous

The truth is simple and spontaneous. It is within everybody's sight. We just need to look at things with an open mind. The paradox, however, is that simple truth eludes our attention. Our mind has become so complexed that we can't take note of simple things. We rather prefer going in circles in search of underlying truth, more often ending up having a fractioned view.

We all know that when glaciers melt, water streams emerge, which ends in the sea. All through its run, it extends life. But for water there will be no vegetation on ground, in fact, no life. Fruit born by trees and the crops grown sustain us. If we stop eating but we can still live on water, but mind will stop working. So goes the saying: "Anna se bud-dhi, jala se prana", meaning that food grains nourish our mind, and water sustains life. Not only that, the trees absorb carbon dioxide that our body discharges, and in turn, release fresh oxygen to sustain our life. The trees also maintain weather cycle. Water running down the stream, as also in the sea evaporates, leaving behind all impurities, forms cloud and then rains to

recharge our water resources and life cycle. This way you can see, how interconnected and interdependent our lives are.

You don't need a rocket science to understand such fundamental truth. Such truths not in our reckoning, we lose track of our collective obligations, and remain centred to our self-centric aspirational urges. Otherwise, we would have cared not to vitiate environmental conditions — not been careless to pollute our water resources and the environment around. Had the people in Wuhan state of China maintained their sense of hygiene, they would not have picked up the Coronavirus, which has overtaken the whole world. In fact, we have lost our sense of proportion so much that but for pandemics overtaking us, we don't remember that the world is a unified organism, where no individual has a reality independent of the whole. The obvious implication is that if ever something happens at one end of this world, its effect will reach far and wide and so it happened. This pandemic is therefore a wake up call for all of us.

The question now is: how to remain live to the above realities. It is again, not



a rocket science. You just need to clear off the clutter of mind, purify your mind so as to rise above all its limitations and preconditioning, and truth will be forthcoming spontaneously. The other day I was being interviewed on the probable outcome of the recent eclipse. One of the viewer asked me: "Sun is the soul of the earth. If the Sun itself becomes afflicted during eclipse, how can people on earth remain good?"

Well, a cloud coming in way of the solar light, will though restrict its reach to us, but can't anyway bring down the solar intensity. During the solar eclipse, Moon comes in between the Sun and Earth, and so, it is almost like a temporary clouding effect. The Sun can no way be afflicted at all, I answered. The anchor then asked me: "Sir, the pundits are suggesting so many remedial measures to ward off the evil influence of eclipse, but you have taken an altogether different approach. How is this difference in approach?" Well, the pundits are stuck to their beliefs, and so are having a coloured vision of this natural annular phenomenon, mostly to serve their vested interest. Any of the remedial measures they are suggesting can't appease the cosmic forces nor could they change

their course. Nobody on the earth is capable of changing the course of nature. We have to bear with intelligently, what the cosmos offers. Well, on my part, I am looking at the whole phenomenon holistically and with an open mind, free from any preconditioning whatsoever. So, I am able to see truth in black and white.

Truth of life is that the cosmos is subject to continued twists and turns and with related bearing on our life cycle. We can't change nature's course. But we can certainly negotiate with the challenges coming our way intelligently and minimise the damage, as we have been successively doing during cyclones and such natural calamities. The call of the time is to purify our minds. We may then remain alive about the living realities of life. We may be able to spontaneously and effortlessly strike truth. Accordingly, we could prepare ourselves to negotiate with the challenges coming our way intelligently.

The writer is an astrologer, vastu consultant and spiritual counsellor. Write to him at G-102, Bharat Nagar, New Friends Colony, New Delhi-110025
Tel: 91-11-49848475/9818037273
Email: bharatbhushanpadmadeo@gmail.com