

OPINION 6
PASSIVITY AND
ITS CAUSES

WORLD 8
22 PEOPLE KILLED IN
NEPAL LANDSLIDES

SPORT 12
HENDERSON'S SEASON
IS OVER: KLOPP

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10 VIVACITY

Dubey shot in startling encounter

Gangster Vikas killed while fleeing, cops' version questioned

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Notorious gangster Vikas Dubey was killed in an encounter by the Uttar Pradesh Police on Friday morning after the vehicle carrying him from Ujjain to Kanpur — almost 700 km — met with an accident and he tried to escape from the spot in Bhauti area, a senior police official said.

The Madhya Pradesh Police had arrested Dubey outside the Mahakal temple in Ujjain on Thursday morning. He was handed over to an UP Police team late in the evening.

The Uttar Pradesh STF on Friday said the official vehicle in which gangster Vikas Dubey was being brought to Kanpur overturned when a herd of cattle suddenly came in front of it. According to a statement released by the STF, Dubey was being brought to Kanpur from Ujjain for appearance in a local court when the vehicle in which he was coming overturned after a herd of cattle suddenly came in front of it.

Police said the gangster snatched a pistol from one of the policemen injured in the accident and was shot when he opened fire while trying to flee, an account being questioned by Opposition parties. Six policemen, including two from the STF, were hurt in the accident and the exchange of fire around 6 am, an official said.

Dubey was the sixth man to die in a police encounter

after the ambush he masterminded in Kanpur's Bikru village past midnight on July 2, killing eight policemen who had come to arrest him.

Questions were being raised over the police version, challenging the account of the attempted escape of a gangster who had made no attempt to flee when nabbed near Ujjain's Mahakal temple a day earlier.

There was also some scepticism over the possibility of someone managing to snatch a policeman's weapon and then extricating himself from an overturned vehicle.

There were allegations that the media trailing the police convoy was stopped for a few minutes before the encounter. Unverified video clips show Dubey sitting in a different car when the convoy set out from Ujjain. Police said the media was stopped for checking.

However, the encounter killing of Dubey drew divergent reactions from retired and serving personnel, with a former Uttar Pradesh Police chief saying the STF should have ensured his safety as his interrogation would have exposed several names who colluded with him and protected him.

Some said the encounter is reminiscent of a similar incident in which four people, accused of rape and murder of a veterinary doctor, had met a similar fate in Hyderabad in December 2019.

Continued on Page 2



Police and media at the encounter site where gangster Vikas Dubey was killed when he allegedly tried to escape from the spot following an accident near Kanpur in the early hours of Friday

Silencing don to save masters: Opp

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The encounter killing of gangster Vikas Dubey on Friday morning created a political uproar in Uttar Pradesh with the Opposition demanding a judicial probe into the police action and accusing the Yogi Adityanath Government of "silencing" the gangster to save his political patrons.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on

Friday took a swipe at the UP Government over the encounter killing of Dubey saying while the criminal has gone, what about those protecting him? She also demanded a probe into the entire sequence of events, since killing of eight policemen and later alleged "encounter" of six criminals, including Dubey, by a sitting Supreme Court judge.

In a tweet in Hindi, Priyanka Gandhi said, "The

criminal has gone, but what about the crime and those protecting him." Priyanka had earlier demanded a CBI probe to ascertain the facts about the alleged "grant of protection" to Dubey.

She had also accused the BJP Government in Uttar Pradesh of "complete failure" in handling the Kanpur ambush case in which eight policemen were killed.

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Rajnath reviews LAC situation as Armies pull back

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the pullback by both the Armies on the tense Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh continued for the fifth day, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday took stock of the situation on the border with military top brass. India and China also reaffirmed their commitment to disengage and de-escalate as per bilateral pacts and agreed to keep all lines of communication open to restore peace and tranquility along the border.

These assurances to resolve all issues came about during the 16th meeting of Working Mechanism for Consultation & Coordination (WMCC) on India-China border affairs. The Indian delegation was led by Joint Secretary (East Asia) while Director General of Boundary & Oceanic Dept of Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs led Chinese delegation, the External Affairs Ministry said later.

Meanwhile, against the backdrop of ongoing situation at the LAC, Rajnath also held telephonic talks with his US counterpart Marke Esper on Friday. They have spoken several times on bilateral defence ties and issues of mutual interest and Friday's conversation was in continuation of this exchange, sources said.

Chinese Ambassador to

Def Min also spoke to US counterpart Marke Esper over border issue



India Sun Weidong in a statement stressed on peace and said "the boundary question left over by history is sensitive and complicated. We need to find a fair & reasonable solution mutually acceptable through equal consultation & peaceful negotiation."

Giving details about the joint secretary-level talks, sources said the two sides also agreed to maintain the ongoing communication both at the diplomatic and military level to ensure early resolution of the situation. They agreed to hold another meeting of the WMCC in the near future.

Continued on Page 2

CAPSULE

LJP RAISES CONCERN OVER HOLDING POLLS IN BIHAR
New Delhi: BJP ally LJP on Friday joined the Opposition RJD in expressing concern over holding the Bihar Assembly polls amid a spread of Covid-19 cases, with its president Chirag Paswan saying it will put people at risk and may result in a very low voter turnout.

CISCE DECLARES CLASS X, XII RESULTS
New Delhi: The Council for Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) on Friday announced results for class 10 and 12 exams even as it decided against bringing out a merit list this year in view of "exceptional circumstances".

India mulls calling Oz for Malabar exercise much to China's chagrin

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India is expected to take a call on inviting Australia to join the naval Malabar series of exercises next week as China has been bitterly opposed to the inclusion of Australia in this annual exercise, which includes India, US and Japan.

Beijing opposes any move to include Australia in this prestigious exercise as it may signal militarisation of Quadrilateral (Quad) coalition. The Malabar exercises began in 1992 bilaterally between India and the US.

Japan was included in 2015 and since then there were talks to include Australia as an observer in the exercise.

Incidentally, Japan and the US are keen on Australia's inclusion in the Malabar series of exercises and if India assents, the two countries will be duly informed as per laid-down procedures, officials said. The exercise in the Indian Ocean region this year was delayed due to coronavirus pandemic and will now be held towards the end of this year, they added.

Australia had made its intentions clear to join the

exercise in 2017 and requested to be included as an observer. However, the decision is pending since then given the strategic ramifications, sources said. India did not include Australia in the exercises in 2018 and 2019.

A spokesperson for Australia's defense department has been quoted as saying, "Australia sees value in participating in quadrilateral defense activities in order to increase interoperability and advance our collective interests in a free, open and prosperous Indo-Pacific region."

Over 1 lakh new Covid cases in 4 days

26,651 cases in India; Maha 7,862 on Friday; Kerala sees its highest spike

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Taking just four days to add over one lakh cases, India's coronavirus count went past 8 lakh on Friday as the virus aggressively spread into areas that were relatively better off so far. India had 7.20 lakh cases on Monday.

With the addition of 26,651 new cases and 520 deaths, India overall count of cases stood at 8,21,493 and death tally 22,144 at the end of Friday. This is the fifth day when India recorded 25,000 plus cases in a row.

Maharashtra surpassed the earlier daily highest tally of 7,074 and recorded an all-time



high of 7,862 Covid-19 cases, even as 226 more people died of coronavirus in various parts of the State.

With fresh infections, the total number of positive cases in the State climbed to 2,38,461. Similarly, with 226 fresh deaths, the total number of deaths

inched closer to 10,000 marks by going up to 9,893.

Of the total 226 deaths, Mumbai accounted for 73 deaths, taking the total number of deaths in the metropolis to 5,205 now, while the total number of positive patients climbed up by 1,337 cases to touch 90,461.

In addition to 73 deaths in Mumbai, there were 53 deaths in Thane, 37 deaths in Pune, 10 deaths in Palghar, nine each in Raigad and Aurangabad, seven in Jalgaon, five each in Nashik and Solapur, four in Dhule, three in Buldhana, two in Amravati, one each in Ratnagiri, Sangli, Kolhapur, Jalna, Hingoli, Parbhani, Latur, and Washim.

Delhi reported 2,089 positive cases and 42 deaths, taking the total number of positive

cases in the national capital to 1,09,140 including 84,694 recovered/discharged/migrated and 3,300 deaths.

Continued on Page 2

India's Covid-19 case fatality rate dips to 2.72%: Health Ministry

New Delhi: From 2.82 per cent a month earlier, India's Covid-19 case fatality rate has declined to 2.72 per cent which is lower than that of many other countries, the Union Health Ministry said on Friday. It also noted that 30 states and Union Territories have a fatality rate lower than the national average.

Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL CASES: 8,21,493
DEATHS: 22,144
RECOVERED: 5,16,206
ACTIVE: 2,82,765

STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	2,38,461	9,893	1,32,625
Tamil Nadu	1,30,261	1,829	82,324
Delhi	1,09,140	3,300	84,694
Gujarat	40,155	2,023	28,183
Uttar Pradesh	33,700	889	21,787
Karnataka	33,418	545	13,838
Telangana	32,224	339	19,205
West Bengal	27,109	880	17,348
Andhra Pradesh	25,422	292	13,194
Rajasthan	23,174	497	17,620
Haryana	19,934	290	14,904
Madhya Pradesh	16,657	638	12,481
Assam	14,601	35	9,849
Bihar	14,330	111	10,251
Odisha	11,956	73	7,972
Jammu & Kashmir	9,888	159	5,786

CONDUCT RAPID ANTIGEN TESTS IN EVERY HOUSEHOLD: YOGI TO OFFICIALS

Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has asked officials to carry out rapid antigen tests in every household during the three-day special cleanliness campaign initiated from Friday. A special cleanliness campaign has been initiated from July 10-13 to create awareness about Covid-19, vector-borne diseases and other ailments.

NOW YOU CAN HELP SAVE A LIFE

Recovered Corona patients can donate their plasma and help Corona patients recover

Delhi Government has launched India's first Plasma Bank

If 14 days have passed since you recovered from Corona, you can donate your plasma and help save someone's life.

DON'T BE AFRAID OF DONATING PLASMA

IT DOESN'T CAUSE DONORS ANY WEAKNESS

YOU HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO COME FORWARD TO HELP SAVE LIVES.

To donate plasma, Call 1031 or visit www.delhifightscorona.in/donateplasma

STAY SAFE

- STAY AT HOME
- WEAR A MASK
- AVOID CONTACT WITH SICK PEOPLE
- DON'T TOUCH EYES, NOSE
- WASH HANDS OR CLEAN WITH ALCOHOL-BASED SANITISER

Delhi Government Corona Helpline - Call 1031

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विद्युत् संचालक विभाग, दिल्ली
Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of NCT of Delhi

60 cops at Vikas razed house, locals tightlipped

Bikru (Kanpur): There was an eerie silence outside the demolished house of gangster Vikas Dubey where around 60 policemen are keeping a hawk-eyed vigil after the news spread that he was killed in an encounter on Friday.

The policemen, most of whom are deployed on daily shifts, were sitting on wooden beds under a Neem tree, watching a steady stream of medi-apersons arriving with a variety of questions.

But the scribes are welcomed with silence as the policemen and locals are unwilling to speak.

A broken baseball bat, damaged tractors, and some two-wheelers and an SUV are seen as one enters the house using a ramp -- signs of what it was before the Kanpur administration demolished it on Saturday.

Some statue of Lord Shiva, Parashurama, goddess Durga and Radha-Krishna are kept on

an unused electrical equipment under a Neem tree. The walls of the house lay demolished, and the barbed wire used for fencing are on the ground with damaged parts of vehicles all around. Among the debris lies a new mattress in a room that has a ceiling fan mounted.

The house is around 18 km from Chaubeypur police station, where a new station officer has taken over, after all the policemen posted there were shunted out after the Vikas Dubey gang ambushed and killed eight cops who went to arrest him.

The new SHO, however, politely refused to speak. Locating Dubey's house was not very difficult as everybody in neighbouring villages knows by now where the dreaded criminal lived in the area. They were willing to tell the direction. **PTI**

India most attractive global market for clean energy: Modi

PTI ■ REWA

India has emerged as the most attractive global market for clean energy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday.

Launching a 750 MW solar project in Rewa in Madhya Pradesh through video-conferencing, Modi also said the state will emerge as a major hub for clean and cheap power in the country.

"Solar energy is sure, pure and secure and the country is now among the top five solar power producers in the world," he said.

The Rewa solar power plant will not only supply power to Madhya Pradesh, but also to the Delhi Metro, Modi said.

Modi said self-reliance in electricity is integral for 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', adding solar energy will play an integral part in achieving this objective. The world is in a dilemma on whether to focus on the environment or focus on the economy, Modi said. He said solar energy is sure, pure, and secure. "It is sure because the sun would shine throughout the world; it is secure because solar energy rather than polluting environment, helps replenish it," he said.

"Today, Rewa has scripted history. Rewa is identified with the name of mother Narmada and the white tiger. Now, the name of Asia's largest solar power project has also been added to it," he said.

387 test +ve on Friday in J&K

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

The total number of coronavirus positive cases are set to cross 10,000 in the next 24 hours in Jammu & Kashmir.

On Friday, the highest ever tally of 387 positive cases were detected in one single day while five more deaths due to Covid-19 were recorded, one in Jammu and four in Kashmir division.

In the last one month, Jammu & Kashmir has recorded more than 5,000 new cases of coronavirus. The tally of positive cases stood at 4507 on June 10 and on Friday the total cases touched 9888.

According to the bulletin, "out of 9,888 positive cases, 3943 are active positive. So far, 5786 cases have recovered in Jammu & Kashmir and 159 deaths have been reported.

On ground, the situation is alarming especially in Kashmir valley which is constantly recording over 250 cases for past several days. Out of 387 new cases, 290 cases were detected from Kashmir division and 97 from Jammu division on Friday.

Srinagar is the worst affected district of Kashmir valley. So far 1545 cases have been detected in Srinagar district alone. Out of this 1012 are active positive followed by Baramulla with 1251 cases and 707 active positive.

In Jammu region, only Rajouri district witnessed highest ever tally of 51 positive cases in one single day, sending alarm bells ringing among the local population. Additional Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Thakur Sher Singh posted a tweet saying, "highest ever spike of Covid-19 +ve cases in district. 51 including 16 from Red Zone Draj, 20 from Rajouri, Ghampur, IRP, DPL, Nagesh Bridge Thanamandi, Manjakote, Muradpur Palma, Kakora & another 14 from different areas with travel history".

Over 1 lakh...

From Page 1

The national capital carried over 10,129 RT-PCR tests and 12,832 rapid antigen tests on Friday. Total tests done so far stands at 7,47,109 in Delhi.

Karnataka recorded 2313 cases and 67 deaths, while West Bengal saw 1198 cases and 28 deaths. Andhra Pradesh reported 1608 cases and 16 deaths, while Gujarat logged 875 cases and 14 deaths.

In Tamil Nadu, there was a small decline in the number of persons diagnosed with Covid-19. The day saw 3,680 persons testing positive for the pandemic while 64 succumbed to the disease in the last 24 hours, according to the bulletin issued by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

On Thursday, 4,231 persons had been tested positive for the pandemic and Friday's figures offered some kind of relief to the administrators. As on Friday, the number of active patients were 46,105 while the total number of persons tested positive till date breached 1.3 lakh.

While 1,216 persons were diagnosed with covid-19 in Chennai, the number of persons afflicted with the virus increased to 242 in Chengalpatt which had shown a decrease on Thursday (169).

Kancheepuram (61) and Thiruvallur (219) too tested a few cases less than that of Thursday. Madurai (192) and Virudhunagar (143) also showed small falls in

the number of cases. In Kerala, it turned out to be yet another Black Friday as the State diagnosed a record number of 416 persons with Covid-19. Last Friday, 211 persons had tested positive in the State and the number has almost doubled in seven days. This is the highest number of patients to be diagnosed in the State on a single day, according to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

The total number of Coronavirus positive cases are set to cross 10,000 in the next 24 hours in Jammu and Kashmir. On Friday, the highest ever tally of 387 positive cases were detected in one single day while five more deaths due to Covid 19 were recorded, one in Jammu and four in Kashmir division.

In the last one month, Jammu and Kashmir has recorded more than 5000 new cases of coronavirus.

The tally of positive cases stood at 4507 on June 10 and on Friday the total cases touched 9888. The situation is alarming especially in Kashmir valley which is constantly recording over 250 cases for past several days. Out of 387 new cases, 290 cases were detected from Kashmir division and 97 from Jammu division on Friday.

Srinagar is the worst affected district of Kashmir valley. So far 1545 cases have been detected in Srinagar district alone. Out of this 1012 are active positive followed by Baramulla with 1251 cases and 707 active positive.

Proud of India for standing up to Chinese aggression: US Senator

Washington: A top US Senator has praised the Indian government for standing up to Chinese aggression in a border dispute, hoping this would prompt other countries to be fearless in their handling of China.

The Indian and Chinese armies have been locked in a bitter standoff in eastern Ladakh for the last eight weeks. The ten-

sion escalated manifold after a clash at Galwan Valley in which 20 Indian Army personnel were killed. The Chinese side also suffered casualties but it is yet to give out the details.

"I'm very proud of the fact that (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi in India is standing up to them (China). I'm very proud of what Canada is doing. Not

every country is running and hiding in the corner," Republican Senator John Kennedy told Fox News in an interview on Thursday.

The United States and the international community has to make the Chinese Communist Party understand that we expect them to play by the rules, he said. **PTI**

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority

Administrative Building, Sector - 6, Noida - 201301 (U.P.)
Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened / downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com & <https://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

S. No	Job No. / Work Name	Amount
1.	55/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21, M/o Park A-50, A-219, A-451, A-680, B-127A, B-127B, B-300, C-624, C-block in front of Sanatan dharm Mandir and along with Sanatan dharam Mandir park Sector-19 and Sector-20 All Parks with two year Maintenance.	Cost Rs. 67.12 Lacs
2.	61/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21, M/o Park, (Sh PF Open gym) Sector-127 Village Bakhtawarpur with Five Year Maintenance.	Cost Rs.30.84 Lacs
3.	60/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21, M/o Park, (Sh PF Open gym) Century Appartment MIG sector-100 with Five Year Maintenance.	Cost Rs.30.84 Lacs
4.	85/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2020-21, M/o Park & RSP LIG Flates, E.W.S Flates sector-99 with Two Year Maintenance	Cost Rs.39.90 Lacs
5.	65/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2020-21, D/o Green belt, Express Highway (LHS & RHS) with two year maintenance in front of Village Mohiyapur Nalgarna & Jhata	Cost Rs.45.88 Lacs
6.	66/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2020-21, D/o R.S.P Sector-87 & 147, with two year maintenance (Sh: Plantation)	Cost Rs.40.65 Lacs
7.	69/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2020-21, D/o R.S.P Sector-90, 138& 144 with two year maintenance.	Cost Rs.46.67 Lacs

Which can be uploaded by date 17/07/2020 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 20/07/2020 at 11.00AM.
(B).

S. No	Job No. / Work Name	Amount
1.	234/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2018-19, M/o RSP with Two year Maintenance, Sector-122 Block-A, B, C & D) & MP-III.	Cost Rs.35.07 Lacs
2.	64/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21, M/o Park with two year Maintenance in Sector-2,3,4 Block-B, sector-10, Block-B & sector-06 DTC Park & sector-5 nera water Compound, Harola near Sharma Market and near Barat Ghar Park.	Cost Rs.57.23 Lacs
3.	89/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21, M/o Green Belt Sector-77 with two year maintenance.	Cost Rs.34.29 Lacs
4.	90/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21, M/o Green Belt with two year maintenance Sector-115 Near Bijlighar	Cost Rs.37.49 Lacs
5.	94/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21, M/o Park Sector-34, 52, 53, 61 (Submersible Boring)	Cost Rs.28.50 Lacs
6.	95/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21, M/o Park Sector-112 (SH: Open Gym) with five year maintenance.	Cost Rs.30.83 Lacs
7.	96/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21, M/o Green Belt with two year maintenance Sector-112.	Cost Rs.37.93 Lacs
8.	97/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21, M/o Park Open Gym Sector-116 with Five Year Maintenance.	Cost Rs.30.83 Lacs
9.	98/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21, M/o Park Open Gym Sector-34 with Five Year Maintenance.	Cost Rs.30.83 Lacs
10.	99/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21, M/o RSP Sector-43 & Between Sector-43 to 45 with two year maintenance.	Cost Rs.48.76 Lacs
11.	101/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21, M/o Park Sector-51 with two year maintenance.	Cost Rs.48.38 Lacs
12.	102/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21, M/o Park (R/o Footpath in diffrents parks) in sector-31, 36, 44, & 51.	Cost Rs.46.28 Lacs
13.	110/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21, M/o RSP Sector-100, 99, 49, 47, 128, 130 Etc (Uprooting and Repairing of Tree Guard).	Cost Rs.27.71 Lacs
14.	111/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21, M/o Park (Open Gym with Five year Maintenance) Mahamaya Balika Inter Collage Sector-44 & P/F of Submersible Pump Boring	Cost Rs.39.09 Lacs

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Director (Hort.)
Noida

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

Rajnath reviews...

From Page 1

Incidentally, these high-level diplomatic talks were held days before Corps Commanders of the two Armies are likely to meet next week at the LAC to review the pace of disengagement. The two Commanders have, so far, held three rounds of meetings in June since the face-offs began in early May. The stand-offs at all the four sites were now easing out after tension-filled eight weeks. The breakthrough came on Sunday last after National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval and Foreign Minister Wang Yi talked to each other to end the impasse at the border.

Carrying forward the momentum of diplomatic level talks on Friday, sources said the two sides also agreed that for overall development of bilateral relations it was essential to maintain enduring peace and tranquility in border areas. They reviewed the situation in India-China border areas, including progress made in ongoing disengagement process along the LAC in Western Sector.

As regards Rajnath's review meeting, they said Army Chief General M M Naravane briefed the Minister about the withdrawal process followed by the Chinese from all the "friction points" and the Indian response. Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat, Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh, and Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria were also present in the crucial meeting.

Naravane gave a detailed account of the implementation of the first phase of mutual disengagement of troops from Galwan Valley, Gogra, Hot Springs and Finger 4 areas in Pangong Tso, sources said.

Rajnath was also updated about the operational readiness of the Indian Army in the region to deal with any eventualities and Naravane apprised him of ground situation in all the sensitive areas along the LAC in eastern Ladakh as well as in Arunachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Sikkim.

On the forthcoming talks between the two Commanders, officials said the two officials will review the modalities to withdraw additional troops now stationed in the "depth" or operational areas.

Both the sides had bolstered their troop strength besides deploying heavy weapons soon after the stand-off started in early May. Besides taking steps to hasten the process of pullback from the depth areas, the two commanders are also likely to ensure that the additional troops return to their peacetime locations within the next few weeks, sources said.

Both sides have completed the creation of a buffer zone of three kilometers in the three friction points of Galwan Valley, Gogra and Hot Springs as part of a temporary measure, they said, adding there has been thinning out of troops from Finger 4 area in Pangong Tso(lake) as well.

Silencing don...

From Page 1

She had alleged that the chain of events in the case "exposed the chinks" in security and hinted at collusion.

Congress leader Jitin Prasada also tweeted, "With the end of Dubey in custody the Government has ensured that the trail which would have exposed his nexus with people in positions of power who allowed criminals like him to flourish, has ended too."

Former Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav too took a jibe on Yogi's encounter theory. Yadav suggested in a tweet that Dubey's killing helped the Uttar Pradesh Government protect secrets that would have come out on the politician-criminal nexus. "Basically the car did not overturn, but the Government has been saved from being overturned. The car overturned and Dubey tried to run. If he had to run then why did he surrender. The secret is very deep," Yadav said in a tweet.

Reacting to alleged "encounter" Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati on Friday demanded a Supreme Court-monitored probe into the encounter of gangster Dubey. She wanted the enquiry to cover the killing of eight policemen last week in an ambush planned and executed by Dubey.

"There should be an unbiased probe under the supervision of the Supreme Court into the killing of policemen in Kanpur and the encounter of main accused Dubey while he was trying to flee when the police vehicle overturned," Mayawati said in a tweet in Hindi.

In a separate tweet, she said, "This high-level probe is necessary for ensuring justice to eight policemen killed in Kanpur and to identify the nexus between police and criminal political elements. By such steps, UP can become crime free."

In Delhi, Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said at a Press conference that the killing of the gangster in an encounter raises several questions and sought to know who were the people sitting in echelons of power who granting protection to criminals like him.

"Congress demands that the unholy nexus between organised crime and the ilk of Dubey with those sitting in the echelons of power be probed by a sitting Supreme Court judge," Surjewala said.

He said Uttar Pradesh has become synonymous with "goondaraj" and criminals like Dubey were allowed to move around freely in the State and thus it is necessary to bring out the political-criminal nexus in the state.

Congress also said the encounter of Dubey raises several questions than answers and sought to know who feared from the arrest of the gangster and the statement he would have given before the magistrate, spilling the beans about the alleged nexus between criminals and politicians-officers in UP.

Dubey shot in startling...

From Page 1

Kanpur Range Inspector General Mohit Agarwal said Dubey fled from the car with an injured policeman's pistol.

He was chased and surrounded by policemen and was asked to surrender. When he started firing with an "intention to kill", police opened fire in self-defence, Kanpur police said.

A Press release said he was immediately taken to a hospital, where he died during treatment.

Ganesh Shankar Vidhyarthi Medical College principal Dr R B Kamal said he was brought dead to the hospital. "Dubey sustained four bullet injuries, three in the chest and one in the hand," he told reporters. Two policemen also suffered wounds, one in the arm and the other in the hand.

Dubey's post-mortem will be conducted by a panel of doctors. He had tested negative for coronavirus, the doctor said.

Hours before the encounter, an advocate had filed a petition in the Supreme Court seeking a direction to the Uttar Pradesh Government and police to ensure that he is not killed.

Uttar Pradesh's Inspector General (Civil Defence) Amitabh Thakur had also apprehended the possibility of Dubey's death, a day before it happened.

"Dubey has surrendered. It is possible he might try to escape from the custody of the UP police tomorrow and get killed. With this, the Vikas Dubey chapter will end," he had tweeted in Hindi.

Eight policemen, including Deputy Superintendent of Police Devendra Mishra, had died in a hail of bullets from the rooftops in Dubey's Bikru village in Chaubeypur area of Kanpur on July 3. Police suspect that Dubey, who faced about 60 criminal cases over the past several years, was tipped off by someone from Chaubeypur station that a team was heading out to arrest him.

Dubey was also alleged to have links with politicians. Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) Prashant Kumar said of the 21 people named in the FIR registered after the Bikru ambush, six are now dead and three arrested.

Seven others were also arrested in connection with the same crime. Twelve people, carrying rewards for their arrest, are absconding, he said. On the day the Bikru ambush took place, two of Dubey's alleged accomplices, Prem Prakash Pandey and Atul Dubey, were killed in an encounter with police in Kanpur district.

On July 8, police killed another aide, Amar Dubey, in Maudaha village in Hamirpur district.

Two more alleged accomplices were killed in Kanpur and Etawah districts on Thursday. One of them, Prabhat, died in circumstances similar to Dubey's killing, according to the police versions.

He was being brought to Kanpur on transit remand after his arrest in Faridabad when he snatched the pistol of a policeman and tried to flee, police had said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Information is given to general public at large that my client Mrs. Haminder Kaur and Mr. S. Jindler Singh alias Jindler Singh owner of Upper Ground Floor without roof rights area measuring 62.71 Sq. Mtrs., alongwith one car parking space out of Portion of property bearing no. 2369, falling under Khasra no. 317, Village Khanpur in the abadi of Mandi Wali Gali Shadpur Vain Bazar Gali no. 1 New Delhi. By virtue of Sale Deed dated 27.01.2020 vide Docno 912, Vol no. 24799. Page no. 160-170 in SR-II and Same property sold to be Mr. Bajrang Kumar and same property is going to be financed by AAAS FINANCERS LIMITED (Formerly Known as AU Housing Finance Ltd), Branch Rajinder Place, Delhi. If any person(s) has any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the Said Property then contact us within 7 days from the date of Publication of this notice and or the same to the undersigned if found by anyone. **(NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA)** Advocate, F-211, Sector-3, Vashi, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201010 (Contact at 09858611432)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS
(DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING)

Applications are invited for filling up of post of the Chief Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission, located at New Delhi.

The details of eligibility conditions and the proforma for sending particulars for consideration for the post of the Chief Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission may be downloaded from the Department of Personnel and Training website: www.persmin.nic.in. The last date for receipt of the completed applications in the Department is 31st July, 2020.

davp 32201/11/0001/2021

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS
(DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING)

Applications are invited for filling up the posts of Information Commissioners, not exceeding six, as may be deemed necessary, in the Central Information Commission, located at New Delhi.

The details of eligibility conditions and the proforma for sending particulars for consideration for the posts of Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission may be downloaded from the Department of Personnel and Training website: www.persmin.nic.in. The last date for receipt of the completed applications in the Department is 31st July, 2020.

davp 32201/11/0002/2021

THE PIONEER
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Thank you Holy Spirit for all Blessings Celine.
PD(8899)C

LOST & FOUND

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TACKLING CORONAVIRUS

Kejriwal praises plasma donors for help

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday interacted with plasma donors and appreciated their contribution in fight against Covid-19. Taking to Twitter, Arvind Kejriwal shared the audio of his conversation with the plasma donors. He praised them for donating plasma and appealed to them to motivate more Corona recovered patients to come forward and donate plasma. The Delhi Government has set-up India's first plasma bank at the ILBS Hospital, with an objective to maintain a plasma stock from those who have already recovered

from Corona. "When I hear stories of plasma donors, I feel very proud of my fellow Delhiites. So I decided to call and congratulate some donors. Do listen to my conversation with plasma donors Srishti and Bhumika," Chief Minister Kejriwal tweeted. In the audio clip shared by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Twitter, a Corona recovered patient Srishti said she observed Corona symptoms for five days but has fully recovered now. Chief Minister Kejriwal praised her for donating plasma and said he was proud of her. Srishti thanked the CM for motivating people to donate



plasma and also lauded the infrastructure and facilities of the plasma bank at the ILBS hospital. He also said she suffered no weakness or pain, and the doctors and the medical staff at the plasma bank was very help-

ful and guided her through the whole process. CM Kejriwal expressed his concerns over people assuming that they will get infected again if they visit ILBS hospital, despite knowing that ILBS is a non-COVID hospital. Srishti also said that the hospital is very clean and hygienic and there is no risk of getting infected, as all precautions are taken inside the hospital. She also said that she will also encourage her neighbor who has recovered from Corona to donate plasma. Chief Minister Kejriwal also spoke to another plasma donor Bhumika and praised her for donating plasma. He said her donation is an inspi-

ration for everyone and people get inspired and motivated to do such things when youth like her come forward and save lives. "I would like to applaud you sir because this initiative is actually very good. The doctors at the plasma bank are providing all facilities. I do not understand why people are not going to donate. That hospital is a non-COVID hospital, people cannot get infected. There is enough social distancing maintained in the hospital." She also said that she will motivate others to donate plasma and save lives. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal called her a hero and lauded her for donating plasma," Bhumika said.

Gurugram Covid-19 recovery up at 83%, says administration

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

Around 5,507 coronavirus patients in Gurugram have been cured till Friday. With this the district recovery rate from Covid-19 has increased from 77 per cent to 83 per cent according to data shared by the district administration on Friday. The officials also informed that after Delhi, the rate of positive patients in Gurugram in NCR has come down from 13 percent to 11 percent and they are hopeful that this rate will come down to 10 percent in the next few days. The total number of coronavirus cases in the city on Friday rose to 6,578 including 111 new cases. The Covid-19 toll has reached 103 in the district. Gurugram now has 968 active cases and 721 of them are in home isolation, officials added. The health department said out of 103 deaths 66 died due to comorbidities and the remaining 37 without comorbidities. "Covid testing has been increased in the district to prevent the spread of corona infection. The department is sampling 3,000 tests a day. Which includes both types- Rapid Antigen Test and RTPCR Test. Those patients have been done on propriety. Patients are being treated based on their symptoms," said Amit Khatri deputy commissioner Gurugram. He also informed that treatment of corona patients will be started with plasma therapy in Gurugram and for this a plasma bank will be established soon. "As soon as new guidelines in this regard will be released by the government, treatment of corona infected patients will be started with plasma therapy," Khatri said. Dr Virender Yadav, Civil Surgeon of Gurugram, said, since June 24, around 16 thousand rapid antigen tests have been conducted to identify corona patients in the district, out of which 475 persons were found to be corona positive. "We include the number of tests done in RTPCR, Rapid



Antigen Test and Private Labs, then this figure is more than 30 thousand. The most tests have been done in Patel Nagar, where the number of patients is much higher. Similarly, in Sohna, about one thousand samples have been tested and the rate of positive cases is about 10 percent," Yadav said. He further informed that at present 242 corona patients are admitted in different hospitals of the district, out of which 36 patients are seriously ill. "A dedicated Covid-19 facility in Gurugram, attributed this to patient care and also will power of people to brave through this crisis," he said. According to the order released on Friday by the administration, the district has 106 containment zones. Of these, 95 containment zones have been set up in Gurugram block, 4 in Pataudi and 7 in Sohna and Farrukhnagar have been removed from the containment zone. An area is notified as a containment zone usually when five or more cases are found and is removed from the list in 28 days. Meanwhile, a case has been registered against the SRL lab here at Sector-18 police station for giving false reports of Corona's sample. The case has been registered on the complaint of Gurugram's civil surgeon and on the orders of Haryana Health Minister Anil Vij. According to police spokesperson Subhash Bokan, action will be initiated against the lab as per rules.

Rights panel rescues 12 child labourers

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) rescued 12 child labourers from Gandhi Nagar on Friday. The children were found in a garment factory and cycle-motorcycle mechanic shops in unsafe and unhygienic conditions. The team of the DCPCR was headed by one of the members of the commission Rop Suresh Vimal. "Children were rescued by the teams, successfully and provided with masks and sanitizers. The DCPCR and the Delhi Police sealed the establishments and arrested the contractor," a senior DCPCR official said. The operation was con-



ducted with teams of Sub-Divisional Magistrate (Vivek Vihar); SHO, Gandhi Nagar; Labour Department and NGO Bachpan Bachao Andolan. Rajendra Pal Gautam,

Minister of Social Welfare Women and Child Development said that DCPCR along with Delhi Police and NGOs have done a remarkable job. I congratulate such an effort and I am confident that in the future more such coordinated actions will take place to irradiate the malpractice of child labour in Delhi. Anurag Kundu, Chairperson of the DCPCR stressed on the rehabilitation for these children and said, "The Commission is in process of evolving comprehensive long-term strategy to make Delhi Child Labour Free by 2023," he said. Kundu also urged the citizens to proactively report instances of child labour.

"Statement of the rescued children will be recorded at SDM's Office, followed by medical tests including COVID-19 test. Thereafter, the children will be produced before a Child Welfare Committee for the decision thereon. This will follow the legal proceedings," the official said. With the outbreak of Covid-19 and the ensuing lockdown, there has been a drastic impact on the income of families. According to a joint report by UNICEF and International Labour Organisation, loss of employment and rising poverty is likely to force more children to seek exploitative and hazardous jobs as families use every available means to earn some money and survive.

SDMC's isolation centre comes up at its primary school in Andrews Ganj

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In order to deal with Covid-19 pandemic, South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) on Friday dedicated an isolation centre at its primary school in Andrews Ganj for treatment of mild and asymptomatic patients. SDMC Mayor Anamika said that the centre has all the required facilities which include oxygen cylinder, oximeter, Infra-red thermometer, glucometer, BP checking machine, wheelchairs, water kettles and electric



steamers. "The centre has the proper oxygen facility but in case of any emergency, patients will be shifted immediately to the Safdarjung hospital. Each patient will be given a separate bed, chair, plastic cupboard, dustbin, toiletry kit, individual charging facility, digital thermometer, sanitizer, disposable masks and gloves," she said. While appreciating the efforts of all three corporations, BJP state president Adesh Gupta who was also present on the occasion, said the step is taken to strengthen the health infrastructure of Delhi. "All three MCDs have come forward to provide their services and are developing these isolation centres for the treatment of COVID patients in their jurisdictions. He said that we have asked all councilors to join hands with residents and look for community spaces where people from the area can be isolated," he said.

2 men involved in multiple shootings held

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The sleuths of Delhi Police special cell have nabbed two men who were allegedly involved in multiple shooting incidents in the national capital. The duo was arrested from south Delhi's Tughlakabad area. The accused have been identified as Hari Krishan (25) and Rahul alias Danda (24), both residents of south Delhi's Sangam Vihar. According to Pramod Singh Kushwaha, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Special Cell, Krishan, a sharp-shooter of gangster Prince

Tewatia, and Rahul were involved in four cases of shooting. "On Thursday, police received a tip-off that Krishan would come near Ridge area in south Delhi's Tughlakabad area to meet his associate Rahul around 1 pm. A trap was laid and both the accused were apprehended," said the DCP. "Police has Two pistols and six live cartridges were recovered from their possession. Krishan told police that on the directions of Tewatia, he along with his four associates had fired at a shopkeeper in Wazirabad on June 1, in which a person named Rakesh

Chauhan, who was not the target, had been injured. Chauhan had succumbed to injuries eight days later," said the DCP. According to Krishan, there was a land dispute between two people -- Rambir Singh and Ajeet, both residents of Wazirabad. Ajeet was an associate of Tewatia. The actual target was Rambir and Chauhan was mistakenly shot, the DCP said. Rahul also confessed that on November 28, 2019, he and his three associates, had fired at the residence of a businessman in Karol Bagh after receiving instructions to do so from

two men -- Mahesh and Atta-ur-Rehman -- both lodged in Mandoli jail at that time, in order to extort money, Kushwaha said. Rahul and his associates had demanded Rs 20 lakhs from the victim. When the victim refused, they had fired at his residence, he said. On June 12, Rahul and his associate had again fired at the clinic of a doctor in the Sangam Vihar, police said. Apart from these incidents of shooting, Krishan was involved in 11 other criminal cases, including murder, attempt to murder, extortion, robbery and others, police added.

Plantation drive to reduce pollution levels

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai launched a 17-day mega plantation drive "Plant Saplings, Save Environment" to reduce pollution levels in the National Capital. Under the drive, the government will plant 31 lakh saplings across Delhi this year, which is more than double than Centre's target of 15 lakhs. Rai said that Delhi government will initiate early preparation to tackle air pollution of the capital which happens due to stubble burning in the neighbouring states. "Over 31 lakh saplings will be planted during this 17-day plantation drive. All the departments of the Delhi government will be involved in this initiative. We will plant saplings of big trees, small trees and also shrubs. Our target is to plant 20 lakh sapling of big trees and 11 lakh saplings of small trees and shrubs," he said. Rai said that the Centre has set a target of planting 15 lakh plants, trees and shrubs in Delhi but the Delhi government's target is more than double of that. "We need to keep in mind that every year the citizens of Delhi suffer from air pollution and the Delhi government is working tirelessly from the

last few years to decrease the pollution level in Delhi," he said. "The government is conducting separate studies on the levels of pollution during the lockdown, before and after the lockdown. The results of these studies will help us to create a robust plan to tackle air pollution in Delhi," he said. The government will soon hold meetings with all the environment-related agencies to initiate early preparation to tackle air pollution of the capital which happens due to stubble burning. "We will also discuss this matter with the neighbouring states so that we can find out a way to bring down the pollution levels," he said. Various departments of the Delhi government like Public Works Department, DSIDC, Delhi Transport Corporation etc will plant nearly 18,000 saplings. The DDA will plant 9,40,000 saplings and all the MCDs and New Delhi Municipal Council will plant two lakh saplings," he said. Delhi metro, Northern railway, BSES like agencies will also plant two lakh saplings. The Delhi government has decided that during this drive any citizen of Delhi who wants to plant saplings can get them free of cost from any of the 14 nurseries of the Delhi Government," he added.



Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai takes part in a plantation drive in New Delhi on Friday. Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

AIIMS junior doctor kills self by jumping off 10th floor of hostel

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The 25-year-old junior resident doctor of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) allegedly jumped off the 10th floor of AIIMS hostel on Friday. Police said that the doctor scumbled to his injuries during the treatment on Friday. According to a senior police official, Dr Anurag, who was Junior doctor at Department of Psychiatry, allegedly jumped from the 10th floor of hostel at 5 pm on

Friday. "Patient was shifted to AIIMS Casualty and he succumbed to his injuries during the treatment," added the senior police official. Police said that investigation has been started to know the reason behind the extreme step. Anurag's mobile phone was also found at the 10th floor. He was Junior doctor at Department of Psychiatry

Delhi Transco donates ₹ 9,92,825 in CM Relief Fund

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Transco has contributed Rs 9,92,825 in Chief Minister Relief Fund. A senior official of Delhi Transco said that Covid-19 pandemic has created havoc worldwide and its impact in Delhi is very alarming. "The Delhi government has put all efforts to contain the spread besides conducting rapid testing and providing treatment to all. The employees of Delhi Transco decided to come forward to extend their support to the government in its efforts to combat the disease," he said.

DJB identifies 19K illegal borewells, seals 7,000

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Jal Board (DJB) has sealed 7,000 illegal borewells in the National Capital which were severely affecting the groundwater level. The civic body identified 19,154 illegal borewells out of which 7,000 units have already been sealed by the district authorities and the remaining will be shut down in next two months, DJB Vice Chairman Raghav Chadha said. Chadha said that the district-level officials have been asked to submit weekly progress reports to the divisional commissioner for regular monitoring. More illegal borewells will be identified in the second phase. When it comes to illegal extraction of groundwater, the kejrival government will deal with it with an iron fist and will ensure that no illegal extraction happens," he said. As per revised Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) of the DJB to deal groundwater extraction, drawing ground

water through borewell or tubewell for domestic, commercial, agricultural or industrial uses without the prior permission of the DJB (except for areas comes under NDMC), will be considered illegal and without authority of law. An advisory committee in each of the revenue districts with representatives from DJB, CGWB, ULBs, DPCC, and reputed NGOs has been constituted to assist the district collector in detecting illegal borewells for taking action, an official said. Accordingly, the advisory committee will prepare a list of such illegal borewells every month by taking information from all available sources, he added. The Central Ground Water Authority has already notified all districts of Delhi as over exploited areas, needing regulation, and registration of ground water abstraction structures mandatory. "Regarding regulation of extraction of ground water and to provide procedure for

prohibition of illegal activities regarding operation of borewells, direction under section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 has been issued with the approval of Lieutenant Governor on 18th May, 2010," the official said. The National Green Tribunal had recently directed Delhi Jal Board (DJB) to prevent illegal extraction of groundwater for commercial purposes and seal unauthorised borewells as well as recover compensation from those who have operated them. The tribunal had said that in view of illegal operation of borewells, severely affecting the groundwater level, in Delhi, the DJB must expeditiously take remedial action of closing the borewells and also assessing and recovery of compensation from the persons who have operated such borewells, in coordination with other concerned authorities, following due process of law.

NRTI announces admission for academic session 2020-21

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The National Rail and Transportation Institute (NRTI) on Friday announced admissions for the academic year 2020-21 for various programmes. NRTI will admit students to its established B.Sc. and BBA programmes in transportation technology and transportation management respectively as well as two new

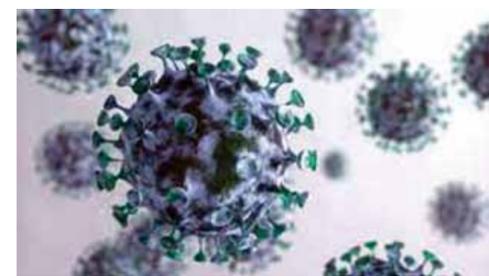
B-Tech, MBA and four new MSc programmes, the ministry said in a statement. "The new programmes also include an international 'Masters in Railway Systems Engineering and Integration' offered in collaboration with the University of Birmingham, UK where students will spend one year at University of Birmingham," it said. The Ministry further said that the last date for application is 31 July 2020 for BBA, BSc

and post-graduate programmes. Entrance test for these programmes will take place on 23 August 2020 at multiple centres around the country. "B Tech admissions will be based on JEE Mains score, last date of application is 14 September 2020. Students can obtain further details at www.nrti.edu.in. Only Online applications are accepted," it said. NRTI has augmented

teaching with quality online courses and summer internships in view of Covid 19, it said, adding that courses for all programmes and batches were conducted online by the faculty using latest technology and pedagogy and teaching was completed without compromising quality and safety of students. "Students were also provided free access to a library of 4,000 online courses from leading Universities around the

world to supplement classes. These included courses in data science, microeconomic principle and understanding research methods," it said. This will be the third year of intake at the Institute, which has seen significant progress over these years towards its vision of being among the top universities in the country, powering the growth and transformation of Indian transportation sector.

Airborne transmission possible crowded indoors: WHO



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The World Health Organization (WHO) has admitted that coronavirus may linger in the air in crowded indoor spaces suggesting the possibility of aerosol transmission in crowded and inadequately ventilated spaces over a prolonged period of time. But it has stressed that more evidence in terms of research was required in that direction. "We have been talking about the possibility of airborne transmission and aerosol transmission as one of the modes of transmission of COVID-19," Maria Van Kerkhove, technical lead on the COVID-19 pandemic at the WHO, told a news briefing. In the 10-page brief that explored all possible modes of transmission for SARS-CoV-2, the global health agency admitted that aerosol transmission cannot be ruled out, especially in crowded and

poorly ventilated areas. It said that airborne spread "particularly in specific indoor locations, such as crowded and inadequately ventilated spaces over a prolonged period of time with infected persons cannot be ruled out".

The WHO further stated that understanding how, when and in what types of settings the SARS-CoV-2 virus spreads between people is critical for developing effective public health and infection prevention measures to break chains of transmission. It noted that that studies evaluating Covid-19 outbreaks in restaurants, choir practices and fitness classes suggested the virus might have been spread in the air.

The WHO said current evidence suggests that COVID-19 transmission occurs primarily through direct, indirect, or close contact with infected individuals through their saliva and respi-

MCI warns med colleges of derecognising them if they fail to set up bio-safety labs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Medical Council of India (MCI) has warned the medical colleges in the country that if they fail to set up bio-safety level (BSL) laboratories with RT-PCR Facility before its inspections, it may withdraw their recognition.

The council noted that despite medical colleges being reminded time and again, various colleges are yet to set up the BSL-2 labs with RT-PCR facility.

"The MCI may at any time carry out assessment to verify the availability of such facility in your college. Such assessment may be carried out by the member institutes such as AIIMS; Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh; and Armed Forces of Medical Sciences

laboratory secretions, or through their respiratory droplets expelled when they cough, sneeze, talk or sing.

The global health agency has long dismissed the possibility that the coronavirus spreads through the air except for certain risky medical pro-

India's COVID-19 case fatality rate declines to 2.72%

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

From 2.82 per cent a month earlier, India's COVID-19 case fatality rate has declined to 2.72 per cent which is lower than that of many other countries, the Union Health Ministry said on Friday. It also noted that 30 States and

(AFMC) and Nizam Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS), Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute of

cedures. The WHO also recognised the importance of asymptomatic people spreading Covid-19.

The UN health body has long downplayed this phenomenon. The WHO has repeatedly said such transmission was rare. "Infected people

Union Territories have a fatality rate lower than the national average.

Also, there is an upward trend in the recovery rate which was recorded at 62.42% on Friday. In 18 States and UTs the recovery rates are higher than the national average, the Ministry said.

Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST)," the MCI said in a letter to them

can transmit the virus both when they have symptoms and when they don't have symptoms," the agency said. However, the extent of truly asymptomatic infection still remains unknown, it added.

Earlier, a group of 239 scientists from 32 different coun-

Feeling lonely in pandemic! It's 'broken-heart' syndrome

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

If you are reeling under economic and emotional issues, societal problems and feeling lonely and isolated because of the Covid-19 pandemic, then beware! Chances are you might suffer from a 'broken-heart' syndrome!

In a study published in the recent journal of JAMA Network Open, Cleveland Clinic researchers said that they have found a significant increase in patients experiencing broken-heart syndrome also known as stress cardiomyopathy during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Stress cardiomyopathy occurs in response to physical or emotional distress and causes dysfunction or failure in the heart muscle.

Patients typically experience symptoms similar to a heart attack, such as chest pain and shortness of breath, but usually do not have acutely blocked coronary arteries. The left ventricle of the heart, how-



ever, may show enlargement, said the health experts.

"The Covid-19 pandemic has brought about multiple levels of stress in people's lives across the country and world. People are not only worried about themselves or their families becoming ill, they are dealing with economic and emotional issues, societal problems and potential loneliness and isolation," explained Dr Ankur Kalra, Cleveland Clinic cardiologist, who led the study.

For the study, cardiologists looked at 258 patients coming into Cleveland Clinic and Cleveland Clinic Akron General with heart symptoms known as acute coronary syndrome (ACS) between March 1 and April 30th and compared them with four control groups of ACS patients prior to the

pandemic.

They found a significant increase in patients diagnosed with stress cardiomyopathy, reaching 7.8 per cent compared with pre-pandemic incidence of 1.7 per cent.

Patients with stress cardiomyopathy during the Covid-19 pandemic had a longer length of hospital stay compared with those hospitalized in the pre-pandemic period; however, thankfully there was no significant difference in mortality between the groups. All of the patients diagnosed with stress cardiomyopathy tested negative for Covid-19.

When asked to comment about the study in the Indian context, Dr Tarun Kumar, Interventional Cardiologist and associate professor at RML Hospital, Delhi said that multiple stressful reasons during difficult periods of lives, for instance in the present case Covid-19, can definitely have adverse impact on the health.

tries have published an open letter to the WHO and other health agencies, calling for

them to update their information on the coronavirus. The group of scientists argue that

the WHO needs to give more weight to the role of the airborne spread of Covid-19.

VIKAS DUBEY ENCOUNTER

Cong seeks judicial probe to bring out truth



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Friday demanded a judicial probe by a sitting Supreme Court judge into the entire episode involving gangster Vikas Dubey's killing to bring out the truth about those who had granted protection to him and the alleged political-criminal nexus in Uttar Pradesh. While party general secretary and incharge of UP, Priyanka Gandhi, demanded a CBI probe to ascertain the facts about the "grant of protection" to Dubey.

Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said at a press conference that the killing of the gangster in an encounter raises several questions and sought answers on who were the people sitting in echelons of power who were granting protection to criminals like him.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra took a swipe at the UP government in a tweet in Hindi, saying, "The criminal has gone, but what about the crime and those protecting him."

The Congress general secretary also accused the Yogi government of "complete failure" in handling the Kanpur ambush case in which eight policemen were killed. She

Hours before Vikas Dubey's encounter, plea in SC claims possibility of his killing by cops



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Hours before gangster Vikas Dubey was killed in an encounter near Kanpur on Friday, a petition was filed in the Supreme Court seeking a direction to the Uttar Pradesh Government and the police to

alleged that the chain of events in the case exposed the chinks in security and hinted at collusion.

"Congress demands that the unholy nexus between organised crime and the ilk of Vikas Dubey with those sitting in the echelons of power be probed by a sitting

safeguard his life and ensure that he is not killed by the cops. The plea has also sought registration of an FIR and an apex court-monitored probe by the CBI into the encounter of five co-accused, who were alleged to be associated with Dubey in the killing of eight policemen last week.

Supreme Court judge," Surjewala said at a press conference.

Priyanka too later in the day demanded a judicial probe by a sitting SC judge into the entire Kanpur episode in which eight policemen were killed by Dubey.

"The truth about those

Issue of handcuffing raises its head again

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The alleged encounter killing of dreaded gangster Vikas Dubey on Friday has kicked up dust over his not being apparently handcuffed by the police, against the backdrop of the Supreme Court's disapproving the practice in various orders,

The plea, filed in the apex court by advocate Ghanshyam Upadhyay, has referred to media reports and claimed that encounter of these five co-accused by the police is "not only extremely illegal, inhuman, but also it is shocking to the

who nurtured and protected criminals like Vikas Dubey should come out. Till the time this truth and the nexus between politicians and criminals does not come out, justice will not be done to those eight policemen who were killed by him," she said.

Priyanka said the

calling it "inhuman, unreasonable, over harsh and arbitrary".

The police, on the other hand, has all along been supporting handcuffing at various judicial forums on the ground that the practice has been quite helpful in ensuring that a dreaded accused or convict does not flee the custody.

consciousness of the court and is nothing but Talibanisation of the country, which cannot be countenanced at all." I had done e-filing of the petition at 2 AM and provisional number was also allotted," Upadhyay told PTI over phone.

encounter and the suspicion around it and the manner in which a criminal like Dubey was allowed to "roam around" freely, itself raises questions on the commitment of the Yogi Adityanath-led BJP Government in UP towards law and order.

Vaccine for Covid-19 not possible till at least next year, Parl panel told

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid a controversy over the ICMR's August 15, 2020, deadline to researchers for developing a Covid-19 vaccine, Government officials on Friday reportedly told a Parliamentary panel that it was not possible till at least next year. While the ICMR's move evoked strong criticism from several quarters, the country's top clinical research agency sought to clarify that the purpose of the letter was "meant to cut unnecessary red tape, without bypassing any necessary process, and speed up recruitment of participants."

Sources said senior officials from the departments of biotechnology, scientific and industrial research and the CSIR besides the principal scientific advisor to the Government were among those called to brief the committee.

This was the first time since the lockdown on March 25 that the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Climate Change met for the first time and held a detailed discussion over the government's preparedness and handling of COVID-19. But panel chairman and Congress leader Jairam Ramesh called for the need to hold virtual meetings.

Rajya Sabha Chairman M

Venkaiah Naidu, however, expressed happiness over the development. The Parliament was adjourned on March 23, ahead of its scheduled time.

"I am glad that Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committees have resumed functioning, three and half months since the last sitting of Parliament on March 23rd," he wrote on Twitter.

He said everyone was keen on resumption of work by these committees, "but the delay was forced by circumstances beyond our control". "Corona pandemic did cast a shadow on the working of these committees, which function on behalf of the Parliament," the vice president said.

"I am hopeful these committees would now go about examining important issues concerning respective domains," he said. However, urging Naidu for the holding of virtual meetings, Ramesh, in a tweet, said, "I would still request you Sir to allow virtual meetings given that Parliament is unlikely to meet for the next month at least."

While six members attended the meeting, presentations were given by the Department of Science and Technology, Department of Biotechnology and Council of Scientific and

Industrial Research (CSIR), besides the principal scientific advisor to the government, on the Centre's COVID-19 preparedness, sources said. They said the members present at the meet also sought virtual deliberations. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs is scheduled to meet on July 15.

While the members of the panels are demanding virtual meetings, the presiding officers of both Houses of Parliament have said this requires a change of rules and endorsement by the Rules Committee of Parliament as also a nod from Parliament.

WESTERN RAILWAY CORRIGENDUM -1

Tender Notice No.: WTR/17/ 2020/05
Date: 03.06.2020 Description of Item: 6.2mm thick CGRSP with horn for turnout drg. No. T-4218 & T-4865 (Trial item) Date of Closing tender may be read as 15.07.2020 to 05.08.2020. All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged. Please visit our website www.reps.gov.in
Like us on: facebook.com/WesternRly

PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all that I, RAJIB SINGH S/O SH. G.P. SINGH R/O LIG DDA FLAT NO. 53-C, GULABI BAGH, DELHI - 110007, am the owner and in physical possession of Property bearing DDA LIG FLAT NO. 53-C, GULABI BAGH, DELHI - 110007, which is allotted by DDA vide File No. LO-74/56/1083/GEN and has applied for conversion from lease hold into free hold of said DDA Flat in D.D.A. The original ALLOTMENT CUM DEMAND LETTER, POSSESSION LETTER, SITE POSSESSION SLIP and NOC FOR ELECTRIC AND WATER CONNECTION, ETC. of said Flat has been lost. An F.I.R. to this effect has been lodged. Any person(s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents may write/contact with above named person at above address/Phone No. 956985415 within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to this flat can personally inform or write to Dy. Director (Housing), Vikas Sadan, I/A, New Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Share Certificate No.30773 for 100 Equity Shares of Rs. 10/- (Rupees ten only) each bearing Distinctive No.(s) 3075401-3075500 of Eicher Motors Limited, having its registered office at 3rd Floor Select Citywalk, A-3 District City Centre, Saket New Delhi 110017 registered in the name of Tushar Hasmukhlal Shah and Gargi Tushar Shah have been lost. Tushar Hasmukhlal Shah and Gargi Tushar Shah have applied to the company for issue duplicate certificate. Any person who has any claim in respect of the said shares certificate should lodge such claim with the company within 15 days of the publication of this notice.
Place : Delhi Date : 11-7-2020

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that share Certificate No. 39574 for 100 equity shares of Rs. 10/- each bearing Distinctive Nos. 3955501-3955600 of Eicher Motors Ltd. having its registered office at 3rd Floor, Select City walk, A-3 District City Centre, Saket New Delhi 110017 registered in the name of Y C Gupta have been lost. Y C Gupta (Name of the holder) have applied to the company for issue duplicate share certificate. Any person who has any claim in respect of the said shares certificate should lodge such claim with the company within 15 days of the publication of this notice.
Place : Delhi Date : 11-7-2020

SC disposes plea seeking release of Noida's former chief engineer Yadav

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Friday disposed of a plea seeking release of Noida's former chief engineer Yadav Singh from alleged illegal custody of the CBI in a corruption case after being informed that the Allahabad High Court has already granted him bail on Thursday.

A bench of Justices R F Nariman, Navin Sinha and B R Gavai recorded the statement of Singh's lawyers on the high court bail order and said the petition has now become infructuous and disposed of the matter.

A division bench of the high court had granted the bail while hearing a habeas corpus (produce the detained person before court) petition seeking Singh's release from the alleged illegal CBI custody.

SC seeks response from Centre, 13 other States against barbaric practice to ward off animals

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday sought response from Centre, Kerala and 13 other States on a plea challenging the barbaric practices to ward off wild animals terming them as illegal and unconstitutional and violating Article 14 and 21 of the Constitution.

The plea filed by an advocate has also sought issuance of guidelines for creation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) to tackle such incidents and filling up of vacancies in forest forces across the country. A bench of Chief Justice S A Bobde and Justices R Subhash Reddy and A S



Bopanna issued notice to Centre and 13 states including Kerala and sought their responses. The petition sought declaration of the practice of using barbaric means/snares/shaved sticks/explosives to ward off wild animals as illegal, unconstitutional, and violative of Articles 14, and 21 of the Constitution.

HC asks Centre to treat as representation plea for disaster management agency in NCR

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court Friday asked the Centre to treat as representation a plea seeking creation of a nodal agency to carry out disaster management tasks in the national capital region (NCR) so that there is uniformity in the response to any calamity, like the COVID-19 outbreak or an earthquake.

A bench of Chief Justice D N Patel and Justice Prateek Jalan declined to entertain the petition, saying it was a policy decision and the petitioner ought to have first made a representation to the central government.

The court directed the Centre to treat the plea, by law student Arjun Narang, as a representation and to consider the suggestions given by him in

accordance with the law, rules, regulations and government policy applicable to the facts of the case.

The bench asked the Centre to take a decision on the representation as early as possible and practicable and disposed of the plea filed through advocate Shantanu Singh.

The petition had contended that Delhi-NCR has been battling with executive problem on account of numerous discrepancies between the guidelines issued by the NCR governments - of Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh - in relation to the response mechanisms to the outbreak.

The plea had said the discrepancies were mostly in relation to inter-state travel, patient admissions and treatment, testing, dealing with containment zones.

BSY to work from home as staffers test Covid-19 +ve

Bengaluru: Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa would work from his official residence for a few days as some staff at his home office have tested Covid-19 positive, an official said on Friday.

The Chief Minister, who had not come in contact with the infected staffers, took to Twitter to announce that he was healthy.

"Yediyurappa, 78, will work from his official residence 'Cauvery' for some days after some staff members at his home-office 'Krishna' tested positive for the virus," an official of the Chief Minister's Office told IANS here.

The staffers include a driver and an electrician.

The Chief Minister has cancelled all official engagements till further notice and will hold video conferences with ministers and officials on Covid-19 and other issues.

In a tweet in Kannada, he said: "I am healthy. No one need for anyone to

worry about me. I will give advice and issue instructions through video conference from home."

The Chief Minister's meeting with lawmakers of the city on Friday to review the measures to contain the pandemic was cancelled.

"The home-office in upscale High Grounds was also shut on June 19 for sanitisation after the husband of a woman constable on security duty tested positive," the official said.

Yediyurappa is likely to move to his own house at Dollar's Colony in the city's northern suburb on Saturday, as government offices will be closed on second Saturday and total lockdown will be observed on Sunday to contain the virus spread.

"He will continue to work from home. Visitors will not be allowed to meet him at home to maintain physical distancing. All meetings will be through video-conference," said IANS

Maha's MSEDCL delegates powers to regional offices to improve services

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Joint Managing Directors and Regional Directors would now monitor the projects for timely completion

In an effort to ensure expeditious execution of various ongoing projects and improve the quality of the services to the consumers, State Energy Minister Nitin Raut on Friday directed the Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company (MSEDCL) Ltd to delegate powers to its regional offices.

During a power-point presentation held at MSEDCL office, the Minister said that the regional offices would be delegated all powers related to quantity freezing and time limit extensions under all projects including IPDS, DDUGJY, RF meter replacement and AG Solar ones. The Joint Managing Directors and Regional Directors would now monitor the projects for timely completion.

It may be recalled that in 2016 four regional offices at Nagpur, Aurangabad, Pune and Kalyan were carved out for the purpose of execution of the projects on time and also to provide quality services to the consumers. The regional offices at Kalyan and Aurangabad were to be headed by the senior IAS officers as Joint Managing Directors while regional offices at Pune and Nagpur were to be headed by non IAS officers as Regional Directors.

"However the whole thing turned out to be a futile exercise as the MSEDCL did not delegate any power to the Joint Managing Directors and Regional Directors," Dr Raut said.

"With the delegation of power to the regional offices, the projects would be completed in time and would improve the quality of the services to the consumers. The Joint Managing Directors and Regional Directors are also delegated powers to refund electricity duty to industrial consumers,"

the Minister said.

At Friday's meeting, Dr Raut directed the MSEDCL officials concerned for speedy allocation of transformers under HVDS Schemes for Agriculture pump connections.

To reduce the time for replacement of failed transformers, Dr Raut asked to invite comprehensive tenders for replacement of failed transformers including providing oil. At the same time, a new policy would be framed to provide new service connections to the agriculture pumps.

"We have decided to adopt QCBS tender system for outsourced employees to ensure effective utilisation of outsourced manpower with Geo mapping, KRA mapping and Geo fencing which would help to curtail expenditure on maintenance work," the minister said.

Dr Raut also appreciated the tree plantation programme initiated in Aurangabad Region and asked to undertake the same in other regions.

Soldier martyred in Nowshera Pak firing

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

An Indian soldier was martyred during 'unprovoked' ceasefire violation along the line of control in Nowshera sector of Rajouri in the wee hours of Friday. During the day time, the line of control remained peaceful but intense shelling in the same area resumed again late Friday evening. Heavy shelling was reported in the forward areas till the time of filing the report.

Several civilian structures located in the forward areas were hit during the shelling from across the line of control. The Indian Army too retaliated strongly inflicting heavy damages to several Pakistani military structures in the area.

Meanwhile, Indian troops remain in a state of high alert along the line of control to foil any infiltration bid of heavily armed terrorists supported by the Pakistan army.

Defence PRO in Jammu, Lt- Col Devender Anand said, "On July 10 Pakistan Army resorted to unprovoked ceasefire violation on the line of control (LoC) in Nowshera sector of Rajouri district". He said, Indian troops responded strongly to the enemy fire. In the inci-



Havildar Sambur Gurung.

dent, Havildar Sambur Gurung was critically injured and later succumbed to his injuries. Defence PRO said, "Havildar Sambur Gurung hailed from Nepal".

According to the PRO, unprovoked firing in the Nowshera sector resumed around 6.45 p.m. He said, Pakistan army initiated unprovoked firing with small arms and shelling with mortars along the LoC. He said the Indian army retaliated befittingly. More than 2000 incidents of ceasefire violations have been reported along the loc since January this year. On Wednesday, a civilian woman was killed in Balakote sector of Poonch during intense shelling by the Pakistan Army.

Schoolteacher volunteers for vaccine trial in Bengal

Kolkata: Even as Bengal Government imposed a second phase of complete lockdown in over 200 extended containment zones to check further proliferation of corona cases there is good news for the citizens of Bengal.

A schoolteacher has volunteered to participate in the clinical trial of the corona vaccine being prepared jointly by the Indian Council for Medical Research and a Hyderabad-based company.

All goes well, then Chiranjit Dhibar, a school teacher from the industrial city of Durgapur will receive the first shot of the vaccine in Odisha.

A worker of the Rashtriya Swyam Sevak Sangh, Dhibar is reported to have offered himself for clinical trial about three months ago and he was subsequently selected for the first dose of the vaccine, sources said. Dhibar could be the first human being to be subjected to clinical trial, sources said.

In response to his application he received a call from the Patna Centre of ICMR informing him that he had been selected for the trial. The State Health Department sources however refused to comment on the issue saying they have no information regarding this.

Meanwhile, the Bengal Government has vehemently objected to the central advisory asking universities to compulsorily conduct final-year examinations by September-end. The Centre and the University Grants Commission has asked the States to complete the process of holding final year exams by September 30.

The State Higher Education Department Secretary Manish Jain has written to Union HRD Ministry, requesting it to re-examine the matter in the interest of the physical and mental well-being of students at a time when the entire country was passing through severe corona situation.

Holding polls in Bihar will put people at risk: Chirag Paswan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Even as Election Commission (EC) of India has not made an announcement on the poll schedule for Bihar elections, BJP's ally and Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) Chirag Paswan has questioned holding of elections under the lengthening shadows of coronavirus pandemic. Bihar polls are scheduled in October-November.

"Not only Bihar but entire country is affected by the coronavirus. It has impacted finances of the centre as well as Bihar. Holding elections amid this will financially burden the State more," said LJP head.

Paswan sought EC to take a considered view and come to a conclusion only after a "lot of deliberations".

"It should not happen that a huge population is put into danger. Polling percentage many also be very low if elections are held amid this pandemic

which is not good for democracy", tweeted LJP leader.

He, however, maintained that LJP was ready for the poll.

Over the weeks, LJP top leaders have been making varying noises over its alliance within the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance.

Paswan's comment on Bihar polls almost echoed Rashtriya Janata Dal Leader (RJD) Tejashwi Yadav who recently said that holding state in the time of coronavirus would not be good as situation was rather "scary". RJD leader had also criticised BJP for holding daily virtual rallies and interacting with party workers across the state.

LJP's comment on the timing of assembly poll has come at a time when the BJP-JDU rival RJD is constantly attacking the Nitish kumar government on its handling of the pandemic in the State.

416 more infected in Kerala

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

It turned out to be yet another Black Friday in Kerala as the State diagnosed a record number of 416 persons with Covid-19. Last Friday, 211 persons had tested positive in the State and the number has almost doubled in seven days. This is the highest number of patients to be diagnosed in the State on a single day, according to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

Vijayan who briefed the media on Friday in a virtual press meet blamed the Opposition UDF for spreading canards to derail and disrupt the good work done by the Government to control the spreading of the pandemic.

"We have followed the system developed by Cuba, Vietnam

and Thailand in checking and controlling the disease. In fact we have done much better than other States. Neighbouring State of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka fared worse while ours was a role model to the country," said the Chief Minister.

According to Vijayan, 123 expatriates and 51 persons who returned to the State from other parts of the country were diagnosed with coronavirus.

"What is disturbing and causing concern is the number of persons infected through social transmission. The day saw 204 persons getting afflicted through social transmission," said the Chief Minister.

The capital city of Thiruvananthapuram topped the table of districts with high-

est number of persons tested positive on Friday-129. "There are 193 hotspots in the State while 472 persons were admitted to hospitals on Friday," he said.

The day also saw 35 jawans of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police based at Alappuzha getting infected with Covid-19. "We are facing a major disaster and undergoing a serious phase. While on June 15, the number of positive cases through social transmission were 9.63 per cent, as on July 9 the rate of social transmission was 20.64 per cent," said Vijayan.

He used a major part of the press meet to blame the Congress-led Opposition for their attempts to subvert the good work being done by his Government.

7,862 afflicted, 226 die in Maha

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra on Friday surpassed the earlier daily highest tally of 7,074 and recorded an all-time high of 7,862 Covid-19 infested cases, even as 226 more people died of coronavirus in various parts of the State.

Six days after the state witnessed the till then daily tally of 7074 cases on July 4, the number of infected cases rose alarmingly on Friday, to touch 7,862 cases. With fresh infections, the total number of positive cases in the state climbed to 2,38,461.

Similarly, with 226 fresh deaths, the total number of deaths inched closer to 10,000 mark by going up to 9,893.

Of the total 226 deaths, Mumbai accounted for 73 deaths, taking the total number of deaths in the metropolis to 5,205 now, while the total number of positive patients climbed up by 1,337 cases to touch 90461.

In addition to 73 deaths in Mumbai, there were 53 deaths in Thane, 37 deaths in Pune, 10 deaths in Palghar, nine each in Raigad and Aurangabad, seven in Jalgaon, five each in Nashik

and Solapur, four in Dhule, three in Buldhana, two in Amravati, one each in Ratnagiri, Sangli, Kolhapur, Jalna, Hingoli, Parbhani, Latur and Washim. To add to the tally, one persons from another state died of Covid-19 in the State. With 57,138 infected cases with 1,536 deaths, Thane continued to be the second worst hit district in Maharashtra.

Pune, which has emerged as the third worst affected district in terms of spread of the pandemic, has recorded 35,232 infections and 1,026 deaths till now.

Tamil Nadu see 3,680 new cases

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

There was a fall, though small, in the number of persons diagnosed with Covid-19 in Tamil Nadu on Friday. The day saw 3,680 persons testing positive for the pandemic while 64 succumbed to the disease in the last 24 hours, according to the bulletin issued by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

On Thursday, 4,231 persons had been tested positive for the pandemic and Friday's figures offered some kind of relief to the administrators. As on Friday, the

number of active patients were 46,105 while the total number of persons tested positive till date breached 1.3 lakh. While 1,216 persons were diagnosed with covid-19 in Chennai, the number of persons afflicted with the virus increased to 242 in Chengalpet which had shown a decrease on Thursday (169).

Kancheepuram (61) and Thiruvallur (219) too tested few

cases less than that of Thursday. Madurai (192) and Virudhunagar (143) also showed small falls in the number of cases.

With Sellur K Raju, minister for cooperation, testing positive for coronavirus on Friday, three ministers in the Edappadi Palaniswami Government have been admitted to hospitals afflicted with the pandemic.

CORRIGENDUM

KAVYAM
Corrigendum to Advertisement dated 03.07.2019, 24.10.2019, 06.03.2020 and 13.03.2020.

This is with reference to the advertisement referred mentioned above, issued related to the Affordable Group Housing Project named 'Kavyam' having license no. 101 of 2017 & RERA Registration No. 23 of 2018 is being developed by M/s Agrante Realty Limited had made advertisement for booking of flat in Pioneer News Paper (both Hindi and English edition), Navodaya Times.

In advertisement dated 03.07.2019, an inadvertent mistake occurred in mentioning of Numbers of available Flats in Category-1 & Category-3 as 9 & 73 flats respectively. This error is corrected vide advertisement dated 24.10.2019, 06.03.2020 and 13.03.2020.

Herein again it is clarified and confirmed to the General Public and to be read as 73 Flats were available for booking in Category-1 & 269 Flats were available for booking in Category-3 and applications have been accepted only relates to these Flats.

Contact at:
website: www.kavyamhomes.com;
011-41924100-199, 8800499325, 8800499674

NIA files FIR in Kerala Gold Smuggling case

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

While the Opposition Congress and the BJP staged State-wide demonstrations demanding the resignation of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan in the Gold Smuggling Case through Thiruvananthapuram airport, the National Investigating Agency probing the case filed its FIR in the Kerala High Court on Friday listing Sarith (a former UAE consulate staff) as first accused and the controversial Swapna Suresh, believed to be the kingpin, as the second accused in the case.

The NIA has listed Kochi based businessman Faizal Fareed as the third accused while Sandeep Nair, who is absconding, has been named as the fourth accused. Swapna Suresh who is absconding since last Saturday remained untraceable. The NIA told the court that no bail should be given to the accused as the gold smuggling syndicate is believed to be in touch with terrorist elements operating in the country. The agency has filed the First Information Report under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). The court adjourned the hearing of the bail application moved by Swapna Suresh to Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Friday witnessed opposition parties Congress, BJP and Muslim Youth League (the youth organisation of Muslim League) staging demonstrations all over Kerala demanding the resignation of Pinarayi Vijayan whose office is under the scanner for the reported gold smuggling through airport. The demonstrators gave the coronavirus protocol a go-by and assembled without face masks or observing the social distancing. The BJP rallies turned violent as police used water canons, teargas shells and baton charging to disperse the crowd.

Lockdown extended in Pune, Pimpri and Thane municipal areas

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

With no let up in the continued increase in the number of infections and deaths, the lockdown has been extended in the areas coming under three major municipal corporations - Pune, Pimpri-Chinchwad and Thane, anywhere for varying period periods from seven days to ten days beginning from July 12 and 13.

In line with the powers vested with them on June 29 by the Maharashtra Government to "certain measures and necessary restrictions" in "specified local areas" to contain the spread of the pandemic, the adjoining municipal corporations of Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad extended the lockdown for ten days from the midnight of July 13 to July 23. Simultaneously, the Thane Municipal Corporation (TMC) extended the lockdown for seven days from 7 am on July 12 to 5 pm on July 22.

Independent of the lockdown imposed earlier by the Maharashtra government earlier, this is the second time that these three municipal corporations have extended the lockdown for varying periods.

UTTAR HARYANA BIJLI VITRAN NIGAM PUBLIC NOTICE / TENDER NOTICE

SR NO.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT/NTI BOARD/ CORP/ AUTH	NAME OF WORK/ NOTICE/ TENDER	OPENING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT/ END	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NDAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/ EMAIL	TENDER REF. NO./ TENDER NO.
1	Chief Technology Officer	Engagement of an agency for Onsite Support and Comprehensive Annual Maintenance of the Non IT Works/ Activities at the Disaster Recovery Center, Panchkula for five (5) years.	Opening 29-07-2020 (at 16:00 hrs) and closing 29-07-2020 (upto 15:00 hrs)	5,00,000/-	www.uhvvn.org.in	9317554907/bmsr-seprojects@uhvvn.org.in	NIT No. 32/ BMSR-APDRP/DRCC/ 2020

RO NO. 81706 Dt. 10-07-2020

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identity Number: U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in

Tender Enquiry No. 282 Dt. 08-07-2020

Scope description: DESIGN, MANUFACTURE, TESTING SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF GOVERNOR MIV O.P.U.'S & FOR SYNCHRONOUS CONDENSOR MODE OPERATION AIR COMPRESSORS AT RSD POWER PLANT PSPCL, SHAHPURKANDI AND GOVERNOR O.P.U. AIR COMPRESSORS AND SERVICE AIR COMPRESSORS AT MHP, PSPCL, TALWARA.

Start date for downloading of specification: 15-07-2020
Date and time upto which tender can be downloaded: 14-08-2020 (11:00 AM)
Date and time upto which tender shall be received: 14-08-2020 (11:00 AM)
Date and time of opening of tender: 21-08-2020 (11:30 AM)
EMD: @ 2% of Tender value rounded off to a multiple of Rs. 10/- on the higher side subject to a min of Rs. 10,000/- and max. of Rs. 20 Lac.

It is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to any reason, no corrigendum will be published in newspapers. Details regarding corrigendum may be seen on e-tendering website <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>. All the prospective bidders are requested to get their digital signatures, register themselves on the website <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> and get conversant with the process of on-line submission of tenders well in time so as to submit the tender by the due deadline. No request for extension in due date of tender opening on the above grounds shall be entertained. The prospective bidders are requested to get clarification at e-tendering website: <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> or contact at nos. 0120-4001002/ 0120-4200462/ 0120-4001005/0120-6277787.

SE/ Hydrel Projects, PSPCL, Patiala.
C-224/2020 RO 48045 Dt. 10-07-2020

The Empowered Officer, TRRDA, PWD(PMGSY), 7th Block, 2nd Floor, Secretariat Building Agartala, Tripura invites sealed tender(s) against press NleT No: 08/EO/TRRDA/ 2020-21 date:06.07.2020.

For Upgradation of Road & CDs including LS Bridges of PMGSY Works (RRP-II WB-AF and G&CR),

1. TR-06-03 P2, TR-06-04 P2, TR-06-05 P2, TR-06-06 P2, TR-06-07 P2 & TR-06-08 P2;

With Estimated cost: a) Construction: ₹ 4523.93 Lakh b) Maintenance ₹ 461.17 Lakh c) Earnest money: ₹ 99.70 lakh

2. TR-04-05 P2: With Estimated cost: a) Upgradation: ₹ 5349.74 Lakh b) Maintenance: ₹ 496.53 Lakh c) Earnest money, ₹ 116.93 lakh

For details please visit: www.pmgstyenderstrp.gov.in

Sd/
Empowered Officer
Tripura RRDA, PWD (PMGSY)
7th Block, 2nd Floor, Secretariat
Building, Agartala
ICA/C-946/2020-21

Appeal for Identification



General Public is hereby informed that a male dead body **Name:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** about 45-50 years, **Height:** 5'4", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Built:** Thin, **Face:** Long, **Wearing:** Dirty Shirt and Pajama He was found at near Holambi Kalan Railway Fatak in unconscious condition after that he was taken to BJ Ram Hospital Jahangir Puri, Delhi where Doctor

declared brought Dead vide MLC No.160374/2020. The Dead Body has been preserved at Mortuary of BJ Ram Hospital, Jahangir Puri, Delhi for 72 Hours for identification and Postmortum. In this regard, **DD No. 48A dt 03.07.2020** has been lodged at PS Narela Industrial Area, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this male but no clue has come to light so far. Any, person having any information or clue about this male may kindly inform to the following. **SHO P.S.: Narela Industrial Area, Delhi Ph. : 011-27787592, 27787593** DP/349/ON/2020

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one male was found dead on 04.07.2020 in front of Pillar No. 28, Under Rani Jhansi Flyover, DCM Chowk, Azad Market, Delhi. In this regard a **DD No. 14A u/s 174 CrPc, Dated 04.07.2020** has been lodged at **P.S. Bara Hindu Rao, Delhi**. The dead body has been preserved in mortuary of Subzi Mandi, Delhi for 72 hrs for identification. The description of the dead body is given as under:

Name: Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** approx. 40 years, **Height:** 5'5" Feet, **Face:** Oval, **Complexion:** Dark, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Blue Colour Print Shirt, Zebra Colour Half Pant and Black Colour Sandal in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the information about the dead male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one is having any information about this dead male please inform the undersigned. **S.H.O P.S. Bara Hindu Rao, Delhi Ph. : 011-23528060, 23529707** DP/361/N/2020

SEARCH OF MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one girl, **Rithanshi, D/o:** Rajkumar, **R/o:** H.No. G-12/08, Sector 15, Rohini, Delhi. Aged: approx 22 years has been missing from her home since 28.06.2020. In this regard, a **Case Vides DD No. 71A Dated 29.06.2020** has been lodged at **P.S. KNK Marg, Rohini, Delhi**. Her description is as under:

Rithanshi
Round, **Built:** Strong, **Hair:** Black, **Wearing:** Blue Colour Jeans Pant and Yellow Colour Top. If anyone has any information about the missing/kidnaped girl, then please inform P.S. KNK Marg, Rohini, Delhi at email: cic@cbi.gov.in Fax: No.011-24368639, Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641

S.H.O P.S. KNK Marg, Rohini, Delhi Ph. 011-27571171, 27571162 DP/216/RD/2020.

PAPER WITH PASSION

Encounter the truth

The UP police theory on why it killed Vikas Dubey doesn't stand to reason. The politico-criminal nexus will never be exposed



UP gangster Vikas Dubey may not have anyone mourning his death in a stage-managed accident cum encounter, responsible as he was for many killings, the last being of eight policemen. But does this sit easy on the conscience of the police, which has put out the most outrageous and improbable theory of his attempt to escape, one that triggered it to open fire? Is it not its job to deliver the culprit for courts to decide? Does it not indicate that the political patrons of Dubey and their protector policemen had too much to lose had the don spilled details of the unholy politician-criminal nexus that has entrenched itself in the State in a mutually self-serving manner? Does this not damage Chief

Minister Yogi Adityanath's image of a no-nonsense leader with zero tolerance for corruption and mafia, for good, considering he was personally supervising Dubey's case? Or is it that his individual will stands no chance in front of systemic imperatives, which his party, too, has endorsed? Dubey himself was sensing that he would be eliminated, what with the police announcing a bounty on his head and five of his aides killed in orchestrated scenarios. So he surrendered, to negotiate a longish jail term for the right to live. But his protectors and creators were scared that with all the media attention on his arrest, he could have just spilled the beans or leaked prized information. So they got rid of him. This haste is troublesome for the simple reason that had the police followed processes and built a solid case on his killing of their colleagues in Kanpur, they could have anyway got the death sentence for him. Even assuming that some among the forces had tipped Dubey about an impending raid, which he used as a trap to ambush the cops, the UP police could have used his past crimes to justify the severest penalty. Why did it feel so disadvantaged and compromised as to ignore the provisions of the law and shoot to kill? Unless the men in uniform were told to play executioner. The sad part is that the focus has now shifted from Dubey, the criminal, to Dubey, the victim of police excesses. And nobody is even discussing the heinous nature of his crimes. This, too, is then an equal travesty of justice.

According to the UP police, while Dubey was being transported back to the State, one of the cars in the convoy overturned. Taking advantage of the situation, he allegedly attempted to snatch a weapon and flee the scene, following which the police opened fire and shot him. If the narrative sounds familiar, that is because it is. Most of Dubey's aides died in such "encounters" after "attacking" the police and trying to "escape." It matters little why the policemen "conveniently" forgot to secure their weapons as per rules, did not handcuff Dubey or how he managed to escape from an overturned car with all doors shut. The police theorists also forgot to factor how a car that skids on a smooth tarmac doesn't leave tyre marks. In the end, many questions will be left hanging like aerosols that disintegrate beyond a certain point in time. Who were the political leaders who promoted the mobster's criminal empire and his clout? Which all policemen in the force are in cahoots with criminals? The fact that deputy SP Devendra Mishra, who was among the eight policemen killed, had warned his seniors of Dubey's hold over the justice system but was ignored speaks a lot about the don's clout. Which *netas* are involved with criminals in the State? Dubey, who has been patronised by the ruling BJP and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) at various times, had of late tried to curry favour back with the BJP. Apart from intensifying caste wars for votebank consolidation, he was also a quick facilitator of land and business deals that political parties, their sponsors and bureaucrats found attractive. So, who is the UP Government trying to protect? India is a democracy after all and even criminals with such intimidating rap sheets like Dubey's have a right to justice, representation and being heard in a court of law. Besides the Supreme Court has declared encounter killings as unlawful. But it is very obvious that the Adityanath administration and senior Ministers have given their tacit approval to this "encounter culture" which abounds in the State as does police impunity. And with the killing of Dubey, one wonders if Adityanath is indeed serious about flushing out criminals and cleaning up the police at the same time. If we do not break the politico-police-criminal axis, cleansing is not possible. In a society governed by the rule of law, the death of a policeman cannot be avenged by encounters of criminals. Considering the scale of Dubey's crimes and the involvement of Government officials and politicians, the State Government should have entrusted the probe to an independent and impartial agency immediately after the arrest of the don and his henchmen. But it seems the Government, too, is trying to protect someone, somewhere and has given the police a carte blanche. Will we ever know?

New film locales

The Tourism Ministry has allowed the film industry to shoot at ASI sites and monuments. A good move to promote domestic travel



Like every other sector, the film industry, too, has started adapting itself to the new normal of a post-pandemic world. So though it sells dreams, fantasy and larger than life experiences on the big screen, filmmakers have now decided to restrict their cast and crew to local talent and shoot projects within the country in small, contained sets. And since Bollywood has so far thrived on the grandeur of locales and the panoramic outdoors — Yash Chopra's romance with Switzerland being almost legendary — it is now going "vocal about local" as well, choosing unique backdrops at home. It is here that the Ministry of Tourism and Culture is chipping in to do its bit to help the industry that has used

its soft power to promote destinations and cultures. It has allowed filmmakers to shoot at more than 3,000 Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)-approved historical monuments. It has also put in place a mechanism to fast-track requisite clearances from various Ministries and departments. To cite an example, locations involving archaeological sites in metro cities required clearances from the ASI, the Home Ministry, Ministry of Environment and Forests and several other departments in the metropolis as also the police and its traffic wing. In addition to this, scripts and locations had to be vetted in advance along with the specifications on the number of shooting days. Perhaps this has been one of the biggest reasons why our monuments and museums have never featured in films to the extent that story-tellers wanted them to. In comparison, foreign locales seemed attractive because of the local tourism boards' incentives such as tax credits, cash rebates, refunds, fee-free location scouting *et al.* It took a pandemic for the Tourism Ministry to be rational about earning revenues. So it is now allowing single-window clearances, including facilitating some from various departments and States. Applications will be online and approvals may come within 15-20 days.

In the end, the locale is just a prop and packaging, what sells is content. While popular cinema in India has largely been aspirational, many of our contemporary hits have actually celebrated the local milieu. Be it Ladakh for *3 Idiots*, Kashmir for *Lakshya*, Delhi for *Rang De Basanti* or *Bajranghi Bhaijaan* and the slew of small town stories around Lucknow, Alahabad, Kanpur and Jaipur, each city and town has emerged as a distinct character and layered the stories with heartfelt warmth. Qutub Minar, Taj Mahal and the fort palaces of Rajasthan have all featured prominently. But Shah Rukh Khan's *Paheli* will be remembered for that scene at a stepwell in Rajasthan. If some unknown wonders and sites could be filmed, it would be the best campaign for domestic tourism. Not many of us will be travelling abroad anyway. As for Switzerland, there's always our Northeast.

Passivity and its causes

It is the defining quest of consumer culture that makes for passivity as it is mainly externally-driven by advertising. How then do we overcome the feeling of insecurity?



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

After the publication of my last column on June 27, several readers have requested me to elaborate further as to how television breeds passivity. Hence this piece. Before proceeding further, one needs to be clear as to what is meant by passivity. At the visible level, it is reflected in the lack of active response leading to the absence of intervention to ensure follow-up action even in cases where one is deeply moved — such as the arrest of the culprit who prepared the explosives-packed coconut that so savagely killed the pregnant elephant in Kerala on May 27. Even if, however, there had been such intervention, it might not necessarily have indicated the absence of passivity.

The entire issue has to be seen in the context of Erich Fromm's differentiation in his book, *To Have or to Be?*, between passive and active states of mind and activity related respectively to "having" and "being" modes of existence. According to him, the "having" mode of existence, marked by alienated activity, makes for passivity. "In alienated activity," he writes, "I do not really act; I am acted upon by external or internal forces." An important manifestation as well as an ingredient of the "having" mode of existence is a situation in which "my relationship with the entire world is one of possessing and owning, one in which I want to make everybody and everything, including myself, my property. This tendency becomes so pronounced that it extends even to people, and one talks of "My doctor", "My employer", "My boss" and so on.

Fromm makes it clear that passivity does not mean the absence of activity but activity prompted by external forces in contrast to that arising from the autonomous dynamics of the perpetrator's inner self. One, therefore, can be in a passive state even when engaged in hectic exertion if the latter is prompted by a force outside one. Similarly, physical inaction does not mean passivity if it goes with autonomous inner activity. Fromm associates the active, as opposed to the passive state, with the "being" mode of existence. The latter has as its "prerequisites independence, freedom and the presence of critical reason. Its fundamental character is that of being active, not in the sense of outward activity, of busyness, but of inner activity, the pro-



ductive use of human powers. To be active means to give expression to one's faculties, talent, to the wealth of human gifts through which — though in varying degrees — every human being is endowed. It means to renew oneself, to grow, to flow out, to love, to transcend the prison of one's isolated ego, to be interested, to list, to give."

The "being" mode of existence is characterised by non-alienated activity. "I experience myself," says Fromm, "as the substance of my activity. Non-alienated activity is a process of giving birth to something, of producing something and remaining related to what I produce. This also means that my activity is a manifestation of my powers, that I and my activity are one. I call this activity productive activity."

The question is: How does television promote the "having" mode of existence? It is a technological device for transmitting images and sound over ether. Its evolution as a cultural medium has been largely determined by its symbiotic relationship with the consumer culture, which is marked by self-indulgence and compulsive, competitive and conspicuous consumption, fanned by unbridled advertising, association of personal worth and social status with a high level of consumption and the spread and intensification of the competitive spirit, a critical factor in capitalism. It is the result of a new phase in the evolution of capitalism in which the market plays a dominant role in the system, and which, in turn accounts for an unprecedented emphasis on ensuring higher turnover and surplus. Marketing has emerged as a specialised field and advertising as its cutting edge. Television, which has given advertising a reach and impact

it never had before, has become the principal vehicle of the consumer culture.

The consumer culture, which determines the content of television, including advertising, spawns passivity because it undermines an individual's autonomy. Advertising plays a critical role. In many cases, one would not even have known of a product's existence but for it being advertised. Nor would one have bought a product if advertising had not promoted it in glowing terms. The act of buying it is thus an externally-induced passive exercise.

It is not just one act of buying. Advertising not only projects commodities as irresistible objects themselves but also their possession as an indication of one's worth and status — for example by projecting that only a person of a certain class can own a certain brand of suit or a stratospherically-priced car. Given the ubiquity and the audio-visual appeal of advertisements, other criteria of status and worth such as scholarship and superior creativity in the arts, for example, writing and painting, get relegated. An increasing ability to buy things and enjoy services becomes the principal goal of a progressively large mass of people and, as a consequence, the defining quest of the consumer culture.

This defining quest of the consumer culture makes for passivity as it is mainly externally-driven by advertising. The process is reinforced by a compulsion internal to the psyche of people which reinforces the compulsive, competitive and conspicuous consumption that is a hallmark of the consumer culture. In *The Fear of Freedom*, Fromm shows how a feeling of insecurity comes inexorably

upon a person with his/her growing awareness of himself/herself separate from the surrounding nature and people.

According to him, this awareness "remained very dim over long periods of history," and the process of its growth, which he calls "individuation," "seems to have reached its peak in modern history in the centuries between the Reformation and the present." Stating that the same process is found in the life history of the individual, he says that despite biological separation, the child "remains functionally at one with the mother for a considerable period." It is linked to her by what he calls "primary ties," an expression he also uses to signify the ties connecting "the member of a primitive community with his clan or nature, or the medieval man with his clan or social caste." Their existence implies a "lack of individuality but they also give security and orientation to the individual."

In the case of the child, he/she slowly becomes aware of his/her separateness from his/her mother and others, with physical, mental and emotional development. This leads to the emergence of an "organised structure guided by the individual's will and reason." He adds, "If we call this organised and integrated whole of the personality as the self, we can also say that the one side of the growing process of individuation is the growth of self-strength." The other side is a growing feeling of aloneness which leads to a growing feeling of insecurity given the many dangers that beset a person in every society. This feeling of insecurity is ever-present in market capitalism which is the matrix of the consumer culture

and in which the market dominates the system and competition is war with no holds barred. Thus, corporations are stalked by the fear of being taken over or run to the ground by other corporations and individuals by that of losing their jobs or of uncertain futures in their own corporations taken over by new masters.

The way to overcome a feeling of loneliness and insecurity is, Fromm states, to "relate spontaneously to the world in love and work," in the genuine expression of "one's emotional, sensuous and intellectual capacities," becoming one with man, nature and himself "without giving up the independence and integrity of one's individual self." Unfortunately, conditions under market capitalism hinder the adoption of such a course. The several ways — including resort to sadistic and masochistic relationships — in which people seek to overcome their feeling of insecurity, include compulsive acquisition of possessions and conformism.

According to Fromm, "Incorporating a thing, for example by eating or drinking, is an archaic form of possessing it." An infant's form of taking possession is by swallowing a thing. Referring to many forms of swallowing, including symbolic incorporation, Fromm says, "The attitude inherent in consumption is that of swallowing." And swallowing under the influence of televised advertising is yet another example of how the idiot box and the consumer culture promote passivity.

(The writer is Consultant Editor, *The Pioneer*, and author)

SOUNDBITE

Both (India and China) are powerful nations yet neither one can destroy the other one. So both will have to live side by side.



Tibetan spiritual leader — Dalai Lama

I don't think there is anything called an outsider or an insider. It is about favouritism, that's the word that should be used. And this exists everywhere.



Actor — Divya Dutta

The magnitude of this pandemic, which has touched virtually everyone in the world, clearly deserves a commensurate evaluation, an honest evaluation.



WHO chief — Tedros A Ghebreyesus

It is the job of the courts to deliver justice. It is the job of the police to deliver the accused. The only thing killed in Yogi's encounter raj is justice.



Senior TMC leader — Mahua Moitra

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rough ride

Sir — Private companies, which solely pursue profit, cannot be expected to have a charitable approach towards society or the country. So it will not come as a surprise if the private owners, approved by the Government, come up with arrangements that will serve only the privileged classes and exclude the common people with their revised fare structures. Class barriers exist in every sphere of life, be it hospitals, schools or higher educational institutions, residential apartments and hotels among others. Thus, one could expect the tradition of exclusion to continue with the privatisation of the Indian Railways.

Having already made the decision to privatise 109 pairs of routes, the least the Government should do is to make sure that the number of existing trains or routes is not reduced. The enjoyment of the elite should not come at the cost of the lower and middle classes for whom railways are often the lifeline for travel. Adequate alternatives should be available so that people, who cannot afford the prices set by the

A new education paradigm is needed

This refers to the editorial, "No lessons to be learnt" (July 10). The ostensible reason for the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)'s removal of topics such as secularism, citizenship and federalism from its syllabi for classes IX to XII is 30 per cent reduction in the study load of students during the Coronavirus pandemic. But the choice of topics for deletion from course materials raises questions about the motivation behind the move. The board's justification, that it was meant "to reduce the exam stress of students due to the prevailing health emergency situation and prevent learning gaps" begs the question as to why the topics needed to be learnt.

The CBSE has not made clear the rationale behind dropping some subjects as "dispensable" while retaining others as "indispensable." There is a strong case for every student to have exposure to India's composite culture — its heterogeneity, diversity and pluralism. It helps in the cultivation of



tolerance as a virtue. What children learn in their impressionable age moulds and colours their whole life. Nonetheless, it is some consolation that the "banishment" of key components of what we cherish as liberal education is "temporary," a one-time measure and the expunged contents have not yet been replaced by new content, propagating a constricted vision of India and the world.

G David Milton Maruthancode

Overhaul education

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "No lessons to be learnt" (July 10). While the CBSE's decision to reduce the syllabus up to 30 per cent is welcome, one fails to understand the very purpose of education when students will not learn anything about secularism,

Partition and citizenship among other subjects.

Are curricula only meant to help the students pass the examinations? For the students, textbooks are just an assemblage of facts that need to be memorised, only to be forgotten later in life. Our pedagogical systems are disconnected from lived realities. It is time to evolve teaching

methods that encourage students to apply facts to real-life problems while encouraging them to seek knowledge. The sad reality is that concepts like secularism and federalism are not really practised anymore.

Bhavik Jain Via email

The race is on

Sir — With TikTok being banned in India, various social media apps have been rushing to take its place. One of the top contenders is Instagram, which has showed its intention to fill the gap with a new app called "Reels." With thousands of content creators, who had amassed millions of followers, being stranded overnight due to a ban on TikTok, it will be interesting to see if Reels will be able to capture the same market. For influencers, the challenge will be to direct their loyalists to newer platforms. They will have to regain what they have lost.

Juhi Singh Via email

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

EIA 2020 needs more teeth

The draft notification should have brought in tougher measures but it has notable weak points that severely undermine its very purpose



KOTA SRIRAJ

The new Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Draft Notification, 2020, that seeks to replace the 2016 version, could not have come at a better time as both the environment and humans are in the throes of suffering. The abuse of the environment by the human race has led to nature striking back in the form of zoonotic diseases such as COVID-19. The writ of mankind has run large and in the process has played havoc with the delicate balance between various ecological features of our planet. In India as well, in the name of economic development, ill-conceived projects from the environmental perspective have continuously overreached into the realm of nature and compromised the ecological well-being of our nation. This has been allowed to happen due to the absence of a robust EIA mechanism that focusses on a stringent appraisal of a project before its launch and which not only assesses its environmental sensitivity but also measures the responsibility shown by the project designers towards the local/indigenous communities that stand to be impacted by it. India direly needs to have rigorous regulations which ensure that the "polluter pays" rule is applied strictly in letter and spirit. It also needs to be ensured that the environmental clearance (EC) certificate is not abused as a licence to pillage the environment in the name of development. But all said and done, such an ideal EIA still remains a pipe dream in the country.

The EIA was started in India in 1977-78 for the evaluation of river projects. Since then it has come a long way but interestingly, even today there is a high number of instances where projects have caused immense harm to the environment, humans and wildlife alike. How these projects passed the EIA and obtained an EC is a pertinent question that needs urgent answers. The recent Oil India Limited (OIL) gas well blowout at Baghjan in Assam's Tinsukia district is an apt example of how the environment is getting adversely impacted in the absence of a robust EIA mechanism. The disaster has caused huge damage in the Dibru-Saikhowa National Park situated just 900 metres from the well and to the Maguri-Motapung wetland as well, killing birds and endangered wildlife. Houses, farms, trees and water are covered with a film of oil right next to the place where three rivers join to form the transboundary Brahmaputra river. The whole area is experiencing repeated seismic tremors. Yet it has been allowed to continue operations with impunity. That such blatant violation of environmental laws is being done by a public sector undertaking is nothing short of a disgrace and a mockery of the concept of EIA. Yet another example is the LG Polymers Plant in Visakhapatnam from where the Styrene gas leak occurred on May 7, leading to disastrous consequences. It has since emerged that the plant was operating without the requisite clearances for the last two decades. Sadly, there are many more such examples which raise the question as to who is actually granting these projects permission to operate.

The EIA is essentially the bedrock of Indian environmental conservation and needs to be firmly anchored to the concept of "precautionary principle" or put simply, the creation of foresight to grasp the consequences of our actions on the environment and humanity. This "foresight" is sorely missing and needs to be urgently built into our EIA systems so that the hidden cost of economic development is not painfully paid every time an environmentally insensitive project is cleared. In conditions such as these, the EIA 2020 draft notification should have brought in tougher measures to filter projects on the basis of the threat perception to the environment, but surprisingly it has notable weak points that severely undermine the very purpose of EIA.

The draft notification allows for *post facto* clearance, which means that even if a project has come up without requisite approvals and environmental clearances, it can still continue to operate. This feature is quite unacceptable as it will create a rash of projects that will operate without critical clearances. Additionally, the draft makes a curious provision that not only undermines the environment but is also directly detrimental to the very fabric of our democracy as it neglects consultation with local communities by limiting public consultation pertaining to the impact of a proposed project. This amounts to silencing the opinion of the common man and therefore undermining his/her democratic rights. The draft has listed a series of projects which have been exempted from public interaction. These are area development projects, modernisation or irrigation projects, highway projects and, of course, projects pertaining to defence and national security.

Although the last-mentioned projects are understandably out of the ambit of public consultation due to security considerations, the rest of the projects mentioned on the list do not deserve to be exempted from public participation and debate. With loopholes such as these, the draft cannot build on the 2016 version and may even undermine some of the good work done under the earlier version of the EIA. The Government must relook at some of the worrying features of the draft 2020 so that the future of Indian environment and humanity stand a chance against the onslaught of so-called economic development that is parallely eroding the environment.

(The writer is an environmental journalist)

IT'S THE JOB OF COURTS TO DELIVER JUSTICE. IT'S THE JOB OF THE POLICE TO DELIVER THE ACCUSED. INDIA UNDER THE BJP HAS CONFUSED THE TWO.

—TMC MP
MAHUA MOITRA



THERE IS NO NEED TO SHED TEARS OVER THE KILLING OF DUBEY IN AN ENCOUNTER. WHY IS THE POLICE ACTION BEING QUESTIONED?

—SHIV SENA MP
SANJAY RAUT

Stop population explosion

With the global population estimated to touch nine billion by 2050, the huge surge is identified to be the causal factor of developmental concerns in several countries



BALWANT MEHTA

SIMI MEHTA

ARJUN KUMAR

When the world's population reached five billion on July 11, 1987, it was observed as the "Five Billion Day" by the United Nations (UN). Taking inspiration from this, the then Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for the first time in 1989 launched an initiative to observe July 11 as the World Population Day to draw attention towards the urgency and importance of related issues. As population explosion began to take centre stage as a cause of serious concern, the themes of the World Population Day focussed on the health problems faced by childbearing women and the importance of family planning, gender equality, poverty, maternal health and human rights. With the current global population at 7.8 billion and estimated to touch nine billion by 2050, the massive surge in population is identified to be the causal factor of developmental concerns in several countries. It becomes more conspicuous for developing and lesser developed countries. Therefore, World Population Day assumes paramount importance because it highlights the problems of population explosion and raises awareness about the effects of over-population on the environment and the planet. This year's theme is to raise awareness about safeguarding sexual and reproductive health needs and vulnerabilities of women and girls during the COVID-19 pandemic. This is very timely and significant because many pregnant women succumb to poor reproductive healthcare. A study by the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) revealed that 800 women die every day during the process of childbirth. The research highlighted that if the lockdown continues for six months, with continued major disruption to health services, then 47 million women in low and middle-income countries might not have access to modern contraceptives. This would, in turn, lead to seven million unintended pregnancies. This could lead to a rise in gender-based violence, female genital mutilation and child marriages and thus threaten the transformative results attained thus far in raising the health conditions of women.

India's concerns: The concerns for India on this World Population Day are clear. It has just two per cent of the world's landmass and 16 per cent of the global population. Between the Census of 2001 and 2011, the country added 18 per cent more people to its population — translating to around 181 million. It is the second-most populous country in the world with an estimated population of around 1.37 billion by 2019. According to the Population Division of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, India is expected to add nearly 273 million people in the next three decades and surpass China's population within the next seven years. In this context, the importance of sexual and reproductive health of women and planned parenthood underscores some major concerns for the country.

Birth rate and death rate: These are important factors for the population explosion in India. The death rate and birth rate was almost the same up to the mid-20th century, which meant a slow rate of growth of population. However, with gradual improvement in healthcare facilities, level of education, availability of proper nutrition and diet, people began to live longer and the death rate began to decline. This mismatch in birth and death rate resulted in faster growth of the population in the last few decades. As on 2020, India has a registered birth rate

“ACCORDING TO THE POPULATION DIVISION OF THE UN DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS, INDIA IS EXPECTED TO ADD NEARLY 273 MILLION PEOPLE IN THE NEXT THREE DECADES AND SURPASS CHINA'S POPULATION WITHIN THE NEXT SEVEN YEARS. IN THIS CONTEXT, THE IMPORTANCE OF SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH OF WOMEN AND PLANNED PARENTHOOD UNDERSCORES SOME MAJOR CONCERNS FOR THE COUNTRY



of 18.2 per 1,000 population and death rate of 7.3 per 1,000 population.

Poverty and illiteracy: These factors also contribute immensely to the population explosion. In particular, children in rural areas are considered a blessing and support for parents in their old age, while in poorer families, more children mean more wage earners. On the other hand, the level of girls' education has a direct impact on fertility, as it is evidenced that the fertility rate of illiterate women tends to be higher than that of those who are literate. Lack of education prevents women from having full knowledge about the use of contraceptives, of the consequences of frequent childbirth as well as of their reproductive rights. On the other hand, educated women understand their rights and choices of contraception, are often vocal against early marriage and choose not to have many children. In India, female (39 per cent) illiteracy was almost twice than male illiteracy in 2011.

Family planning and other social factors: Even after 69 years of the creation of the National Family Planning Programme, the pattern of family planning has not changed much in the country. The National Family Health Survey (2015-2016) revealed that the use of condoms declined by 52 per cent over eight years and vasectomies fell 73 per cent. Added to this, women still lack the power to negotiate and choose if they are willing to get pregnant or wish to give birth to a baby, whether it is a boy or a girl. Preference for male children by families is still prevalent in the overwhelming patriarchal society in the country. In this process, a woman ends up being pregnant multiple times and producing many children till a male child is born.

Total Fertility Rate: TFR is the average number of children born to women during their reproductive years. For the

population to remain stable, an overall TFR of 2.1 is needed. Hence, a TFR of 2.1 is known as the replacement rate. India has witnessed a steady decline in its TFR, which touched 2.3 in 2016. However, there is a huge variation across States and the income level of people. Poorer States like Bihar (3.2), Uttar Pradesh (3.1), Jharkhand (2.7) and Rajasthan (2.7) still have TFRs above 2.5, while the poorest household has a TFR of 3.2 children per woman compared to 1.5 children per woman from affluent families. This shows that population growth is more concentrated in economically weaker sections of society and poorer regions of the country.

High youth unemployment: India has the highest youth population in the world, i.e. around 28 per cent of the total population. This youth potential is often referred to as the "demographic dividend" which means that if the youth available in the country are equipped with quality education and skills training, then they will not only get suitable employment but can also contribute effectively towards the economic development of the country. Every year around 25 million people enter the workforce, but only seven million are able to secure jobs, resulting in huge unemployment rates. Around 18 per cent of the young labour force is unemployed in the country today and around 33 per cent of the total youth are not in employment, education and training (NEET), which is the highest in the world. This huge unemployed and NEET category of youth are turning the demographic dividend into a "demographic disaster" for India.

The way forward: Population growth constantly acts as a hurdle in effectively addressing the problem of poverty, hunger and malnutrition and in providing a better quality of health and education, with limited resources. COVID-19 has accentuated these challenges and also raised

concerns on the timely attainment of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is, therefore, important to understand that in order to have a better future for all on a healthy planet, attainment of the SDGs is critical.

Family planning is an effective tool to ensure a stable rise in the population, which in turn is crucial for the achievement of some of these SDGs. The Government at all levels — Union, State and local, citizens, civil societies as well as businesses — must take the responsibility to promote awareness and advocate the sexual and reproductive rights of women and encourage the use of contraception. This would go a long way in ensuring that every child who is born would prove to be an asset for the country, as all the research shows that investing in family planning and well-being measures have significant benefits over per Rupee spent *vis-à-vis* other investments.

Additionally, the key stakeholders need to be committed to well-researched planning and implementation on how to harness the population growth for the maximum economic benefit of the society and country. Providing adequate education and training to the young population would make them productive, effective and competent, thereby making them key contributors to economic growth. The World Population Day, 2020, is an opportune time to discuss these important issues and raise awareness about safeguarding sexual and reproductive health needs and vulnerabilities of women and girls during crises like the pandemic, so that corrective measures can be taken to overcome these challenges towards the vision of New India and an Atma Nirbhar Bharat.

(Balwant is Research Director, Simi is CEO and Editorial Director and Kumar is Director, IMPRI)

China the emerging ring master of Nepal?

It is time for the people to question the Government, especially KP Oli, for turning a blind eye to Chinese high-handedness



RISHI GUPTA

The recent border issues raised by Nepal show structural deficiencies in building trust and willingness to keep relations with India healthy. The self-centred politicisation of centuries-old peaceful ties exposes the darker side of Nepalese Prime Minister KP Oli. He has not only derailed the prospects of peace and cooperation between Nepal and India, but his hollow projection of nationalism, solely based on anti-India manoeuvring, exhibits his short-sightedness to serve vested interests in the political and diplomatic space of Nepal. This includes his growing closeness and frequent interactions with China.

On the other hand, Nepal's ruling

Communist Party (NCP) has intensified its demand for Oli's resignation for failing to contain COVID-19, derailed the economy, endangering the right to freedom, including that of the Press, and accusing India of conspiring against him politically. Amid all this, Oli can be seen misusing his power to influence the office of the President in unilaterally issuing ordinances to ease the process of splitting a party to protect his position as Prime Minister in case his party splits.

Although the Standing Committee of the NCP has lashed out at Oli for misusing his power and accusing India, Oli has turned a deaf ear to such calls and is openly entertaining Chinese assertiveness in the domestic and foreign affairs of Nepal. If reports in the Nepalese media are to be believed, it is Oli's arrogance that has driven his pro-China campaign, at the cost of destroying friendly ties with India. While Oli's new-found love for China is a challenge to India, a proactive and meddling Beijing is a bigger concern for Nepal itself.

Even though China has penetrated the Nepalese political space, Oli is

not paying heed since recent moves by the Chinese Ambassador in Nepal are aimed to protect his interests. Ambassador Hou Yanqi has been meeting with the members of the NCP to keep Oli in office. Her direct meetings with the Prime Minister are cherry on the cake for China. However, Yanqi attracted criticism after she held a one-on-one meeting with the President of Nepal on June 5, a day before the Standing Committee of the NCP was to decide on Oli's fate. While the agenda of the meeting was not revealed, it is clear that China wishes Oli to continue as the Prime Minister.

On his part, Oli is hell-bent on bringing a Chinese-style one-party rule in Nepal. Members of the Communist Party of China were invited to provide training to the Central Committee members of the NCP before its second convention was to begin in Kathmandu on February 15. At the convention, NCP allegedly passed a resolution to amend the Constitution to make Nepal a "People's Democracy" from the existing "People's multi-party Democracy". In case, the NCP pushes to remove the word "multi-

party" from the Constitution, it will further lead the country towards a one-party rule.

This pro-China inclination may be considered an independent sovereign act of a country. But allowing Chinese intervention in the political affairs of Nepal is dangerous. While the high-handedness of Yanqi is not a hidden fact, pumping of Chinese funds through the Madan Bhandari Foundation, named after a late Communist leader seen as a source of Oli's political aspirations, needs to be seen.

It was Yanqi who had convinced Oli and his administration to sign an extradition treaty during Xi Jinping's visit to Nepal last October. While the treaty was not signed due to internal opposition, Oli gifted a Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters on the lines of the extradition treaty to China. The treaty has not only jeopardised the fate of 13,000 Tibetans living in Nepal but Kathmandu has also risked violating the pact with the UNHCR to protect the rights of Tibetan refugees.

The frequent meetings between

the Chinese officials and officers of the Nepal Army give a clear understanding of the Chinese mindset in Nepal for two reasons. One, the army has always been looked upon as the most stable institution in Nepal. No matter the political party in power, a stable relationship with the army will prove beneficiary for Chinese interests in Nepal. Two, in the last three years, the security cooperation between China and Nepal has moved from minimal to an advanced level. To promote ties in the security sector, China and Nepal have continued to strengthen cooperation through the exchange of visits of security personnel, joint exercises and training, disaster prevention and reduction, personnel training and supply of arms and ammunition to the Nepalese army.

Also, the Chinese business community in Nepal has been defying domestic laws of the host country, but local political support has kept it safe. Thamel, a tourist spot in the heart of Kathmandu known for lavish restaurants and hostels, has a complete area allegedly owned by the Chinese. They are known to lease properties from

Nepali owners on a maximum bid and run these hotels and restaurants with all-Chinese staff, who allegedly visit Nepal on tourist visas. Similar cases of fraud have come into the public sphere where Chinese-run hotels in Nepal accept payments through the China-owned WeChat app. Meaning, the Chinese tourists do not make cash transactions in local currency or on local online payment platforms. Therefore, revenue contribution by the Chinese tourists has negative implications for the Nepalese tourism industry.

In December 2019, 122 Chinese nationals were arrested by the Nepal Police for their involvement in cyber-crimes and bank frauds. Later, these criminals were deported at the request of the Chinese Government and to provide an explanation to the media, the police claimed that it had failed to frame charges against them. China is known to have little respect for the laws of other countries but local support from the Prime Minister's office is indeed a sell-off. It is believed that Oli had personally attempted to avoid embarrassing China by deporting

these criminals. In February, the editor of a leading English daily in Nepal was also forced to resign after the newspaper ran an op-ed on the Coronavirus and questioned the Chinese Government's intentions in hiding its spread.

For years, leaders in Nepal have propagated a neutral position between India and China, knowing the importance of both the neighbours in trade, transit and security. They have also understood the geographical compulsions of a landlocked Nepal, but with his hollow acts of ultra-nationalism, Oli has merely served his personal aspirations.

In reality, a Chinese-style political system in Nepal will be a curse on Nepal's long fight for democracy, where thousands had sacrificed their lives. Nepal has examples of Chinese debt-traps in Sri Lanka and Africa and brain-washing in Pakistan. Therefore, it is time for the people to question the Government, especially Oli, for turning a blind eye to Chinese high-handedness.

(The writer is ICSSR Doctoral Fellow at the CSAS, JNU)

REPRESSION OF MINORITIES IN XINJIANG

US sanctions Chinese officials, Beijing vows to retaliate

Washington/Beijing: The US has imposed sanctions and visa restrictions on three senior Chinese officials, including the regional boss of the ruling communist party, for alleged human rights abuses targeting Uyghurs, ethnic Kazakhs, and members of other minority groups in the restive Muslim-majority Xinjiang province.

China is accused of mass detentions, religious persecution and forced sterilisation of Uyghurs and others in the resource-rich northwestern province.

Authorities there are thought to have detained about a million people in re-education camps in recent years for "vocational training" to counter radicalism and separatism in Xinjiang.

The three senior officials named by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in a statement were: Chen Quanguo, the communist party secretary of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and a member of the powerful Politburo; Zhu Hailun, party secretary of the Xinjiang political and legal committee; and Wang Mingshan, party secretary of the Xinjiang public security bureau.

Chen is the highest-ranking Chinese official ever to be hit by US sanctions. He is said to be the architect of China's harsh policies against minorities, and was previously in charge in Tibet.

Former security official in Xinjiang, Huo Lijun has also been named in the list.

As a result of the US move, they and their immediate family members are ineligible for

entry into America. It is now a crime in the US to conduct financial transactions with all of them, and they will have their US-based assets frozen.

"The United States is taking action today against the horrific and systematic abuses in Xinjiang and calls on all nations who share our concerns about the CCP's attacks on human rights and fundamental freedoms to join us in condemning this behaviour," Pompeo said.

In a separate statement, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said the US is committed to using the full breadth of its financial powers to hold human rights abusers accountable in Xinjiang and across the world.

"The United States will not stand idly by as the CCP carries out human rights abuses targeting Uyghurs, ethnic Kazakhs,

and members of other minority groups in Xinjiang, to include forced labour, arbitrary mass detention, and forced population control, and attempts to erase their culture and Muslim faith," Pompeo said.

Before ramping up the CCP's campaign of repression in Xinjiang, Chen oversaw extensive abuses in Tibetan areas, using many of the same horrific practices and policies CCP officials currently employ in Xinjiang, the top American diplomat said.

Responding to the US move, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told media briefing in Beijing that the US decision amounted to "serious interference in China's internal affairs and grave violation of basic norms guiding international relations."

"Reacting to this wrong move, China has decided to impose reciprocal measures on US individuals and institutions with egregious behaviours on Xinjiang," he said.

Asked when the sanctions would come into effect, he said, "you will find soon enough."

This is the third time this week US and China slapped sanctions and visa restrictions. China on Monday imposed visa restrictions on US individuals with "egregious conduct" on Hong Kong-related issues as a counter to American sanctions against unnamed Chinese officials deemed responsible for curbing freedoms in the city.

The US action came after China went ahead with the implementation of its new national security law for Hong Kong disregarding international condemnation to quell mass protests opposing growing

Chinese interference, marginalising "one country two systems" formula governing Hong Kong.

On Wednesday, Beijing said it would retaliate the US action to impose visa restrictions on Chinese officials involved in restricting access to foreigners to Tibet with visa bans on Americans with "egregious conducts".

In recent months, the Trump administration has stepped up its actions towards China on all fronts, including clamping down on Chinese media entities, going after Chinese pharmaceutical and research cybertheft. Tensions between the US and China are already high over the coronavirus pandemic with Washington accusing Beijing of covering up the outbreak last year.

DHFL National Office Address : HDIL Towers, B-wing, 6th Floor, Anant Kanekar Marg, Station Road, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400051.
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Changing Rules Changing Lives

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd.(DHFL) under Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under Section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the "said Borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to DHFL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to DHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount with NPA date	Description of secured asset (immovable property)
(LC No. 00000003 of Delhi Branch) Mitheel Venekar (Borrower) Rakhi S Patkar (Co Borrower 1)	21-01-2020 ₹ 2038292 (₹ Twenty lakh Thirty Eight Thousand Two Hundred Ninety Two) NPA (01-03-2018)	Flat No. - R-401, 4th Floor Carnation- R, Terra Floor Terra City, Alwar By Pass, Bhiwadi, Alwar-301019, Rajasthan.
(LC No. 00001326 of Ghaziabad Branch) Manoj Kumar (Borrower) Shalini Gupta (Co Borrower 1)	20-02-2020 ₹ 1956405 (₹ Nineteen lakh Fifty Six Thousand Four Hundred Five) NPA (01-01-2020)	Flat No. FF-1, FF Front Lhs Plot No. C11/102, Block: C1 DII Dlf Extn-2, Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad-201009
(LC No. 00000690 of Delhi Rajouri Garden Branch) Sunil Nagar (Borrower) Ritu Devi (Co Borrower 1)	20-02-2020 ₹ 1948348 (₹ Nineteen lakh Forty Eight Thousand Three Hundred Forty Eight) NPA (01-01-2020)	C-10 & C-10-a, Third Floor With Roof Front Side, Khasra No.836, block-h Anand Vihar, Uttam Nagar, Delhi, New Delhi-110059, Delhi.
(LC No. 00000800 of Netai) Subhash Place Branch) Kalu Ram Saini (Borrower) Shalini Saini (Co Borrower 1)	20-02-2020 ₹ 1838920 (₹ Eighteen lakh Thirty Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty) NPA (01-01-2020)	Plot No. H-424, First Floor Rear Side Plot No. 9, Khasra No.-55/12, Raj Nagar 2, Village Palam, Palam Colony, New Delhi-110045, Delhi.
(LC No. 00001823 of Delhi Branch) Parveen Kumar Mishra (Borrower) Pooja Mishra (Co Borrower 1)	21-01-2020 ₹ 1818205 (₹ Eighteen lakh Eighteen Thousand Two Hundred Five) NPA (01-12-2019)	Plot No. 55 & 55a, Upper Ground Floor Back Side RSH Kh. No. 18/23, Vill. Matiala Gali No. 09, New T Block, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi, New Delhi, Delhi-110059, Delhi.
(LC No. 00001323 of Delhi Janakpuri Branch) Sanjeev Kumar (Borrower) Deepa (Co Borrower 1)	20-02-2020 ₹ 1806299 (₹ Eighteen lakh Six Thousand Two Hundred Ninety Nine) NPA (01-01-2020)	RZ-A-35 and 36, (UGF front side) Khasra No. 205 & 206, Village - Nasirpur Durga Park, New Delhi, New Delhi-110045, Delhi.
(LC No. 00004539 of Delhi Branch) Rahul Gupta (Borrower) Veena Gupta (Co Borrower 1) Deepika Gupta (Co Borrower 2)	21-01-2020 ₹ 1762940 (₹ Seventeen lakh Sixty Two Thousand Nine Hundred Forty) NPA (01-12-2019)	Plot No.rz-157 (entire For Back Side) Khasra No.53, village. Bindapur Santosh Park, Uttam Nagar New Delhi New Delhi, Delhi 110059
(LC No. 00041339 of Gurgaon - Sohna Road Branch) Rajesh Modi (Borrower) Neeta Modi (Co Borrower 1)	20-02-2020 ₹ 1717755 (₹ Seventeen lakh Seventeen Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Five) NPA (01-12-2019)	Unit 1407 14th Floor Block C Victory One Amara Gh 5cc Sec 16, Greater Noida West, Gautambudh Nagar-201308
(LC No. GUR35017 of Gurgaon - Sohna Road Branch) BIKRAM SINGH (Borrower)	19-12-2019 ₹ 1651852 (₹ Sixteen lakh Fifty One Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Two) NPA (01-10-2019)	H/flat No.h.503, Floor No. 5th Flr., Plot No. Winder H Tower, Terra Castle, Sector. Alwar Expresshighway, Village, Bhiwadi-widhadi, haryana - 301001
(LC No. 00000200 of Raj Nagar Branch) Hridayesh Kumar (Borrower) Radhika Srivastava (Co Borrower 1) Girja Shanker Lal (Co Borrower 2)	19-12-2019 ₹ 1561609 (₹ Fifteen lakh Sixty One Thousand Six Hundred Nine) NPA (01-11-2019)	Unit No K7 0806 8th Floor Tower K7 Amrapali Golf Homes Plot No G G H02 Sec 4 Dist Gautambudh Nagar Greater Noida West Gautambudh Nagar Uttar Pradesh - 201307
(LC No. 00000806 of Gurgaon Branch) Madan Enterprises (Borrower) Madan Singh (Co Borrower 1) Vandana Devi (Co Borrower 2)	20-02-2020 ₹ 1418732 (₹ Fourteen lakh Eighteen Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty Two) NPA (01-06-2017)	M_MACHINE_NAME : Multineedle chain stitch quilting machine, AP_MODEL_NO : -, AP_INVOICE_NO : -1111
(LC No. 00043196 of Delhi - Safdurjung Branch) Swadesh Deb Nath (Borrower) Priya Deb Nath (Co Borrower 1)	20-02-2020 ₹ 1365481 (₹ Thirteen lakh Sixty Five Thousand Four Hundred Eighty One) NPA (01-12-2019)	House No Rz-g-14-b 2nd Floor Flat No-103, Kh No-79/4 Mahavir Enclave, New Delhi, New Delhi-110045, Delhi.
(LC No. 00041351 of Delhi Branch) Purushottam Sonani (Borrower) Rinku Mundada (Co Borrower 1)	21-01-2020 ₹ 1255036 (₹ Twelve lakh Fifty Five Thousand Thirty Six) NPA (01-08-2019)	Flat No S 306 3rd Floor Block Life Suite Gayatri Life Plot 1 F Sec 16 Greater Noida West, Greater Noida, Gautambudh Nagar-201301
(LC No. 00001900 of Delhi Branch) Perfect Packaging Industries (Borrower) Manoj Kumar Bhasin (Co Borrower 1) Seema Bhasin (Co Borrower 2)	21-01-2020 ₹ 1242676 (₹ Twelve lakh Forty Two Thousand Six Hundred Seventy Six) NPA (01-10-2019)	M_MACHINE_NAME : - Plastic Thermoforming Machine, AP_MODEL_NO : - HY-6106-20B_M_FGNAME : - Ruiian Honyin Machinery Factory, AP_INVOICE_NO : - HY20170424
(LC No. 00000157 of Bareilly Branch) Ram Avtar (Borrower) Santoshi (Co Borrower 1)	19-12-2019 ₹ 1240894 (₹ Twelve lakh Forty Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Four) NPA (01-11-2019)	Plot On Part Of Khet No 120, Kanjadaspur, Bareilly Bareilly Uttar Pradesh - 243001
(LC No. 00001485 of Gurgaon Branch) Perfect Packaging Industries (Borrower) Manoj Kumar Bhasin (Co Borrower 1) Seema Bhasin (Co Borrower 2)	20-02-2020 ₹ 1233838 (₹ Twelve lakh Thirty Three Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty Eight) NPA (01-10-2019)	M_MACHINE_NAME : - BOPS Thermoforming machine, AP_MODEL_NO : - , AP_INVOICE_NO : - LTN20160418
(LC No. 00000313 of Rohini Branch) Seema Yadav (Borrower) Satpal Yadav (Co Borrower 1)	20-02-2020 ₹ 1195021 (₹ Eleven lakh Ninety Five Thousand Twenty One) NPA (01-01-2020)	Flat No. A-153, First Floor Block 6, Street 7, Ashiana Green Hill Sp-1, Industrial Area Neemrana, Neemrana, Alwar-301001, Rajasthan.
(LC No. 00000490 of Delhi Branch) Sanjay John (Borrower) Shobhana Johari (Co Borrower 1)	21-01-2020 ₹ 1174191 (₹ Eleven lakh Seventy Four Thousand One Hundred Ninety One) NPA (01-12-2019)	Plot No. -r2 41, first Floor South Exten Part-3, Kh No 2 Uttam Nagar, Delhi, New Delhi-110059, Delhi.
(LC No. 00001905 of Ghaziabad Branch) Kailash Khandar Khulvi (Borrower) Meenakshi Mathpal (Co Borrower 1)	20-02-2020 ₹ 1152792 (₹ Eleven lakh Fifty Two Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Two) NPA (01-01-2020)	Flat No. 237, Ground Floor, Nyay Khand - 2 Indrapuram, Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad -201014
(LC No. 00002313 of Rohini Branch) Sandhya Jindal (Borrower) Aman Jindal (Co Borrower 1)	19-12-2019 ₹ 1135724 (₹ Eleven lakh Thirty Five Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Four) NPA (01-10-2019)	Plot No-198 & 199 First Floor Pocket-C4 Sector-6 Rohini Delhi New Delhi Delhi-110085
(LC No. 00043553 of Gurgaon - Sohna Road Branch) Laxmi Narayan Mahato (Borrower) Gyanji Devi (Co Borrower 1)	20-02-2020 ₹ 1106400 (₹ Eleven lakh Four Hundred Sixty) NPA (01-01-2020)	Plot No -r2-39/41 West Sagar Pur Delhi, New Delhi, New Delhi-110046, Delhi.
(LC No. 0000445 of Raj Nagar Branch) Sokal Ali (Borrower) Naseem N (Co Borrower 1)	20-02-2020 ₹ 1097062 (₹ Ten lakh Ninety Seven Thousand Fifty One) NPA (01-01-2020)	Flat No 207 First floor Back Side LIG Plot No A- 115 DLF Ankur Vihar, Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad-201010
(LC No. 00000544 of Karkarduma Noida Branch) Dinesh Chandola (Borrower) Deepa Sharma (Co Borrower 1)	19-12-2019 ₹ 1062032 (₹ Ten lakh Sixty Two Thousand Thirty Two) NPA (01-10-2019)	Flat No-215a, First Floor Nyay Khand-1 Indrapuram Ghaziabad Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh - 201001
(LC No. 00002427 of New Delhi Branch) Somit Joshi (Borrower) Premta Joshi (Co Borrower 1)	20-02-2020 ₹ 966225 (₹ Nine lakh Sixty Six Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Five) NPA (01-01-2020)	Flat No-T4-03, Ground Floor Tower-04, parsavnath Castle Rajpura Rajpura, Patiala Patiala-140401, Punjab.
(LC No. 00001465 of Delhi Branch) Pecma Air Systems Pvt Ltd (Borrower) Nand Kishore Sehgal (Co Borrower 1) Suman Sehgal (Co Borrower 2) Yugal Kishore Sehgal (Guarantor)	21-01-2020 ₹ 961967 (₹ Nine lakh Sixty One Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Seven) NPA (01-09-2019)	Apartment No -Npp 234 New Town Heights Sec 90 Gurgaon Haryana Gurgaon Haryana 122006
(LC No. 00041323 of Noida-sector 2 Branch) Usha Rani (Borrower) Sudhir Saluja (Co Borrower 1) Anju Saluja (Co Borrower 2) Deepak Saluja (Guarantor 1)	20-02-2020 ₹ 893162 (₹ Eight lakh Ninety Three Thousand One Hundred Sixty Two) NPA (01-01-2020)	Unit No. 2446 24th Floor North Eye Towers Capetown G H 01 A Sactor 74, Noida, Gautambudh Nagar-201301
(LC No. 00043575 of Delhi - Safdurjung Branch) Vinod (Borrower) Renu (Co Borrower 1)	20-02-2020 ₹ 856495 (₹ Eight lakh Fifty Six Thousand Four Hundred Ninety Five) NPA (01-12-2019)	Property No. 1519 Upper Ground Front Side Khasra No. 93 Gali No. 13 Govinpuri Kalkaji, Delhi, New Delhi-110019, Delhi.
(LC No. 00000126 of Dwarka Branch) Nesaraj Banga (Borrower) Nupur Banga (Co Borrower 1)	19-12-2019 ₹ 806988 (₹ Eight lakh Six Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Eight) NPA (01-11-2019)	Flat No 364, Janta Flat, 3rd Floor Pocket 3, sector B4, Group 1 Narela Delhi New Delhi Delhi-110040
(LC No. 00005065 of Delhi Branch) Mohamad Saif (Borrower) Jeenat J (Co Borrower 1)	21-01-2020 ₹ 756039 (₹ Seven lakh Fifty Six Thousand Thirty Nine) NPA (01-12-2019)	DDA Janta Flat No. 22, First Floor, Pocket-11, Sector-A6 Narela, Delhi New Delhi, Delhi 110040
(LC No. 00004992 of New Delhi Branch) Ashraf Imamkhani (Borrower)	19-12-2019 ₹ 695441 (₹ Six lakh Ninety Five Thousand Four Hundred Forty One) NPA (01-11-2019)	Flat No. 98, Second Floor Sector - A-6, Pocket - 11 Block - 2, Narela Delhi New Delhi Delhi 110040
(LC No. 00001211 of Gurgaon Branch) A Plus Print O Pack Industries (Borrower) Anshul Goel (Co Borrower 1) Panikaj Goel (Co Borrower 2) Yash Enterprises (Guarantor 1)	20-02-2020 ₹ 592488 (₹ Five lakh Ninety Two Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Eight) NPA (01-12-2019)	M_MACHINE_NAME : - Automatic Paper Cup Punching machine, AP_MODEL_NO : -, AP_INVOICE_NO : -1
(LC No. DEL37139 of Delhi - Safdurjung Branch) YUGAL KISHORE (Borrower)	20-02-2020 ₹ 459771 (₹ Four lakh Fifty Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy One) NPA (01-01-2020)	H/flat No.543, Floor No. Ground, Plot No. H B Colony, Sector. 21d, Village . Faridabad, Faridabad-121001
(LC No. 00000794 of Delhi Branch) Rajesh Kumar (Borrower) Rekha (Co Borrower 1)	21-01-2020 ₹ 444601 (₹ Four lakh Forty Four Thousand Six Hundred One) NPA (01-12-2019)	Wz-16a, Ugf (back Side) Kh No-63/4 & 5/1, Gali No-7, vill-paliam Raj Nagar-1, paliam Colony New Delhi New Delhi Delhi 110045
(LC No. 00042294 of Delhi - Pitampura Branch) Mahesh Sharma (Borrower) Suman Sharma (Co Borrower 1)	20-02-2020 ₹ 417444 (₹ Four lakh Seventeen Thousand Four Hundred Forty Four) NPA (01-01-2020)	Plot No 314, Pkt No C6, Sector 34, Rohini, Residential Scheme, New Delhi New Delhi Delhi 110085
(LC No. 00043704 of Delhi - Safdurjung Branch) Jacob Cherian (Borrower) Nisha Jacob (Co Borrower 1)	19-12-2019 ₹ 344865 (₹ Three lakh Forty Four Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty Five) NPA (01-11-2019)	P.no-wz-39, F.f (I.h.s), Gali No.03, Kh.no.89 /16, 17/24, & 25 & 90/4/1, 4/2, 5/1 Vill.hastals, dayalsar Road, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110059
(LC No. 00041706 of Delhi - Pitampura Branch) Mahaboo (Borrower) Samsiddha (Co Borrower 1)	20-02-2020 ₹ 282878 (₹ Two lakh Eighty Two Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Eight) NPA (01-01-2020)	Flat No. B-31, First Floor Krishna Vihar Apartment, Pocket - II Block - E, Sector-11, Pratap, Vihar, Ghaziabad, Gautambudh Nagar-201301
(LC No. 00042729 of Delhi - Safdurjung Branch) Arun Kumar Yadav (Borrower) Abha Yadav (Co Borrower 1)	20-02-2020 ₹ 226189 (₹ Two lakh Twenty Six Thousand One Hundred Eighty Nine) NPA (01-01-2020)	Flat No 4 Block B Pkt 3 Dda Flat, Delhi, South West Delhi -110010, Delhi.

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to DHFL as aforesaid, DHFL shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of DHFL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made there under, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date: 11-07-2020
Place: Delhi
Sd/- (Authorised Officer)
Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited

INT'L STUDENTS' STAY IN US

136 Congressmen, 30 Senators seek reversal of Trump admin's decision

Washington: A group of 136 US Democratic congressmen and 30 senators, including Indian-origin Kamala Harris, has urged the Trump administration to reverse its "cruel" order that bars international students from staying in the country if they do not have in-person classes to attend.

The lawmakers, in separate letters to Acting Secretary, Department of Homeland Security, Chad Wolf and Acting Secretary, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Matthew Albence on Thursday, expressed concern over the order to remain in the country.

The letter, signed by senators Robert Menendez, Cory Booker and Harris, the Indian-origin senator from California among others, expressed concern that the ICE's guidance is motivated not by the public health considerations, but rather by animus towards non-citizens and immigrants.

It said that the move is a flagrant attempt to hold international students hostage in order to force schools to reopen even as COVID-19 cases are rising.

"The ICE's announcement of their plans to force out or deport international students who remain at US colleges and universities and who are taking a full online course load is cruel and unconscionable."

"These students are already in the United States, are established members of educational communities, and have been determined through the visa screening process to pose no danger to the United States," the senators wrote.

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China rejects prospect of joining arms control talks with US

Beijing: China on Friday rejected any prospect of joining in nuclear arms limitation talks with the US, calling reports from Washington that it would do so a distortion of its stated position.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian told reporters the US was "neither serious nor sincere" in the proposed negotiations and should instead respond to Russia's call for an extension to the existing New START treaty limiting the number of nuclear warheads.

"China's objection to the so-called trilateral arms control negotiations is very clear, and the US knows it very well. However, the U.S. is persistent on the issue and even distorted China's position," Zhao said at a daily news briefing.

China, with the world's biggest nuclear arsenal after the US and Russia, has maintained it will not join in talks with Washington and Moscow on reducing its number of warheads.

However, Zhao appeared to hold open the door to some form of discussions saying Washington needed to "create conditions for other nuclear-weapon states to participate in nuclear disarmament negotiations."

The pact is between the US and Russia, long the world's major nuclear powers. The Trump administration wants China, as a rising military power, to join.

Fu Cong, the director general of the Foreign Ministry's arms control department, on Wednesday called that demand unrealistic because China has a much smaller nuclear arsenal than the other two. By inviting China to join, the US is creating a pretext to walk away from the talks without replacing the treaty, he said.

Russia skeptical about nuke pact extension prospects

Moscow: Russia's top diplomat said Friday he's not very optimistic about prospects for an extension of the last remaining U.S.-Russia arms control agreement because of Washington's focus on making China sign up to the pact.

Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov warned that Russia only wants to keep the New START treaty as much as the U.S. Does and will protect its security regardless of the pact's fate.

"We only need the extension as much as the Americans do," Lavrov said during a conference call with foreign policy experts.

"If they categorically refuse, we will not try to persuade them." The New START treaty was signed in 2010 by U.S. President Barack Obama and then Russian President Dmitry Medvedev.

The pact limits each country to no more than 1,550 deployed nuclear warheads and 700 deployed missiles and bombers and envisages sweep-

France urges Netanyahu not to annex parts of West Bank

Paris: French President Emmanuel Macron is urging Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu not to annex Palestinian territory in the West Bank, warning that it would violate international law and threaten long-term peace efforts.

The two leaders spoke by phone Thursday, and Macron's office said in a statement Friday that he told Netanyahu "to abstain from taking any measure to annex Palestinian territories." Macron also reiterated France's commitment to Israel's security and determination to work to calm tensions in the region.

Tensions have been high in the West Bank in recent weeks as Israel has vowed to proceed with plans to annex up to 30 per cent of the occupied territory, in line in President Donald Trump's Middle East initiative.

Aus OK's Remdesivir as Covid treatment

Sydney: Australia approved the anti-viral drug remdesivir for treatment of COVID-19 Friday following a similar decision from the European Commission.

It is the first drug approved by Australian authorities to treat the virus and promised to reduce hospitalisation time for coronavirus patients, Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) said in a statement.

"By reducing recovery times, patients will be able to leave hospital earlier, freeing beds for those in need," the TGA said.

The drug was given provisional approval for adults and adolescent patients and would be limited to those severely unwell from the virus, needing help to breathe and in hospital care, the authority noted.

22 people killed in Nepal landslides

Kathmandu: The death toll in the multiple landslides triggered by incessant rains across Nepal in the past 24 hours has risen to 22, the home ministry said on Friday.

Seven people, including three children, lost their lives due to landslides in Kaski district.

Five of them were killed after a landslide swept away a house in Sarangkot area in Pokhara in the district in the wee hours of Friday, police said.

Around 10 people were injured in the same incident and are undergoing treatment at different hospitals, they said.

In two separate incidents of landslides on Thursday night, three members of a family were killed in Beshahar of Lamjung district and two others lost their lives in Aathbiskot area of Rukum district.

Three people lost their lives in landslides in Myagdi district.



In Jajarkot district, among the 12 people who had gone missing during the landslides, dead bodies of seven, including a 10-year-old child, have been recovered, the officials said.

Seven people were untraceable after their house was wiped out by a landslide in Myagdi district. Meanwhile, a landslide that occurred in Jogimara area has obstructed the Prithi Highway in western Nepal. Narayani and other major rivers in the country have swollen due to the continuous downpour for the last 48 hours.

Meteorological Department has forecast that the monsoon rains will last for another three days.

French accused of molesting 305 Indonesian minors

Jakarta: Indonesian authorities have arrested a French man for alleged sexual abuse of minors after finding videos on his laptop computer showing him molesting over 300 children, police said Friday.

Jakarta police spokesman Yusri Yunus said Francois Camille Abello was arrested late last month in a hotel room where he was found with two naked girls.

He said police had received a tip-off from nearby residents who suspected a foreigner at the hotel was exploiting children. Abello could face death by firing squad if found guilty under child protection laws, Yunus said.



TURKEY'S PREZ FORMALLY MAKES HAGIA SOPHIA A MOSQUE

Istanbul: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Friday formally reconverted Istanbul's sixth-century iconic Hagia Sophia into a mosque and declared it open to Muslim worship, hours after a high court annulled a 1934 decision that had turned it into a museum.

Turkey's high administrative court threw its weight behind a petition brought by a religious group and annulled the 1934 Cabinet decision that

turned the site into a museum. Within hours, Erdogan signed a decree handing over Hagia Sophia to Turkey's Religious Affairs Presidency. Erdogan has demanded that the hugely symbolic world heritage site should be turned back into a mosque despite widespread international criticism, including from the US and Orthodox Christian leaders. The move could also deepen tensions with neighboring Greece.

कार्यालय नगर पालिका परिषद कुम्हारी, जिला - दुर्ग (छ.ग.)

॥ ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट निविदा सूचना ॥

क्र./456/लो.कवि./न.पा./2020 कुम्हारी, दिनांक 06/07/2020

एकीकृत पंचायत प्रणाली अंतर्गत सखम श्रेणी में पंचीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित निर्माण कार्य हेतु ऑनलाइन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है :-

सिस्टम टेंडर नम्बर	कार्य का नाम	अनु.ला. (लाख में)	निविदा डालने की अंतिम तिथि
65846	नवीन कार्यालय भवन निर्माण कार्य	354.76	28.07.2020

उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्य की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, थरोर शर्तें, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञापन, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट वेब पोर्टल eproc.cgstate.gov.in से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है।

कार्यालय अधिव्यता नगर पालिका परिषद कुम्हारी

Banks sanctions about ₹1.20L cr loans to MSMEs

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry on Friday said banks have sanctioned loans of about ₹1,20,099 crore under the ₹3-lakh crore Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) for the MSME sector reeling under economic slowdown caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, disbursements against this stood at ₹61,987.90 crore till Thursday (July 9) under the 100 per cent ECLGS for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). The scheme is the biggest fiscal component of the ₹20-lakh crore Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan package announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in May. The latest numbers on ECLGS, as released by the finance ministry, comprise disbursements by all 12 public sector banks (PSBs), 22 private sector banks and 21 non-banking financial companies (NBFCs). "As of 9 July 2020, the total amount sanctioned under the 100 per cent Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme by PSBs and private banks stands at ₹1,20,099.37 crore, of which ₹61,987.90 crore has already been disbursed," the finance minister said in a tweet. Under the ECLGS, the loan amounts sanctioned by PSBs increased to ₹68,145.40 crore, of which ₹38,372.88 crore has been disbursed as of July 9, she said. At the same time, private sector banks have sanctioned

₹51,953.97 crore and disbursed ₹23,615.02 cr. "Compared to 4 July 2020, there is an increase of ₹5,596.79 crore in the cumulative amount of loans sanctioned and an increase of ₹5,896.72 cr in the cumulative amount of loans disbursed, by both PSBs and private sector banks combined as on 9 July 2020," Sitharaman said.

Market leader SBI has sanctioned ₹20,788 crore of loans and disbursed ₹13,893 crore. It is followed by Punjab National Bank, which has sanctioned ₹8,977 crore. However, its disbursements stood at ₹2,975 crore as of July 9. State-wise, business units of Maharashtra have got the highest cumulative sanction of ₹7,035 crore from public sector banks, while disbursement was to the tune of ₹3,897 crore as of July 9. It is followed by Tamil Nadu, with a total sanction of ₹6,955 crore loans and disbursements of ₹4,153 crore. On May 21, the Cabinet approved an additional funding of up to ₹3 lakh crore at a concessional rate of 9.25 per cent through ECLGS for the MSME sector. Under the scheme, 100 per cent guarantee coverage will be provided by the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company for additional funding of up to ₹3 lakh crore to eligible MSMEs and interested Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency (MUDRA) borrowers in the form of a guaranteed emergency credit line (GECL) facility.

Govt holds back full industrial output data for 2nd month in May

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has held back the release of complete industrial production data for the second straight month in May in view of the impact of the coronavirus-induced lockdown.

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on Friday released quick estimates of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) which showed the index value at 88.4 in May against 53.6 in April, indicating a gradual pickup in industrial activity. The index stood at 135.4 in May 2019.

The Ministry did not provide any comparable percentage data while noting that it is not appropriate to compare the IIP data with earlier months due to COVID-19 lockdown. The IIP data comes with a lag of six weeks.

"In view of preventive measures and announcement of nation-wide lockdown by the Government to contain spread of COVID-19 pandemic, majority of the industrial sector establishments were not operating from the end of March, 2020 onwards. This has had an impact on the items being produced by the establishments during the period of lockdown and the subsequent periods of conditional relaxations in restrictions," the Ministry said in a release.

The IIP for the month of May 2020 stands at 88.4 against 53.6 for April 2020.

The factory output index was at 135.4 in May 2019, which indicates a contraction of 34.71 per cent in industrial activity in May 2020. Last year, the IIP had recorded a growth of 4.5 per cent.

The Ministry said, "As mentioned in the Press Release for the IIP for April, 2020, it may not be appropriate to compare the IIP for May 2020 with those of months preceding the COVID 2019 pandemic."

India moves up a rank to become second-largest source of FDI for UK

PTI ■ LONDON

India invested in 120 projects and created 5,429 new jobs in the UK to become the second-largest source of foreign direct investment (FDI) after the US in 2019, according to new UK Government figures released on Friday.

The Department for International Trade (DIT) inward investment statistics for 2019-2020 found India moving up from its previous third-largest spot, representing an overall 4 per cent FDI increase for the UK on 2018-2019 with 1,852 new inward investment projects in the 2019/2020 financial year. The US remains the number one source of FDI for the UK, delivering 462 projects and 20,131 jobs, followed by India, Germany, France and China and Hong Kong, Australia and New Zealand were responsible for 72 projects and the Nordic and Baltic region 134, an increase for both regions.

The number of Indian projects at 106, resulting in a job creation figure of 4,858 last year contrasts with 120 projects and 5,429 jobs for this year.

"During the COVID-19 crisis, we have been working with India to keep supply chains open and keeping trading routes alive and as we emerge from COVID, it is vitally important we don't move to protectionism," said UK International Trade Secretary Liz Truss, addressing the annual India Global Week 2020 virtual summit on Friday.

"On the trade side, we are not letting the grass grow under our feet and the UK and India are carrying on negotiations virtually given the current crisis," she said, in reference to a planned virtual India-UK Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) summit this year.

The latest UK FDI figures show that while the number of new jobs as a direct result of foreign investment has declined - a global trend as seen in other FDI reports this year - the number of jobs safeguarded by FDI increased by 29 per cent.

Govt's wheat procurement touches record high of 38.98 mn tonnes so far in 2020-21

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre's wheat procurement has touched an all-time record of 38.98 million tonnes so far in the 2020-21 marketing year (April-March), with Madhya Pradesh surpassing Punjab as the country's biggest wheat procuring state. The previous record was 38.18 million tonnes achieved in 2012-13. Wheat procurement stood at 34.77 million tonnes during the 2019-20 marketing year. Wheat marketing year runs from April-March, but the bulk of procurement is normally done in the first three months.

According to officials of the agriculture ministry, the wheat procurement target has been set at 40.7 million tonnes for the current year.

The Food Corporation of India (FCI) and state agencies undertake purchase of wheat at minimum support price (MSP).

"We have procured 38.98 million tonnes of wheat so far. The procurement operations are almost complete in major states. Few thousand tonnes more will be brought in the next few days," a senior FCI official said.

According to FCI's latest data, Madhya Pradesh became the largest contributor to the central pool with 12.93 million tonnes of wheat, surpassing Punjab which procured 12.71 million tonnes.

Haryana (7.4 million tonnes), Uttar Pradesh (3.55 million tonnes) and Rajasthan (2.21 million tonnes) also made significant contributions to national procurement of wheat.

FCI has a total stock of 81.25 million tonnes as on July 8, of which wheat comprises 54.52 million tonnes and rice is at 26.72 million tonnes.

The central government had relaxed lockdown norms to start agricultural and related activities, with procurement commencing only from April 15 in most of the procuring states.

Benchmarks wobble on weak global cues; log weekly gains

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Sensex and Nifty closed in the red on Friday, pressured by heavy selling in financial and banking stocks amid negative cues from Asian peers.

The 30-share BSE Sensex ended 143.36 points, or 0.39 per cent, lower at 36,594.33.

The broader NSE Nifty shed 45.40 points, or 0.42 per cent, to close at 10,768.05. According to traders, domestic benchmarks followed the negative trend in other Asian equities as concerns over a fresh spike in COVID-19 cases and its impact on economic recovery weighed on investor sentiment. Axis Bank was the top loser in the Sensex pack, skidding 3.14 per cent, followed by IndusInd Bank, Titan, HDFC, ICICI Bank, ONGC and HDFC Bank. On the other hand, Reliance Industries, Sun Pharma, HUL and Bharti Airtel were among the gainers, rising up to 2.95 per cent.

Room for more fiscal support in India in near term given severity of economic situation: IMF

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

A top IMF official has said that there is room for more fiscal support in India in the near term, particularly for vulnerable households and SMEs, given the severity of the country's economic situation due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Vitor Gaspar, Director of the International Monetary Fund's Fiscal Affairs Department, told PTI that a complete and successful implementation of the existing support measures (in particular, food provision to households) is of paramount importance. "Given the severity of the economic situation, in the near-term there is room for more fiscal support, particularly for vulnerable households and SMEs (Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises)," he said.

Over the medium-term, India will continue to have a very limited fiscal space, and a credible and well-communicated consolidation plan will be urgently needed once the coronavirus pandemic subsides, Gaspar said.

The economic impact of the COVID-19 in India has been substantial and broad-based, he said, adding that high frequency indicators point to a sharp decline in economic activity, as reflected in the industrial production, business sentiment (in the purchasing managers index), vehicle sales and trade. In the June World Economic Outlook (WEO), growth in fiscal year 2021 was revised down to -4.5 per cent, he said. The downward revision compared with the April WEO was driven primarily by the continued rise in the number of COVID-19 cases in India.

"This led the International Monetary Fund to make specific two adjustments. First, the assumed length of the partial lockdown was extended somewhat. Second, and more important, we made more conservative assumptions about the speed of recovery given that the health crisis has not yet been contained," Gaspar said in response to a question.

He said that the near-term growth outlook in India continues to be clouded by the global and domestic slowdown and uncertainties relating to the evolution of the coronavirus pandemic. According to the senior IMF official, India's general Government fiscal deficit is projected to reach 12.1 per cent of the GDP in fiscal year 2021, primarily due to weak tax revenues, as well as a denominator effect associated with the negative projected nominal GDP growth -- as with all other macro variables, estimates are highly uncertain.

WESTERN RAILWAY VARIOUS CIVIL ENGINEERING WORKS

Dy. Chief Engineer (Construction) I, Western Railway, Pralapanagar, Vadodara -390 004, invites E-tender as per the details given below: **Sr. No.1.Tender Notice No.:** Dy.CE/II/BRC/CTD-Dhar1/10R **Name of Work:** Laying and linking of BG for Main & loop lines including points & crossing at various yards, spreading of ballast, supply of ballast, tamping of track with other incidental miscellaneous works and Transportation of P-way materials from various locations in Western Railway or outside with contractor's own vehicle including loading, unloading and stacking by mechanical means adjoining the formation at different location between Khanadala (Excluding Yard) to Jobat (Including Yard) in connection with "CTD-DHAR new BG Line project. **Approximate cost of Work:** ₹475.95 Lakhs **EMD:** ₹3,88,000/- **Sr. No. 2.Tender Notice No.:** Dy.CE/II/BRC/DB-CDD-KEW/36 **Name of Work:** Balance work for construction of minor bridges including misc. works like pilling work between Chandod - Kevadiya station in connection with "Dabhoi -Chandod Gauge conversion with extension upto Kevadiya (49.75 Kms). **Approximate cost of Work:** ₹1,605.33 Lakhs **EMD:** ₹9,52,700/- **Sr.No. 1 & 2 Availability of online Tender for bidding:** From 15.07.20 at 11.00 Hrs. to 29.07.20 at 15.00 Hrs. Regarding detailed nature of work, containing cost of tender document (non refundable), EMD, eligibility criteria, similar nature of work, detailed tender conditions, please visit www.ireps.gov.in Manual offers will not be considered.

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IRB Infra secures ₹2,193 cr project in WB under Bharatmala

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

IRB Infrastructure on Friday said it has secured a ₹2,193 crore highway project in West Bengal under the Bharatmala Pariyojna.

The company said the project for widening of 63.83 km stretch on National Highways-19 is its first project in eastern India and marks its entry in the ninth state in the country. The section is part of the Golden Quadrilateral Project "The company has emerged as a preferred bidder for BOT (build, operate, transfer) project of 6 laning of the national corridor NH-19 from Dankuni to Palait stretch of 63.83 kms in West Bengal, with an infra cost of ₹2,193.23 cr," IRB Project said in a statement.

The project is on design, build, finance, operate and transfer (DBFOT) pattern, and the concession period is 17 years, including construction period of 910 days, it added. "We continue to look for opportunities to expand and diversify our presence. With this win, we will enter the eastern jewel of India. We are committed to build world class highway infrastructure for the development of eastern region and to bring quality connectivity with the rest of the country," IRB Infra Chairman & Managing Director Virendra D Mhaikar said. With the award of this project, the company's March 2020 order book stands updated at about ₹14,600 crore, the statement said.

ITP contributes ₹50 L towards 'Swachh Bharat Kosh'

New Delhi: India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) has been contributing towards "Swachh Bharat Kosh" each year under the CSR activities.

For the year 2019-20, ITPO contributed an amount of ₹50 lakh towards "Swachh Bharat Kosh".

A Cheque was handed over to Rajeev Ranjan, Administrator,

48th Special Task Force meeting held

New Delhi: Special Task Force was constituted by MoHUA on 25.04.2018 with an objective to comprehensively oversee effective and proper enforcement of the provisions of Master Plan, Unified Building Bye-laws for Delhi, ensuring compliance with the provisions of applicable Acts, Rules & Regulations and removal of encroachment and unauthorized construction. STF has now been declared a statutory body under Section 5A & 57 of the DD Act, 1957. It comprises of 19 members team with Vice Chairman, DDA as its chairman and other senior officers from various Local Bodies. Regular meetings are being held on fortnightly basis since the inception of STF. In the 47th meeting of the STF held on 26.06.2020 through video conferencing under the chair-

SBI chairman: India's economic recovery started from June

PTI ■ KOLKATA

The country's economy, which Witnessed a disruption due to the coronavirus outbreak, has started recovering from June, State Bank of India's Chairman Rajnish Kumar said on Friday.

Speaking at the SBI Banking and Economics Conclave, Kumar said there is a need to wait for three to four months to see the trend of the recovery. "COVID-19 has caused gigantic disruption of the Indian economy along with dislocation of the supply chain. April was the worst month. Things had slightly improved in May, while the recovery started from June," Kumar said at the webinar.

The industrially advanced states such as Maharashtra, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu were the worst affected due to the pandemic, he said.

GAIL to invest in Start-Ups operating in area of Compressed Bio Gas

New Delhi: In a bid to support Start-Ups operating in the area of Compressed Bio Gas (CBG), GAIL (India) Limited today announced plans to invest in such companies through its Start-Up initiative 'Pankh'.

GAIL has opened a fresh Round for Solicitation of Investment Proposals from Start-Ups operating specifically in the area of CBG. The Start-Ups that are interested in equity investment from GAIL can apply on GAIL's website gailonline.com. The Solicitation Round is open till July 24, 2020.

India has vast biomass resources and the Government is giving special emphasis on its utilization by encouraging setting-up of CBG plants. Further, Oil & Gas Companies are ready to give commitment for offtake of CBG through issue of Letter Of Intent (LOI). Thus, it provides good business opportunity to Start-Ups operating in this area.

Start-Ups operating in any of the following areas of CBG can apply in this round:

- (i) Start-Ups providing technology,
- (ii) Start-Ups planning to expand their existing CBG plants
- (iii) Start-Ups planning to set-up new CBG Plants

GAIL has launched its ambitious Start-Up initiative 'Pankh' in July 2017 to invest in promising Start-Ups. So far, GAIL has made investments in 24 Start-Ups operating in various areas through four Solicitation Rounds.

Delhi Transco Employees Contribute one day salary for Covid-19 relief

An amount of ₹9,92,825/- only contributed in LG/CM Relief Fund Delhi

New Delhi: Delhi Transco employees have always been on the forefront in extending help to the fellow countrymen whenever need arised. Whether it was flood in J&K and Kerala or earthquake in Gujarat in the past, they have always contributed for the relief and rehabilitation of affected people. Covid-19 pandemic has created havoc worldwide and its impact in Delhi is very alarming. Though Govt of NCT Delhi is doing its all efforts in treating the affected persons and checking its further spread. Sensing their responsibility, Delhi Transco employees have also come forward to extend their support to the Govt

A total number of 75 patient admitted at Shakurbasti Covid Care Centre

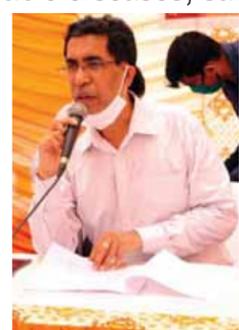
New Delhi: In view of providing additional healthcare facility to the people of Delhi NCR, Northern Railway on demand of the state govt. is providing 503 isolation coaches equivalent to 8048 beds as Covid Care Centres at 9 different stations of Delhi area i.e; at Anand Vihar Terminal, Shakurbasti, Delhi Sarai Rohilla, Safdarjung, Delhi Shahdara, Adarsh Nagar, Delhi Cantt, Badli and Tughlakabad. All these stations have good infrastructure for maintaining these coaches and also proper approach roads for movement of ambulances etc.

Narendra Bhooshan now nodal officer for drinking water, communicable diseases, sanitation

Greater Noida: Narendra Bhooshan, CEO of Greater Noida Authority, the nodal officer of Covid-19, has now been appointed as the nodal officer in Gautam Budh Nagar for inspection of communicable disease control, sanitation campaign, provision of drinking water, water logging, fogging and flood prevention etc. ACEO Dipchand of the authority said the nodal officer will review communicable disease control, sanitation campaign, provision of drinking water, water logging, arrangement of fogging, flood prevention etc. in district by July 12. During this time, he will meet with the public representatives and the general public and try to solve the problems.

He gave necessary instructions by visiting with the concerned officials, Municipality President, District Administration, Police and Medical Department and Malaria Department officials. Addressing the people of the village, he gave detailed information about Covid-19 and prevention and precautions against communicable diseases. He urged people not to use single-use plastic, follow social distancing rules and take special care of cleanliness.

He said that people should stay in their homes as far as possible to avoid Covid-19. Exit the house only under special circumstances. He asked to use masks, globs etc. with social distancing.



Bhooshan on Friday inspected village Chithera, Primary East Secondary School, Chithera, Nyadarganj (Ward-11 Dadri) and Railway Road at Dadri.

CAPRI GLOBAL CAPITAL LIMITED
Registered & Corporate Office :- 502, Tower-A, Peninsula Business Park, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai-400013
Circle Office :- Capri Global Capital Limited 2nd Floor, 3B Pusa Road Rajendra Place, New Delhi-110005

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of Capri Global Capital Limited (CGCL) under Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the "said Borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to CGCL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further applicable interest from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to CGCL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.

S.N.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of secured asset (immovable property)
1.	(Loan Account No. LNCGGJGDTL0000008192, LNCGGDETL0000002506 of our Delhi Branch) GANESH TRADERS (Borrower) Maruti Overseas, Mr. Sooraj Kumar, Mrs. Deepa Goenka, Mr. Mayooy Kumar, Mrs. Lata Rani Goenka (Co-Borrower)	07-05-2020 Rs. 1,42,63,388/-	All that piece and parcel of Shop bearing No. 5223 on Ground floor, area admeasuring 350 sq feet, Part of Plot No. 20 and Plot No. 20-Asituated at Kohlapur Road, Delhi-110007 ALONGWITH CONSTRUCTION THEREON PRESENT AND FUTURE BOTH. AND All that piece and parcel of Office Space No. TF-04 (A) on third floor, super area approximately 840 sq ft, JMD Regend Plaza, M.G.Road, Gurgaon, Haryana-122002 ALONGWITH CONSTRUCTION THEREON PRESENT AND FUTURE BOTH.

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to CGCL as aforesaid, CGCL shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of CGCL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made thereunder, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Place :- Delhi Date :- 11.07.2020 Sd/- (Authorised Officer) For Capri Global Capital Limited

SHORT CIRCUITS

TAAPSEE PANNU

2020 has been very disturbing. For many reasons but the fact remains that time waits for none. Or a better way to look at it is, this too shall pass. I have seen countless ups and downs in everything I tried to attempt in life but trust me that success tastes sweetest after you have had a taste of failure.



RANDEEP HOODA

Extraction was a huge success worldwide with a phenomenal reach. I really enjoyed working on it and got to learn so many new things from the amazing cast and crew. As every artist wants to reach out to as many people as possible, I'm very grateful and excited for these new horizons in international cinema opening up.



BHUVAN BAM

The feeling of helplessness and being stuck at home has been instrumental in the creation of my forthcoming single, *Heer-Ranjha*, to be honest. A lot of people are away from home and loved ones, unable to go visit them because of the COVID-19 outbreak and that's where the idea came to write this song.



MANOJ BAJPAYEE

I have been hearing that a lot of people are discussing me in the role of gangster Vikas Dubey. If the character and script are nice, then playing any real life character would be fun. The said person's life has been very theatrical and it would be very interesting to bring his life to the big screen. Let's see what happens. I am excited to play this character.

PAUL RUDD

My default is comedy but it's in my life that any kind of trauma, any kind of thing I'm doing, I tend to veer toward the humorous side of it. I have always enjoyed humour to tell a dramatic story.



CONVERSATION 45 MINUTES

Mixologist PANKAJ BALACHANDRAN tells AYUSHI SHARMA that the secret of a good cocktail is in the art of balancing. Even if it's just a whisky soda, the right dilution, the crisp bubbles of soda water and the ice that goes into it elevate the experience



◆What are some of the ingredients that people can use? Since everybody is spending more time at home, how will you convince the audience that even usual, everyday ingredients can be used in different and innovative ways? My session focusses on using simple ingredients which you can find in your kitchen. Sugar, honey, coriander, mint leaves and lime, if mixed well and thoughtfully, can make some phenomenal drinks. Once you understand the principle of making drinks, balancing the sweetness and sourness or bitterness — the world (read: kitchen) is your playground!

◆How do Indians like their cocktails? People in India are now well travelled and slowly they are looking out for quality drinks and cocktails. Things have changed over the last few years. Our consumer trends have moved quite far from drinking sweeter cocktails to well-constructed spirit-forward drinks, which focus more on delicate flavours. The change is at a slower pace, but we are moving forward and in the right direction.

◆Some tips and tricks to make a great drink... Making a good cocktail is in the art of balancing. Even if it is just a whisky soda, the right dilution, the crisp bubbles of soda water and the ice that goes into the drink will elevate the experience. The complexity comes in when you are balancing sweet and sour ingredients or bitter and sweet ingredients. Playing with umami is opening another dimension. As long as you stay within these boundaries, you can experiment and make fantastic cocktails. (The next online session will be on July 24.)

It has opened a completely new outlook on what can be achieved in cocktails if you pushed the boundaries with simple ingredients that are always present around us.

◆Will this lead to a new trend of house parties since people will be comfortable making their own cocktails and might avoid heading out amid the pandemic scare? As a bartender, I would surely want people to head out to bars eventually. House parties have always been popular, especially in Delhi. I am sure that the time that everyone has on their hands at the moment will definitely motivate them to understand the simple ways of mixing drinks at home and host their guests to beautiful cocktails. It is indeed a great skill set to have and the safest way to have your favourite drinks during this pandemic. But once all this settles down, everyone should definitely hit the bars to enjoy perfectly-crafted cocktails by their favourite bartenders delivered with amazing hospitality and care.

The mix that matters

It isn't a time of social meetings. It is a time to work remotely and stay indoors as much as we can. Maintaining this norm of the year, Airbnb India has launched 'At Home With Airbnb', a unique set of online experiences that brings together celebrities, artists and influencers. Each experience has been curated keeping in mind the diverse and engaging ways in which guests can connect with people across cultures and hone their skills through the platform. The experience allows guests to visit the hosts' personal space to learn their craft in small groups that allow for personal connections and conversations. We speak to Monkey Shoulder India's brand ambassador, Pankaj Balachandran, one of the hosts, about how the audience can make the best of their time and come together for a fun and nurturing session where they not only engage

with others but master the art of making cocktails at home. Excerpts: ◆What fascinated you to host a web session? The profession I am in, I feel like I am always the happiest when I am behind the bar and interacting with guests. This session will help me reach out to people of a whole new demographic, who I probably would have never met in person otherwise. It will be interesting to meet new people in a different setting while being able to teach

them. It's a fantastic idea with an interactive platform that brings together people from across interests and geographies, and helps build a cocktail community. ◆What has been your mantra of mixology? Learn the basics and rules so that you can break them. Mixing drinks is a science, too, as much as it is an art. ◆How important is the presentation of a drink? Presentation of a drink is as impor-

tant as making the drink itself. A person's first sip is with their eyes! In today's day and age, where everything is put on social media, as barkeeps, making a good-looking drink is a must. I am not a big fan of smoke and mirrors. I prefer my drinks to be clean. The focus is more on glassware, garnish or even something as simple as a block of ice. I feel the choice of the right glass makes a lot of difference. It has become important for all drinks to be presented well for them to be #InstaWorthy, essentially that is how you get conversation

started around a drink on social media. ◆It's much easier to get inspired while travelling and meeting new people. Since that is not on the cards for now, where do you find inspiration for new cocktails? This is probably the longest that I have stayed at home in my adult life. Thanks to all the cooking that I have been up to, most of my current inspiration comes from the kitchen. Ingredients that I have never used before are slowly starting to find their way into my glass.

STUDIO CHAT 30 MINUTES

Living the dream

Actor BRENOCK O'CONNOR talks about how incredible playing Tom Harris has turned out for him for the *Alex Rider* series, his school-time favourite. By TEAM VIVA

◆Were you a fan of the *Alex Rider* books before you got the part? Yes! Every single boy in my class read *Alex Rider* at some point and pretty much everyone's favourite was *Point Blanc*, which this series is based on. It was the second book and the one where things started to get a little more detailed. I loved it. It's one of my favourites in the series. I remember when I was nine, in my English class in primary school, I drew the front cover of *Stormbreaker* in my English textbook for a book review. So, to be cast in one of my favourite childhood books is an absolute dream.

◆What is it about the series of books that really spoke to you? I think the best thing about *Alex Rider* as a character is that he's flawed. Yes, he's a highly trained super-spy but he doesn't know it. He doesn't know he's been trained to do that; he can just do things. And sometimes he doesn't do them well. He usually ends up battered, beaten, and barely alive. But he still manages to do the job that needs to be done. That was the thing that I really related to as a kid. I thought, "He has not done it perfectly but he did what he set out to do."

◆Did you and Otto hit it off immediately? Absolutely! He's an absolute dream to work with. As soon as I went for the audition, I said to myself, "Well, there's the Alex. I have just got to hope that I'm the Tom to go with this Alex." And luckily, I was! Otto and I walked out of the audition together. They hadn't told us that we'd got it. We ended up going to the same train station and exchanged numbers. I actually waved him off, saying, "See you later, Alex." And he replied, "See you, Tom." He's still saved on my phone as Otto Rider — that's how much faith I had that he was going to get it. We

promised each other that we'd text each other as soon as either of us heard that we were selected in any way. And luckily, we got the phone call at the same time on the same day.

◆And you have been firm friends ever since? Yes. We've both just been on this incredible whirlwind of a journey. For me, what I'd got myself into didn't really sink in until Otto and I went for lunch with Anthony Horowitz. That was insane. To think that I was sat down talking as an equal to a guy whose books I'd read as a kid!

The fact that he said he was happy to have us involved in playing the characters that he'd lived with for coming up to 20 years now — that was crazy! To get the respect and admiration of someone who owns those characters and made them up, for him to say, "Yes, you're right to play him," is incredible! So I think in that moment, Otto and I went, "Yes, we have got to do this right."

◆How would you characterise Tom? Tom is just an average boy at an average school who is best friends with another average boy, who turns out as not so average. He's thrown into this world with Alex but more as a guy in the chair, a sort of nerdy sidekick who gets to stay home and worry

about him most of the time. I relate to Tom quite a bit because he's a massive film geek and he wants to be the next Quentin Tarantino. So that was really fun to research and get to watch all these classic films for the role.

◆So you took the opportunity to watch lots of classic films for the part? I did. As soon as I was told I had got the part, Otto and I bonded instantly. I actually went around to Otto's for a sleepover — like getting back into the teenage years — and we watched *Reservoir Dogs*, which is the first Quentin Tarantino film I've ever seen. And it's insane! It's amazing! That was Tarantino's first film. I'm doing them in order! Then we went to the BFI to see *Clockwork Orange*. So I've been doing loads and bits of research into classic cinema to get into the head of Tom.

◆What other traits does Tom have? I see Tom like a Labrador. Tom is outgoing, fun and energetic, but wears his heart on his sleeve. If someone's got to him, he'll let them know, which can make him quite vulnerable but that's teenagers for you. When you're 16, you are incredibly vulnerable to everything. But the extreme changes these boys are going through within this story make them even more susceptible to emotional trauma.

◆What is Tom like at school? Tom is more outgoing than Alex, who is more reserved, keeps to himself, but somehow gets more attention. Tom is more desperate for attention until he gets it because he always gets it for the wrong reasons. Mainly it's from the teachers. Tom wants to be better with girls and people in general. So he dresses a little bit flashier, tries a little bit harder, wears more colours than Alex would. But as soon as anything works, Tom always shies away from being noticed. He's that guy who wants to be seen.

◆Does your character add a bit of humour in the story? Yes. I see Tom as the light relief of the show. He's always there with a quip or a little joke here and there to make Alex feel better who goes through some rough times. Tom is there to try and help him through that. There are so many different plot lines and twists and turns in the series that sometimes all you need is a teenager messing around and being a bit of a git — which is what Tom provides. And I think my favourite thing about Tom is that sense of humour. In the darkest moments where Alex is beaten and broken, Tom makes a stupid joke about it. Not because he's being mean but because he knows it will make Alex feel better. Well, that's why their friendship works so well, I think.

◆Do you think the audience will identify with Tom and Alex's relationship? Yes. The two are just usual kids going to school. They're not cool enough to be in with the cool kids gang but they're not quite nerdy and geeky enough to be on the outskirts of them. They're just in limbo. No one really pays them much attention. If they get in trouble, no one cares. If they do something good, no one cares. They're completely

average in every way or so people think.

◆Tell us about the phone moment in more detail. In the process of trying to find out where the party is going on in episode one, Tom gets his phone confiscated by a teacher. His first port-of-call is to go to Alex and say, "I need you to get it back. It's in a locked room in a school surrounded by teachers. Only you can do this." So, Alex, very casually, just scales the building, breaks into the window, opens the locked drawer and gets the phone back. Tom's very much aware that Alex isn't your normal boy. He's had a very interesting upbringing. But he's got no idea of how that potential could be used in a real-life situation. He just wants his phone back! (Laughs)

◆How do you think this is going to compare with your time on *Game of Thrones*? *Game of Thrones* was incredible, one of the best experiences of my life. I was very lucky to be involved in that show and work with some great names and legends of the industry. But I am thrilled to try something new on this job and work with a younger cast. I was the only child in my scenes on *Game of Thrones*, and in this I've got a lot of time at school, there's a lovely talented young cast, and there's the *Point Blanc* classmates. I don't get to meet them in the show but I've met them in real-life and they're a lovely, talented bunch of people. So working on *Alex Rider* has just been a very exciting experience.

◆How would you describe the show to your friends? Do you remember those books that you loved as a kid? Yeah, we've made them into a brilliant TV series and I am in it! Watch it, yeah? It's just a beautiful service to the fans. (The series airs on SonyLIV.)



IMMERSIVE 60 MINUTES

PREPARED FOR A NEW WORLD

Youth icon ANTO PHILIP tells SAKSHI SHARMA that his documentary, *Batch of 2020*, is a tribute to not only the current graduating batch but also to students, educators, parents or anyone across the world who have, through the years, succumbed to the pressure and anxiety of being defined by certificates and degrees

A farewell party, that last canteen self-scribbling each other's backs with goodbye notes, group hugs, tossing the robes and caps, gifts from juniors, that nervous walk out of the campus and so much more — the last days of college always remain etched in our hearts. No matter how far we've come, and no matter how far we go back to the time to remember what made us. Yes, getting a degree and getting an education are two different things. You live through the experiences, explore a new world and go through a gamut of emotions during your college life. However, these are memories which the batch of 2020 will never be able to relate to or call their own. They will never have their one-of-its-kind, proud convocation.

Echoing students' sentiments that something fundamental must change, Anto Philip, co-founder of Under 25, ensured that India's batch of 2020 stands united against the odds.

Philip brought together artistes, journalists, comedians and leaders such as Armaan Malik, Anupama Chopra, Debosmita Majumder, Deepika Padukone, Faye D'Souza, Hritik Roshan, Roshan Abbas, Tanmay Bhat and others to create a graduation ceremony documentary — *Batch of 2020*.

Written and narrated by Philip, this docu-film addresses topics that the batch of 2020 will find worthy. These include chats around 'Everything you need to know about graduating in 2020', 'Lessons from other batches', 'First-Year after graduation', 'Dropping out',



'Qualities a graduating student must have in 2020' and others. The film is a tribute to not only the current graduating batch but also to students, educators, parents or anyone across the world, who have, through the years, succumbed to the pressure and anxiety of being defined by certificates and degrees. Here are the excerpts of our conversation with him:



Q How did you conceptualise the documentary, *Batch of 2020*?

COVID-19 stole the batch of 2020 of their graduation. Students across the world have looked forward to their convocation ceremonies, especially after hustling for 21 years. It's an event that gives them some clarity on what awaits them in the real world. Having said that, we felt it's time to look beyond just an ordinary graduation. This presented an opportunity for us to curate something extraordinary, something unseen, an experience for students to take in and make use of in the new world.

Q What has been your inspiration behind the project?

Over the last seven years, all the work we've been doing across our verticals is directed towards building a better environment for youngsters. The students of 2020 find themselves in a position that no generation has faced since our last pandemic almost a century ago. Now, more than ever, we realised it was time to step in and drive towards a change.

Q What was the idea behind bringing together so many artistes, journalists, comedians, actors and leaders?

We put ourselves in the position of a student to understand what we'd like to take

away from this film. What followed was a series of questions which we wanted answers for from people with real life stories and credibility. We broke down these questions and paired them with real life stories from people we thought would be relevant to that story line. For instance, dropping out is taboo, the emotional pressure a student goes through to first take a decision to drop out is strenuous and then justifying that to the rest of the world is even harder, hoping that the choice made turns out in his/her favour. To share a perspective on this question, we spoke to Raghava KK, Anand Gandhi and Deepika Padukone, all of whom are college drop-outs and have succeeded in their pursuits and craft later.

Q How challenging was the process?

As we were heading into the project, we understood the limitations that we were working with. We took those into consideration and built the film around that. However, factors like the launch date for a documentary like this always has a hard stop to it. The relatability of this content lies in that particular time period for a student. So time was definitely our biggest challenge.

Q How important is the college experience for the youth and how has it suffered due to the pandemic?

It is the most critical part. The learning truly happens in conversations with your friends, some inspiring teachers and experiences outside the classroom. This life possibly teaches you more than any other phase of your journey. It's definitely hard for students not to be around each other but that also leaves us with an opportunity to invent and adopt newer ways and means of learning. We must treat 2020 as a year of unknown opportunities that requires us to break the shackles of our traditional formal education system and on its debris, build a new India that measures success on its own terms.

Q What does the film aim to achieve?

This documentary is the first step we're taking to build a movement and drive conversations on what more our education system can offer to accommodate students' needs. Our education system is built on fear and grades. It's essentially someone else's journey mapped out for us to get from one point to another. While this method works and is efficient for most, it also exposes the lack of attention to human emotion and the world's dynamic environment. A good start would be the introduction of mental wellness hours in our early years of schooling.

Q What message would you like to give to this batch?

You've graduated in the toughest of times, you've graduated in the midst of a pandemic and that's why no one else but you will know the struggles of it. It's unfortunate that you didn't get to celebrate your graduation but know that it is because of you that we can now have fruitful conversations around building a more dynamic education system. I believe that you can be the changemakers we need, let's collectively build a more responsible environment to live in.

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STATEMENT OF STANDALONE FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE HALF YEAR AND YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2020

(All amounts in Indian Rupees in lakhs unless stated otherwise)

S. No.	Particulars	Half year ended March 31, 2020 (Unaudited) (refer note 2)	Half year ended March 31, 2019 (Unaudited) (refer note 2)	Year ended March 31, 2020 (Audited)	Year ended March 31, 2019 (Audited)
1	Income from operations				
	(a) Revenue from real estate operations	6,769.72	7,604.50	10,443.25	14,723.08
	(b) Other Operating revenue	1,062.53	101.23	1,216.24	344.94
	Total Income from operations	7,832.25	7,705.73	11,659.49	15,068.02
2	Expenditure				
	(a) Cost of land/ development rights	19.00	-	19.00	-
	(b) (Increase)/ decrease in project work in progress	3,778.03	3,376.27	5,692.85	6,658.92
	(c) Project approval charges	(334.58)	40.83	(307.70)	93.89
	(d) Employees cost	818.50	813.95	1,614.36	1,672.75
	(e) Depreciation and amortization expense	118.59	80.60	229.12	155.52
	(f) Subcontractor, material and labour charges	144.00	293.66	191.46	1,143.97
	(g) Other Expenditure	624.74	1,016.79	1,106.59	1,700.92
	Total expenditure	5,168.28	5,621.10	8,545.68	11,425.97
3	Profit/ (loss) from operations before other income, finance costs (1-2)	2,663.97	2,083.63	3,113.81	3,642.05
4	Other income	718.51	1,134.29	1,614.17	1,602.81
5	Profit/ (loss) from operations before finance costs and exceptional items (3+4)	3,402.48	3,217.92	4,727.98	5,444.86
6	Finance costs	2,010.31	2,814.75	4,608.50	5,102.27
7	Exceptional items	-	-	-	-
8	Profit/ (loss) from operations before tax (after exceptional items) (5-6-7)	1,392.17	403.17	119.48	42.59
9	Tax expense				
	Current tax expense	-	-	-	-
	Deferred tax expense/ (credit)	357.61	922.69	879.30	1,447.06
10	Net Profit / (loss) for the period (8-9)	1,034.56	(519.52)	(759.82)	(1,404.47)
11	Other Comprehensive Income/ (loss) (net of tax)	3.21	2.74	3.58	(10.24)
12	Total Comprehensive Income/ (loss) for the period (10-11)	1,037.77	(516.78)	(756.24)	(1,414.71)
13	Paid-up equity share capital (face value of Rs.10 per share)	11.90	11.90	11.90	11.90
14	Paid-up preference share capital (face value of Rs.10 per share)	-	-	-	-
15	Paid-up debt capital/ outstanding debt (refer note 5)	4,600.00	4,600.00	4,600.00	4,600.00
16	Net worth (refer note 13)	26,365.09	27,213.33	26,365.09	27,213.33
17	Debiture redemption reserve (refer note 16)	18.86	18.86	18.86	18.86
18	Capital redemption reserve	321.70	321.70	321.70	321.70
19	Earning Per Share (EPS)				
	Basic (In Rs.)	-	-	(638.44)	(3,684.43)
	Diluted (In Rs.)	-	-	(638.44)	(3,684.43)
20	Debt Equity Ratio (refer note 13)	-	-	1.06	1.12
21	Debt Service Coverage Ratio (refer note 13)	-	-	0.64	0.56
22	Interest Service Coverage Ratio (refer note 13)	-	-	1.08	1.04

Notes: (1) The above financial results for the half year ended March 31, 2020 have been reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee and approved by Board of Directors of the Company at their meeting held on July 09, 2020. The statutory auditors of the Company have carried out the audit for the year ended March 31, 2020. The Company's debentures are listed and traded in Regulation 32 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements), 2015 as applicable to the Company. (2) The financial results of the Company have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement principles of Indian Accounting Standards ("IND AS") as prescribed under section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 (read with relevant rules thereunder). The figures for the half year ended March 31, 2020 and March 31, 2019 are the balancing figures between audited figures in respect of financial year ended March 31, 2020 and March 31, 2019 respectively and the unaudited published figures for the half year ended September 30, 2019 and September 30, 2018, which were subject to limited review. (3) In line with the provisions of Ind AS -108 'Operating Segments' and basis the review of operations being undertaken by the senior management, the operations of the Company primarily fall under 'real estate development', which is considered by the management to be the only reportable operating segment. (4) CRISIL has assigned CRISIL BBB+ Stable (Reaffirmed) rating for Non-Convertible Debentures vide letter dated December 26, 2019. (5) Paid up Debt Capital represents: (a) 4,600 Series A Fully Paid, Rated, Listed, Secured, Redeemable, Non-Convertible Debentures of Rs.100,000 each amounting to Rs. 4,60,00,000. The proceeds have been utilised for the purpose as mentioned in the offer documents and there is no material deviation in the utilization of the proceeds. (b) Series 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VAR dominates Premier League results

Man Utd continues winning run after Bruno opens scoring from controversial penalty decision; Kane denied again in goalless draw for Spurs

AFP ■ BIRMINGHAM

Manchester United were given a controversial helping hand by VAR in their 3-0 win at Aston Villa, while Tottenham suffered fresh frustration at the hands of the review system in their 0-0 draw at Bournemouth on Thursday.

United were far too strong for lowly Villa, but their opening goal came from a dubious penalty that left the hosts fuming.

In the 27th minute, United midfielder Bruno Fernandes spun into Ezri Konsa before tumbling in the area despite little evidence of a foul by the Villa defender. The penalty stood after a VAR review and Fernandes slotted home his eighth goal since joining from Sporting Lisbon in January.

United doubled their lead in first half stoppage-time when 18-year-old Mason Greenwood scored his fourth goal in three games with a fierce finish. Paul Pogba got the third in the 58th minute, the France midfielder bagging his first goal of an injury-hit season with a low curler from 18 yards.

Fifth placed United move to within one point of fourth placed Leicester in the race to qualify for the Champions League.

United, unbeaten in their last 17 games in all competitions, are the first team in Premier League history to win four consecutive matches by a margin of three or more goals. Second bottom Villa are four points from safety and haven't won in six games since the restart.

There was more VAR controversy at Dean Court, with Tottenham left in danger of



Manchester United's Paul Pogba, centre, celebrates with teammates after scoring his team's third goal against Aston Villa AP

Henderson season is over: Klopp

Liverpool: Liverpool captain Jordan Henderson has been ruled out of the rest of the Premier League champions' campaign after the midfielder sustained a knee injury in their midweek win at Brighton, manager Jurgen Klopp said on Friday.

Klopp was forced to withdraw Henderson 10 minutes from fulltime after a collision with Yves Bissouma but the German said the 30-year-old does not require surgery.

"It is the best possible of the bad news. He does not

need surgery," Klopp said. "He will not play again this season.

missing out on European competition for the first time since the 2009-10 season.

Jose Mourinho's side were off-key for long periods, but could feel hard done by after



Liverpool captain Jordan Henderson has been ruled out of the rest of the Premier League champions' campaign after the midfielder sustained a knee injury in their midweek win at Brighton, manager Jurgen Klopp said on Friday.

I'm pretty positive he will be with us for the new season, he is a quick healer.

"We all felt for him, awful moment. We knew immediately. Hendo is an animal he fights for everything. He deals well with pain but in this moment, he knew something had happened. It was a complete mood killer.

"The boys were happy with the result but then the boys realised Hendo was hurt. No surgery needed is the good news. He will lift the trophy, he deserves to lift trophy." AP

loss at Sheffield United, Mourinho felt they were the victims of another bad mistake by the replay official.

"The same referee who did the VAR decision against

"In the world, everybody knows that is a penalty. And I say everybody, I mean everybody."

— JOSE MOURINHO (SPURS MANAGER)

"Anybody who has played the game knows what (Bruno) Fernandes is trying to do. He does the turn and he gets it wrong. He puts his stud on Konsa's shin. It changed the game."

— DEAN SMITH (ASTON VILLA BOSS)

"The performance of the referee was like my team, not so good."

— CARLO ANCELOTTI (EVERTON MANAGER)

BRUNO EMULATES RONALDO'S FEAT

New Delhi: Manchester United playmaker Bruno Fernandes on Friday was rewarded for his fine run in the English top-flight as he was named the Premier League's player of the month for the second time in a row.

Fernandes had earlier won the prize for June as well. In doing so Fernandes emulated compatriot Cristiano Ronaldo, who had achieved the same feat in 2006 during his trophy-laden stay at Old Trafford. PNS

Sheffield United, Michael Oliver. Opinions matter, it's not only mine. Everybody knows that's a penalty and when I say everybody, I mean everybody," Mourinho said.

Real-Juve, Barca-Bayern clashes in the offing

NYON: Barcelona and Bayern Munich will meet in the quarter-finals of the Champions League should both sides make it through, Friday's draw for the final eight confirmed.

Both teams still need to complete their last-16 ties, with Bayern almost there having won 3-0 away to Chelsea in the first leg, while Barcelona are due to host Napoli after a 1-1 draw in Italy.

Meanwhile, if Man City can finish the job in their last-16 tie against Real Madrid, Pep's team will go on to a quarter-final against either Juventus or Lyon. City won 2-1 in Madrid in the first leg in March, while Juventus must overturn a 1-0 deficit from the first leg of their last-16 tie against Lyon.

Postponed in March as the coronavirus pandemic took over, all remaining last 16 second legs are due to be played on August 7 and 8. The winners will advance to the Final Eight, which will be held as a unique straight knockout tournament in Lisbon due to the difficulties caused by the coronavirus.

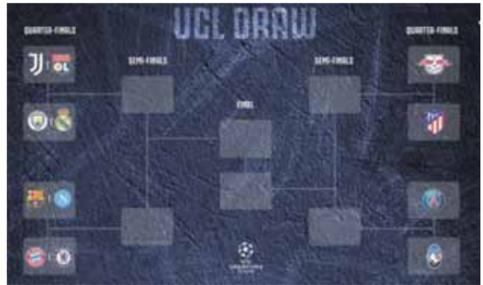
The draw threw up the possibility of a Clasico semi-final, with Barcelona and Madrid on collision course to meet in the last four should both make it that far.

The other side of the draw is clearer. First-time quarter-finalists RB Leipzig will meet Atletico Madrid, runners-up to city rivals Real the last time the Champions League final was played in Lisbon in 2014.

The winners of the Leipzig vs Atletico quarter-final will face either Paris Saint-Germain or Atalanta in the last four.

The quarter-finals will be played between August 12 and 15 in the Portuguese capital, with matches shared between Benfica's Estadio da Luz and Sporting's Estadio Jose Alvalade.

The semi-finals are scheduled for August 18 and 19, with the final on August 23 at the Estadio da Luz. AFP



English, German clubs on opposite ends of UEL draw

AFP ■ NYON

Manchester United could find themselves facing English rivals Wolverhampton Wanderers in the semi-finals of the Europa League in Germany in August, after Friday's draw for the latter stages of the tournament put the teams on a collision course.

While the Champions League is to be completed with a straight knockout mini-tournament in Lisbon, the Europa League will be played to a conclusion with an identical format in Germany.

The Europa League final will be played in Cologne on August 21. The quarter-finals and semi-finals will be played as one-off ties with Cologne, Duisburg, Dusseldorf and Gelsenkirchen all hosting games.

Before that, all last-16 ties must be completed. Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's United, who have been in fine form since the Premier League season resumed last month, are effectively already through to the last eight having won 5-0 away to Austrian side LASK in the first leg.

Assuming they progress, the 2017 Europa League win-

ners will take on either Istanbul Basaksehir or FC Copenhagen in the quarter-finals on August 10 or 11. The Turkish side beat Copenhagen 1-0 at home in the first leg in March.

Meanwhile, Wolves drew 1-1 away to Olympiakos in the first leg of their last-16 tie. They are due to host the recently-crowned Greek champions in the return and would then need to beat Sevilla — who have won the Europa League and its precursor, the UEFA Cup, a record five times — or Roma in the quarter-finals.

There are three German teams left in the Europa League, including Bayer Leverkusen. They won 3-1 away to Rangers in the first leg of their last-16 tie and will be confident of advancing to the last eight.

Leverkusen is barely 40 kilometres from Cologne, where the final will be played. They would play either Inter Milan or Getafe in the quarter-finals.

Only six of the eight last 16 first-leg matches were played in March. The other two ties — Inter vs Getafe and Sevilla vs Roma — will be decided as one-off matches on neutral ground.

SINGLES

WIMBLEDON TO ALLOCATE PRIZE MONEY

WIMBLEDON: Wimbledon will pay out \$12.5 million in prize money to 620 players despite the tournament's cancellation because of Covid-19 pandemic, the All England Club said on Friday. After consulting with its insurance provider, club officials said 256 players who would have competed in the main draw will each receive 25K pounds (\$31,000), while 224 players who would have competed in qualifying will each receive 12,500 pounds.

PORTO EDGE CLOSER TO PORTUGUESE TITLE

LISBON: Porto moved within touching distance of claiming the Portuguese league title as they won 3-1 at struggling Tondela on Thursday and need three points from their last three games to guarantee being crowned champions. Captain Danilo Pereira opened the scoring two minutes into the second period before Moussa Marega added a second midway through the half. Ronan pulled one back for Tondela with a penalty but Porto got a spot kick of their own deep in stoppage time which Fabio Viera converted. Porto moved up to 76 points from 31 games, leaving defending champions Benfica trailing in second place with 70 points from 31.

SOCHI, MUGELLO TO HOST F1 RACES

SPIELBERG: Formula One's governing body the FIA added two new confirmed races at Mugello and Sochi to its coronavirus-truncated season on Friday. Mugello in Italy will stage a Grand Prix for the first time on September 13 with Russia's Sochi circuit following on September 27. Mugello will appropriately mark Ferrari's 1,000 Grand Prix.

SEVILLA MOVE CLOSER TO CL SPOT

SEVILLE: Sevilla rallied in the second half to beat Athletic Bilbao 2-1 in La Liga, moving closer to a Champions League berth. The come-from-behind victory in Bilbao on Thursday left Sevilla tied on points with third-place Atletico Madrid and increased its gap to fifth-place Villarreal to six points with three rounds to go. Only the top four qualify for next season's Champions League.

WTA ADDS TWO EVENTS TO 2020 CALENDAR

FLORIDA: The WTA has announced that two more additional tournaments, the Prague Open in the Czech Republic and the Top Seed Open in Lexington, have been added to the 2020 calendar, which now features 21 tournaments. The WTA Tour, which has remained suspended since March 19, will begin with the Palermo Ladies Open on August 3, followed by events in Prague and Lexington a week later.

NEW BUNDESLIGA SEASON TO BEGIN ON SEPT 18

BERLIN: The German league confirmed on Friday that the 2020-21 Bundesliga season will start on Sept 18 with the traditional January winter break shrunk to a fortnight amid a string of changes. Having originally been scheduled to begin on August 21, the new season in Germany's top tier now start four weeks later and should finish on May 22, three weeks before the European C'Ships is due to start.

VERSTAPPEN BEST IN 2ND PRACTICE

SPIELBERG: Red Bull driver Max Verstappen posted the fastest time on Friday and Formula One champion Lewis Hamilton lacked pace in the second practice session for the Styrian Grand Prix. Verstappen was .043 seconds quicker than Valtteri Bottas - Hamilton's teammate at Mercedes and .217 ahead of Racing Point driver Sergio Perez. Hamilton was only sixth fastest, about .7 seconds slower than Verstappen. He spent a chunk of time in the garage while his team worked on his car. Agencies

Windies edge ahead on eventful day

AFP ■ SOUTHAMPTON

1st Test, Day 4
Live from 3:30pm IST
SONY SIX NETWORK

Shane Dowrich steered the West Indies into a first-innings lead of over a hundred runs against England on the third day of the first Test at Southampton on Friday.

Dowrich made 61 after opener Kraigg Brathwaite had top-scored with 65 in a total of 318 all out.

Stand-in captain Ben Stokes led England's attack with 4-49 to follow his top score of 43 in the hosts' 204.

But that still left West Indies 114 runs ahead in a match that marks international cricket's return from lockdown.

At the end of the day, England openers Rory Burns and Dom Sibley somehow survived 10 overs of zippy bowling that relentlessly attacked the off stump. They made 10 and



Ben Stokes celebrates with teammates after taking Shane Dowrich's wicket AP

5 respectively to have England 15 without loss and their deficit down to 99.

Stokes' haul included the wicket of West Indies captain Jason Holder for just five, with the England talisman having fallen to his rival all-rounder during the towering paceman's

Test-best 6-42 on Thursday. And when Stokes bowled tailender Alzarri Joseph, he had his 150th Test wicket.

But Dowrich, who made 116 and shared a huge stand of 295 with Holder when his fellow Bajan made an unbeaten 202 during the West Indies'

381-run win over England at their Kensington Oval home ground last year, completed a fine fifty.

The wicketkeeper held firm for 115 balls until he was caught down the legside by opposing gloveman Jos Buttler off Stokes.

England dropped veteran paceman Stuart Broad to play express quicks Jofra Archer and Mark Wood together for the first time in a Test.

But Archer and Wood struggled to make an impression on a placid pitch.

They took just one wicket between them in a combined 44 overs — and that was only when Wood bowled last man Shannon Gabriel to end the innings.

West Indies resumed behind closed doors on 57-1, with the first sunny blue skies of the match providing ideal

conditions for batting.

Barbados-born Archer nearly had Shai Hope lbw for 16 but a West Indies review revealed a no-ball. Hope, however, was still on 16 when he edged off-spinner Dom Bess to first slip where Stokes, captain-in-the-absence of Joe Root, held a sharp catch.

It was an encouraging moment for Stokes, who could have been forgiven for second-guessing himself after deciding to bat first on winning the toss.

But, as he has so often done before, Stokes made a vital breakthrough when he trapped Brathwaite in front of the stumps.

Shamarh Brooks made a promising 39 before he was caught behind off James Anderson, with England's all-time leading Test wicket-taker returning innings figures of 3-62.

Broad 'frustrated, angry, gutted' at being dropped

SOUTHAMPTON: Seasoned England pacer Stuart Broad on Friday said he felt "frustrated, angry and gutted" after being dropped from the opening Test, adding that he sought clarifications over his future in the team.

The hosts opted to go for James Anderson, Mark Wood and Jofra Archer alongside stand-in captain Ben Stokes and spinner Dom Bess, leaving out Broad from the first Test which started at Ageas Bowl on Wednesday.

Broad, who is England's second highest wicket-taker of all time with 485 scalps, last missed a home Test eight years ago when he was rested against West Indies in 2012.

"I found out about 6pm the night before the game. Stokesy told me just that they're going with extra pace in these conditions," Broad said on Sky Sports Player Zone.

"I've been frustrated, angry and gutted — because it's quite a hard decision to understand. I've probably bowled the best I've ever bowled in the last couple of years. I felt like it was my shirt having been in the team through the Ashes and going to South Africa and winning there," he added. PTI



Red Bull dash Vettel's hopes of return

Spielberg: Red Bull have given "a definite no" to four-times F1 world champion Sebastian Vettel's hopes of returning to them next year, team boss Christian Horner said on Friday.

The German, who is out of contract with Ferrari at the end of the season and facing an uncertain future, had said on Thursday he would say yes to a Red Bull drive if one was offered.

Vettel won his titles with Red Bull from 2010-13 and remains on good terms with the Austrian energy drink brand's senior management.

"We had a brilliant time with

Seb," Horner told Sky F1 television during practice for the Styrian Grand Prix at Austria's Red Bull Ring. "He will forever be a part of our history.

"We didn't expect him to be on the market this year and our commitment is to our existing drivers. We think we've got a great pairing in Max (Verstappen) and in Alex (Albon). We think that has great potential for the future as well.

"So unfortunately it's not something we are going to be able to accommodate. That is a definite no, I'm afraid. Sebastian I think is aware of that." Agencies

Spinners are being taught new methods to shine ball: Mushtaq

IAN S ■ WORCESTER

Former Pakistan tweaker and team's current spin bowling coach Mushtaq Ahmed on Friday stated that players have responded well to the new regulations put forward by International Cricket Council (ICC) in the wake of coronavirus pandemic.

The Pakistan cricket team is currently in England, acclimatising themselves ahead of their much-anticipated series which includes three Tests and as many T20Is starting August.

The visitors are currently under a 14-day quarantine period, following which they will travel to Derbyshire on July 13.



They had started their preparations for the series with a two-day inter-squad scenario-based practice match played on July 5-6 at Worcester.

"Despite the Covid-19 relat-

Verona snatch late 2-2 draw vs Inter

Verona: Inter Milan allowed yet another game to slip from their grasp as Verona snatched a late equaliser to hold them to a 2-2 draw on Thursday.

Antonio Conte's side appeared to have done the difficult part when they came from behind to lead 2-1 early in the second half only for Miguel Veloso to level for Verona with five minutes left.

That means Inter stay fourth with 65 points, having been overtaken by Atalanta after their 2-0 win over Sampdoria on Wednesday, and

important points," said Conte. "The fact that we have lost 20 points from leading positions must give us pause for thought. We've lost so many points in a stupid way — if we hadn't, the table would look very different."

Since the Serie A restart, Inter have been held 3-3 at home by Sassuolo after conceding twice in the last 10 minutes and on Sunday they lost 2-1 to visitors Bologna after getting 1-0 and missing a penalty — a performance which left Conte fuming. AP

are 10 adrift of leaders Juventus with seven games to play. Verona are ninth with 43.

"It's disappointing because we deserved to win the match and instead we have lost more

ATK Mohun Bagan to sport green & maroon jersey

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Keeping alive the club's 131-year-old legacy, ATK Mohun Bagan board of directors on Friday decided to retain the iconic green and maroon jersey and the sailing boat logo.

The new entity will be known as ATK Mohun Bagan and the Mariners' historic 'sailing boat' logo will also remain barring the addition of ATK, which has acquired an 80 per cent stake in the century old club.

"The culture and tradition which has made the brand a household name has been preserved. The logo retains its essence," the merged entity said in a statement.

"The addition of ATK within the logo ensures that the fast growing and passionate following built on a short but highly successful period is also being carried forward," he said.

The club also announced its plans to build a world class football academy in Bengal and to refurbish the existing Mohun Bagan facility so that ISL and AFC home games are held there.

PCB forced to sell logo rights for lower price

Karachi (PTI): The Pakistan Cricket Board has managed to rope in a sponsor for the national team ahead of its England tour but it had to settle for a far less amount than what it envisaged.

According to a reliable source, PCB has decided to sign a one-year contract with Transmedia, a company which has been buying various sponsorship and media rights for the last few years.

"Transmedia has offered 600 million rupees for a three-year deal for the main logo on Pakistan team's jerseys and kits. The Board after facing disappointment on several fronts has now decided to sign a one-year deal for ₹200m on a pro-rata basis," the source said.

ing with the new regulations with regards to shining the ball as well.

"Historically, spinners have used saliva to shine the ball now they are being taught new methods in lieu of the revised ICC rules and regulations.

"What makes me really happy is that the players and support staff are working together on team goals and objectives and I am sure in due course the players will be fully aware and ready for the new challenges as we prepare for what is expected to be a tough series against a strong English team in their own backyard.

"I am confident we have the players that can not only compete but also win the series."