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STOKES BECOMES NUMBER 1 TEST ALL-ROUNDER 12 SPORT

3 more days for Raj manoeuvring HC decision on disqualification of Pilot camp MLAs on July 24

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/JAIPUR

Ashok Gehlot and Sachin Pilot camps got three more days to whet their knives before the Rajasthan High Court declares the winner of the legal bout and leaves the floor open for political bloodletting.

The court on Tuesday concluded its hearing on petition filed by the Pilot camp on disqualification notice served by the Assembly Speaker on 19 rebel MLAs and reserved its judgement till Friday, directing the Speaker not to act against the lawmakers during this period.

Rajasthan Assembly Speaker CP Joshi, who called the meeting late evening, deferred the proceedings against rebel MLAs from Pilot group till 5.30 pm on July 24.

The Speaker held a meeting with Devdutt Kamat, the counsel for Mahesh Joshi, the Chief Whip of Congress in Rajasthan. Joshi said as per the orders of the High Court, he will not act on notices against rebel Congress MLAs, including Sachin Pilot, until the court verdict.

After the CLP meeting, Gehlot asserted those betraying



Security personnel guard outside a hotel where Congress leaders and MLAs are staying in Jaipur on Tuesday

the party will not be able to show their faces in public. This was the second consecutive day Gehlot slammed rebel Congress MLAs, including Sachin Pilot.

Breaking his silence on the Rajasthan crisis, former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi listed the alleged "attempt to topple" the Government in the State as among the Centre's "achievements" in the Covid-19 era. The Gandhis, who so far, refrained from making any public comment on the crisis



last one week.

Addressing the Cabinet meeting Gehlot reiterated that a conspiracy to topple his Government was being hatched but said he was confident that the Government will complete its tenure.

"The State Government is fighting with coronavirus crisis and at the same time, a leader who was a State Congress president and a few

other MLAs in collusion with the BJP were "hatching a conspiracy" to topple it," Gehlot alleged without taking the name of Pilot or any other party leader. "This is intolerable and condemnable. Those betraying the party will not be able to show their faces in public," Gehlot added.

According to a statement issued by Congress chief whip Mahesh Joshi, Gehlot said efforts are being made to "weaken democracy" in the country but Congress MLAs are fighting firmly to save it.

Referring to the ongoing court case, Gehlot mocked and questioned Pilot for hiring lawyers Harish Salve and Mukul Rohatgi, saying they command a tall fee.

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23.5% Delhiites infected, rest susceptible: Study

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A study conducted from June 27 to July 10 by the National Center for Disease Control (NCDC) in collaboration with the Delhi Government indicated that a large number of infected persons remain asymptomatic. Delhi's sero-prevalence study has found that 23.48 per cent of the people have been affected by Covid-19 in the city, which has several pockets of dense population.

A sero-survey involves testing of blood serum of individuals to check for the prevalence of antibodies against an infection. "The results of the sero-prevalence study show that on an average, across Delhi, the prevalence of IgG antibodies is 23.48 per cent. The study also indicates that a large number of infected persons remain asymptomatic," the Union Health Ministry said in a statement on Tuesday.

"This implies that nearly six months into the epidemic, only 23.48 per cent of the people are affected in Delhi, which has several pockets of dense population," said the Ministry, attributing it to efforts taken by the Government to prevent the spread of infection, including lockdown, containment and surveillance measures,

Delhi's sero-prevalence survey indicates a large number of infected persons remain asymptomatic



including contact tracing and tracking, as well as citizen's compliance to Covid appropriate behaviours.

It, however, said a significant proportion of the population is still vulnerable and therefore, the containment measures need to continue with the same rigour.

Non-pharmaceutical interventions such as physical distancing, use of mask, hand hygiene, cough etiquette and social distancing, etc, must be followed strictly, it underlined.

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India's fatality rate drops to 2.43% from 3.36% in a month: Health Ministry

New Delhi: India's Covid-19 fatality rate has dropped significantly to 2.43 per cent from 3.36 per cent on June 17 due to effective clinical management of coronavirus cases, the Centre said on Tuesday, asserting the country has handled the pandemic "relatively well".

Detailed report on P4

CAPSULE

CBI SEEKS J'KHAND NOD TO PROSECUTE KODA
New Delhi: The CBI has sought from the Jharkhand Government sanction to prosecute former Chief Minister Madhu Koda and ex-mines secretary Jai Shankar Tiwari in connection with the infamous scam related to the allocation of Parbatpur coal block to Electrosteel Castings, officials said on Tuesday.

DOORSTEP DELIVERY OF RATION IN DELHI
New Delhi: The Delhi Government on Tuesday approved doorstep delivery of ration to eligible beneficiaries, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced, terming it as a "revolutionary" move. The scheme will be known as "Mukhya Mantri Ghar Ghar Ration Ration Yojna", he said.

ASSAM: 87 DEAD NOW, 24.19 LAKH AFFECTED
Guwahati/Kokrajhar: There was no improvement on Tuesday in the grim flood situation in Assam as the death toll rose by two to reach 87, while 24.19 lakh people in 24 districts are affected, a Government report said. The report said that at present 2,323 villages across Assam are under water and 1.10 lakh hectares of crop area has been damaged. According to the daily flood bulletin by the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), one person died at Raha in Nagaon district and another at Morigaon town.

11 ex-cops convicted of killing Raja Maan Singh after 35 years

PTI ■ MATHURA

Rajasthan's eleven former policemen, including a circle officer and a police station in-charge were convicted by a court here on Tuesday for gunning down Raja Maan Singh of Bharatpur and his two colleagues over 35 years in Deeg area of the State.

After convicting the then circle officer Kan Singh Bhati and local police station in-charge Virendra Singh along with nine other policemen on charges of killing erstwhile Bharatpur riyasat's chief and his colleagues Sumer Singh and Hari Singh, Mathura District Judge Sadhana Rani fixed Wednesday for pronouncing the quantum of sentences.

According to prosecution, Singh and his colleagues were killed in an encounter by a Deeg police at the local grain market on February 21, 1985, a day after Singh, then contesting the Assembly election as an independent candidate, had allegedly damaged the former Rajasthan's Chief Minister Shiv Charan Mathur's helicopter.

He was also accused of damaging some publicity mate-



Police presence outside the CBI court in Mathura on Tuesday

rial and a stage set up for Mathur to address an election rally in favour of the Congress candidate Brajendra Singh, a retired IAS officer, the prosecution had told the court.

Initially probed by the local police, the case was later handed over to the CBI for investigation and its trial was shifted to Mathura on the Supreme Court orders.

"Though we have got delayed justice, I am happy that guilty persons have ultimately been convicted," said Krishnendra Kaur Deepa, a member of the Bharatpur royal family and a multiple-term Rajasthan MLA, either as an independent or from the erstwhile Janata Dal or the BJP between 1985 and 2018.

Now, CBI quizzes Gehlot's OSD in SHO suicide case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Tuesday questioned Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's OSD Devaram Saini in connection with the alleged suicide of SHO Vishnuddutt Vishnoi of Rajgarh police station in Churu district on May 23.

Saini's questioning comes a day after the agency quizzed Olympian Congress MLA from Sadulpur (Churu) Krishna Poonia, who had reportedly complained against the SHO.

Following Poonia's representation to the CM's office, Saini is said to have issued some instructions to the police. Saini was quizzed on the letter written by him to the police on Poonia's representation against the SHO before his alleged suicide, sources said.

Poonia was quizzed for three hours at her residence at

Vaishali Nagar in Jaipur on Monday, they said.

A CBI team of officials of the Special Crimes Unit (SCU) headed by a Superintendent of Police from the agency headquarters here had reached Jaipur on Monday and is likely to return to Delhi on Wednesday, sources said, adding more suspects will be summoned subsequently.

They said the evidence gathered so far will be analysed before further action against the suspects is undertaken.

Saini was asked to appear before the CBI office in Jaipur at 10 am and his questioning lasted for over an hour.

Vishnoi's body was found hanging from the ceiling of his official residence in Churu and the case was handed over to the CBI on June 5 by the State Government.

Continued on Page 2

Scribe critical as niece's harassers shoot him for complaint, 9 arrested

Ghaziabad: A Ghaziabad-based journalist was hospitalised after he was shot at by some assailants near his home and nine people have been arrested so far in connection with the case, police said on Tuesday.

The attack comes days after Vikram Joshi, who works with a local daily, lodged a complaint at the local Vijay Nagar police post against some people for harassing his niece on July 16.

Joshi was returning home in Vijay Nagar area with his two daughters on a motorcycle when he was waylaid by

over half a dozen armed men around 10.30 pm on Monday, officials said.

The journalist was shot in the head by one of the accused, who then fled the spot, leaving him severely injured. He was taken to a hospital where he is in a critical condition, they said.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Ghaziabad, Kalanidhi Naithani said nine people, including two of the three named in the FIR, have been arrested while the local police post in-charge was suspended in the wake of the incident.

Continued on Page 2

Rajiv's killer Nalini threatens to kill self if tormented cell inmate taken to safety

PTI ■ VELLORE

Rajiv Gandhi assassination case convict Nalini Sriharan, lodged in the special prison for women here, threatened to end her life, a senior jail official said on Tuesday.

Her legal adviser said a representation has been given to authorities to shift her to Chennai Puzhal prison considering her safety. Nalini's threat to end her life came after a co-prisoner, who was in a nearby cell, complained against her to authorities.

The co-prisoner, also a life convict,

alleged that the Rajiv case convict was harassing her by giving more and more work and requested that her cell be changed, a top prison department official said. Following the complaint, jail authorities questioned Nalini and changed the cell of the complainant. "Nalini, during questioning started a quarrel with the jailor. She said the complaint of the co-prisoner was false and that she did not harass her. Nalini said she will commit suicide if the cell of the co-prisoner was changed," the official told PTI.

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MP Guv Lalji Tandon passes away

PNS/PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Madhya Pradesh Governor Lalji Tandon died at a hospital in Lucknow early Tuesday. He was 85. He was admitted to the hospital on June 11 with breathing problems, fever and difficulty in urination.

A veteran BJP leader belonging to the Atal Bihari Vajpayee and LK Advani-era, Lalji Tandon had earlier served as a Cabinet Minister in Uttar Pradesh.

He had taken oath as the Madhya Pradesh Governor on July 29 last year after serving on the same post in Bihar for nearly 11 months.

He died at 5.35 am at Medanta Hospital, according to his son Ashutosh Tandon, who is a Cabinet Minister in Uttar Pradesh.

Lalji Tandon is survived by his wife and three sons.

His mortal remains were consigned to flames at Gulala Ghat in Lucknow in the evening. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, UP Governor Anandiben Patel, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, State



LALJI TANDON
APRIL 12, 1935 — JULY 21, 2020

BJP chief Swatantrdev Singh, a number of ministers in the State Government and party workers were present during the cremation.

The cremation was held with full state honours, spokesperson of BJP's Lucknow unit Pushkar Shukla said.

According to Medanta Hospital Director Dr Rakesh Kapoor, Tandon died following a cardiac arrest. "He was admitted on June 11 and on investigation he was found suffering from a liver ailment. Later,



BJP leaders and supporters pay tribute to Madhya Pradesh Governor Lalji Tandon as his mortal remains are transported to his residence in in Lucknow on Tuesday

liver and kidneys stopped functioning and he was put on the life support system. Despite all efforts, he breathed his last on Tuesday morning," he said.

Lalji Tandon's body was kept at his official residence in Hazratganj and later at his Sondhi Tola home in the Chowk area for people to pay their last respects.

Condoling the demise of Lalji Tandon, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he will be remembered for his untiring efforts to serve society. In a series of tweets, Modi recalled that Lalji Tandon played a key role in strengthening the BJP in Uttar Pradesh.

Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu described Tandon as a "people's leader" who worked relentlessly for the uplift of the downtrodden.

Continued on Page 2

Amarnath yatra cancelled for 1st time

As Covid pandemic continues unabated, Shrine Board takes call with a heavy heart

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

In the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, the annual Amarnath yatra has been finally cancelled by the Amarnathji Shrine Board. The crucial decision was taken by the Chairman of the Shrine Board Lt-Governor Girish Chandra Murmu after holding discussion with all the board members via video conferencing and taking into account the feedback of the Government on Tuesday.

It is for the first time, the annual yatra to the cave shrine has been cancelled even before it was formally flagged off.

Due to fair weather conditions at the cave shrine, the major portion of the Shiv Lingam (ice stalgmite) which takes form inside the cave shrine has already melted away ahead of the Shrivani Purnima, the day yatra is culminated on the day of Raksha Bandhan, falling on August 3 this year. The Jammu & Kashmir

administration had separately informed the Chairman of the Shrine Board that it would not be advisable to conduct Amarnathji Yatra 2020. The administration also suggested that the yatra should be cancelled.

"Based upon the circumstances, the Board decided with heavy heart that it is not advisable to hold and conduct this year's Amarnathji Yatra and expressed its regret to announce the cancellation of Yatra 2020," said the statement issued by the Amarnath Shrine Board.

It added, "The Board is aware of and respects the sentiments of millions of devotees and to keep the religious sentiments alive, the Board shall continue the live telecast/ virtual darshan of the morning and evening aarti. Further, the traditional rituals shall be carried out as per past practice. Also, the Chhadi Mubarak shall be facilitated by the Government."



Border Security Force soldiers, along with a sniffer dog, check facilities for pilgrimages at the base camp of Amarnath Yatra (which was later cancelled) in Jammu on Tuesday

During its 39th meeting the Shrine Board also observed that coronavirus pandemic has put the health administration system to its limit. The spike has been particularly sharp in July. Health workers and security forces are also getting infected and the focus of the entire medical, civil and police administration at the moment is on containing the local transmission of the Covid-19 pandemic. The health concerns are so serious that the strain on the health system, along with the diversion in resources to the yatra, will be immense. This would also unnecessarily put the Yatris at risk of catching the Covid-19.

Continued on Page 2

NCERT adds scrapping of Art 370 to Class XII textbook in J&K

Also drops portion on separatist politics

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The NCERT has revised a chapter in its Class 12 political science textbook to drop a paragraph on separatist politics in Jammu and Kashmir and to add a brief mention of the scrapping of its special status last year.

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has revised the chapter in the textbook

“Politics in India since Independence” for the academic session 2020-21.

While the topic “Separatism and Beyond” has been deleted from the chapter, the scrapping of Article 370, which gave the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir special status, has been included under the topic “Regional Aspirations”.

On August 5 last year, the Centre had scrapped the state’s

special status and divided it into Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

“One strand of separatists who want a separate Kashmiri nation, independent of India and Pakistan. Then there are groups that want Kashmir to merge with Pakistan. Besides these, there is a third strand, which wants greater autonomy for the people of the state within the Indian union,” the deleted portion read.

The chapter then talks about the President’s Rule

imposed in June 2018 after the BJP withdrew its support to the Mehbooba Mufti government and towards the end, mentions the withdrawal of Article 370.

The revised portion, where the chapter talks about Jammu and Kashmir, says: “Jammu and Kashmir had a special status under Article 370 of the Indian Constitution. However, in spite of it, the region witnessed violence, cross-border terrorism and political instability with internal and external ramifications.”

“The Article resulted in the

loss of many lives, including that of innocent civilians, security personnel and militants. Besides, there was also a large-scale displacement of Kashmiri Pandits from the Kashmir valley,” it read.

“On August 5, 2019, Parliament had approved a resolution abrogating special status to Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 of the Constitution. The state was also bifurcated into two Union territories — Ladakh with no Legislative Assembly and Jammu and Kashmir with one,”

the revised portion read.

The revised textbook takes into account the developments that took place in Jammu and Kashmir from 2002 onward.

Earlier this month, a controversy had erupted over the reduction of the syllabus by the CBSE due to the COVID-19 situation, with the Opposition alleging that chapters on India’s democracy and plurality are being “dropped” to propagate a particular ideology.

But the Board had insisted it is a one-time measure for this academic year only and is not

restricted to a particular subject as it is being projected by some.

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) had notified the new syllabus for Class 9 to Class 12 for the 2020-21 academic session after rationalising up to 30 per cent of the curriculum.

According to the updated curriculum, the chapters deleted from the Class 10 syllabus are those dealing with democracy and diversity, gender, religion and caste, popular struggles and movement and chal-

lenges to democracy.

For Class 11, the deleted portions include the chapters on federalism, citizenship, nationalism, secularism and growth of local governments in India.

Similarly, Class 12 students will not be required to study the chapters on India’s relations with its neighbours — Pakistan, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal, the changing nature of India’s economic development, social movements in India and demonetisation, among others.

PARBATPUR COAL BLOCK ALLOCATION SCAM

CBI seeks sanction to prosecute Madhu Koda

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has sought from the Jharkhand government sanction to prosecute former chief minister Madhu Koda and ex-mines secretary Jai Shankar Tiwari in connection with the infamous scam relat-

ed to the allocation of Parbatpur coal block to Electrosteel Castings, officials said on Tuesday.

The agency will file its charge sheet against Koda, Tiwari and others after getting the sanction from the Hemant Soren-led Jharkhand govern-

ment, they said.

Koda has already been convicted for corruption in the allocation of Rajhara North coal block. A trial court in 2017 held him guilty of corruption and conspiracy in the allocation of the coal block in Jharkhand to Kolkata-based

company Vini Iron and Steel Udyog Ltd (VISUL).

The CBI has almost concluded its probe in the allocation of Parbatpur coal block to Electrosteel Castings for their proposed pig iron plants at Khardah in West Bengal and Kalahasti in Andhra Pradesh.

The Odisha-based Electrosteel allegedly acquired about 48.5 per cent shares of an Andhra Pradesh-based private company and the allocation was made for a plant of the latter which never independently applied for a coal block.

The CBI has alleged that

Electrosteel resorted to the sale of 50,162.42 metric tonnes of middlings dishonestly to another private company based at Jharkhand and the company disposed of 42,500 metric tonnes of inferior ungraded coal, jhama and slurry to the non-approved end users.

Pilot held in crew member suicide case

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

Police have arrested a pilot in connection with a suicide case of crew member of a private airlines. Also, on Tuesday the deceased’s body was handed over to the family member after an autopsy.

The investigation officer of the case said that the actual reason behind the incident yet to be known. However the pilot confessed that they were in a relationship and there was some arguments between them before she took the extreme step.

“We are probing the matter from all different angles. We have questioned six friends of the victim and the pilot. Whether it was a murder or suicide it will be clear once the investigation will be completed,” the investigation officer of the case said.

Meanwhile, a case of suspected murder was reported from the Sohna Road area on Sunday night.

The victim, 26-year-old Peggyla Bhutia, was brought to Artemis Hospital on Sunday night in a critical condition. The victim was a former crew member of a private airlines.

According to police, the

victim’s sister Babyla accused Peggyla’s boyfriend Dazle Sharma of murdering her.

Babyla alleged that her sister was in a relationship with Sharma for the last three years, but had cut off all ties for the past few weeks.

“He had blocked her from all his social media, including whatsapp. So she would email him and he would reply with abusive words,” Babyla alleged in the FIR.

She further said that Sharma had made contact with Peggyla a few days ago and took her to his friend’s place on Sunday.

She alleged that Sharma informed her at around 10:30 pm that Peggyla had a fall from the fifth floor of the building.

“When I reached the hospital I specifically noticed red scratch marks on his neck. I went forward and checked my sister’s body. I saw bruises all over her lower body, left forehead and cut on her lips. On seeing external body of my sister it did not seem like she had fallen from the fifth floor of a building,” Babyla said in the FIR.

A case was registered against the pilot on the complaint of victim’s sister under relevant sections of the IPC at the sector-65 police station.

Maha farmers spill milk on roads, demand price hike

Pune: Hundreds of farmers on Tuesday emptied tankers and cans containing thousands of litres of milk on the streets in Sangli, Kolhapur, Jalna, Hingoli, Solapur and Pune demanding an increase in milk procurement prices.

Hundreds of activists led by Swabhimani Shetkari Sanghatana (SSS) President Raju Shetti took to the streets all over the state, especially in some of the key milk-producing regions of western Maharashtra, and stopped milk tankers and milk tempos transporting milk to towns and cities.

“The rural economy has been hit hard by the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. The dairy industry is a key supportive sector in the rural economy, providing livelihood to lakhs of

farmers. But due to the lockdowns, milk consumption is down by over 40 per cent and milk is being converted to butter or skimmed milk powder,” Shetti told IANS.

Due to the increasing production of butter and milk powder, the stocks are increasing and the prices are further dropping and have currently reached Rs 220 and Rs 280, respectively, he said.

With growing stocks of butter and milk powder, the dairy owners are not ready to accept raw milk from the farmers and consequently they get barely Rs 18-20 per litre, resulting in a crisis in the dairy sector, Shetti explained.

“We have written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, seeking his urgent intervention to prevent dairies from shutting

down, and have made several demands which can avert the crisis and help safeguard the milk producers of the country,” said Shetti.

The demands are: The government should purchase and maintain buffer stocks of 30,000 tonnes of milk powder, provide Rs 30/kg subsidy for milk powder export, stop imports of milk powder, completely withdraw GST on all dairy products -- which ranges from 5 per cent to 12 per cent -- till the pandemic situation is over to enable people afford and consume more milk products.

Supporting the agitation, All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS) President Ashok Dhawale said that the farmers are demanding a price support of Rs 5 per litre, which is very justified as production costs have catapulted.

“Presently, the price of milk has dropped below the rate of a bottle of water which is an insult to the farmers. The previous Maharashtra government had assured a support price of Rs 5/litre, but now the rate of milk has crashed by half for the farmers,” Dhawale said.

The AIKS also slammed what it terms as “anti-farmer” decision of the Centre to reduce

import duty on milk powder from 60 per cent to 15 per cent, which led to imports of 10,000 tonnes and consequently the milk powder prices fell steeply by half from Rs 320/kg, and more so, since 150,000 tonnes of milk powder was already in stocks in the country.

Dhawale said the milk agitation concerns not only Maharashtra, but all the eight crore milk producing farmers who churn out 195 million tonnes of milk as per the government’s official figures.

The AIKS’ Coordination Committee -- a pan-India platform with more than 250 farmers’ organisations -- has warned of a more intense nationwide agitation if the milk farmers’ demands are not met before August 9.

Earlier on Tuesday, SSS activists at many locations persuaded the truckers to stop milk delivery and join the agitation, but when they didn’t cooperate, their trucks were stopped and emptied on the roads.

Wherever the transporters cooperated, the milk was distributed for free to the poor, slum-dwellers and pavement dwellers, said an SSS spokesperson.

IANS

18-year-old boy drowns in ditch created by DJB unfinished job

New Delhi: An 18-year-old boy died after drowning in Sarita Vihar in South-East Delhi on Tuesday evening following heavy rain in the area.

The body of the boy was fished out of water near the Okhla Tank area by the fire department officials. The national capital continued to witness heavy downpour on Tuesday after rain wreaked havoc on Sunday, snuffing out three lives.

“Jal Board work was going on in the area and as a result water accumulated there. The body of the deceased was taken out from the water, and further investigation is on,” said a senior police officer.

The deceased has been identified as Amir, a resident of Haji Colony in Jamia Nagar.

“We received a call at

around 5:15 p.m. on Tuesday evening and immediately teams were sent to the spot,” said a fire department official.

Efforts were made by the swimmers to trace the body and it was after an hour of search operation that the body was spotted and taken out of water.

On Sunday, at least three deaths were reported from Delhi due to incessant rainfall. In the first case, a tempo driver drowned after his vehicle got stuck under the Minto bridge near Connaught Place.

In the second incident, the body of an 8-year-old was found in South-East Delhi’s Jaitpur area, while a 28-year old man died after he fell in water at the Gandhi Camp in Amar Colony.

IANS

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
 Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, G.B. Nagar (U.P.)
 Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender 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.

(बनराशि रुपये 25 लाख से रुपये 70 लाख तक)

Sl. No.	JOB No.	NAME OF WORK	AMOUNT	Tender Publication
1.	10/Advt./ (Tehsildar)/ 2020-21	ADVERTISING RIGHTS ON UNIPOLE ON SECTOR - 16A & SECTOR-16B (FOR ONE YEAR), NOIDA.	69,12,000.00	Third Time

Which can be uploaded by date 28.07.2020 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 29.07.2020 at 11.00 AM

Tehsildar, Noida

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that this person
Name: Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown,
Age: 36 Years Approx, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5’5”,
Complexion: Shallow, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Strong, **Identification Mark:** A Tattoo over right forearm and chest, **Wearing:** Black colour Shirt and white colour Pajama was found dead at Yamuna river, Delhi on 18.07.2020.

In this regard a FIR/DO No.24a, dated 18.07.2020 has been registered at P.S. I.P. Estate, Delhi. Dead Body has been kept preserved at L.B.S. Hospital Mortuary for 72 hours for identification. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.

SHO
P.S. I.P. Estate, Delhi
DP/220/CD/2020
Ph.: 011-23370928, 23370999

KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LTD.
 (A Government of India Undertaking)

TENDER NOTICE

Tender No.: KR/CO/SG/Tender/2020-21/05 Dated 22/07/2020.

Regional Signal & Telecom Engineer, invites Tenders from Eligible and Experienced Contractors for the Work of:
“Repairs of Various Defective CEL make HASSDAC Cards on Contract Rate basis for a period of Three Years”.

Last Date & Time for Submission of Bids: 28/08/2020 up to 16:30 hrs.
 Estimated Cost of Work: ₹ 8.39 Lakhs.

For further details please visit: www.ireps.gov.in

3 more days for Raj...

From Page 1

“Where is this money coming from? Is Pilot sahab giving it from his pocket?” he said.

He also claimed that rebel MLAs were being kept as hostage. “Everyone knows how they are being kept; their mobiles have been taken away... Many of them want to come here. They are crying over the phone. Some say they are using the barber’s phone, others their son’s phone,” he said.

According to one calculation within the BJP, there are 21 MLAs in the Pilot camp, including the 19 Congress rebels and two Independents - Om Prakash Hudla (Mahuwa) and Suresh Tak (Kishangarh). These 21 MLAs, along with the BJP’s own 72 and three of its ally, the RLP, take the anti-Gehlot number in the 200-member Assembly to 96.

Earlier in the day at the High Court, lawyer Mukul Rohatgi, who is representing Sachin Pilot said, “Disqualification notice by the Assembly Speaker was issued to

Sachin Pilot and other MLAs on the same day of complaint. Less time given for reply than as stated in rules. No reasons recorded for issuing notice.”

Rohatgi told the High Court that there is nothing on record to show that the Rajasthan Speaker “applied his mind” while serving disqualification notices to Sachin Pilot and 18 other Congress rebel MLAs.

Meanwhile Rajasthan Police sought help from Delhi, Haryana Police in tracking the rebel MLAs accused in the “horse-trading” case amid the political crisis in Rajasthan. Pilot camp MLAs are lodged at a resort in Manesar, Haryana, but the Rajasthan police do not have access to them.

In another development the bail plea of BJP leader Bharat Malani was rejected after Rajasthan SOG recovered Rs 1.25 crore from two cars in Udaipur. Malani was arrested in connection with the alleged conspiracy to topple the Congress Government in Rajasthan.

Amarnath yatra cancelled for 1st time

From Page 1

The meeting was attended by BVR Subrahmanyam, Chief Secretary Bipul Pathak, CEO SASB; Anup Kumar Soni, Addl CEO SASB & senior officers of Shrine Board. Threadbare discussion was held on the current circumstances of COVID-19 pandemic and its likely impact on the Yatra. The Board was also informed that the arrangements were on track since February 2020, but due to nationwide lockdown and pandemic, the State Executive Committee, J&K has still continued to keep religious places and places of worship closed for the public.

MP Guv Lalji Tandon passes away

From Page 1

“He will be remembered as a dedicated social worker, great thinker, able administrator and a distinguished parliamentarian,” the Vice-President’s Secretariat tweeted.

Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel recalled Lalji Tandon’s contribution to the state’s politics as well as in the development of Lucknow.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said, “I had the opportunity to work with Tandonji. His long public life was dedicated to serving people and he left his

mark through his work”

He was popular and the development works done by him are still praised by the people,” Singh said in a tweet.

MP Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan condoled the death of Tandon and paid floral tributes to the departed leader in Lucknow. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and BSP president Mayawati also expressed grief over Lalji Tandon’s death. “In his death, the country has lost a popular leader, capable administrator and a social

23.5% Delhiites...

From Page 1

worker who was an integral part of Lucknow,” the Chief Minister said.

The Uttar Pradesh Government has announced a three-day mourning as a mark of respect to Lalji Tandon, a former Cabinet Minister, an official spokesman said.

Rajasthan Governor Kalraj Mishra and Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot also condoled the death of the Madhya Pradesh Governor. Speaker of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly Hriday Narayan Dixit too condoled the death of Lalji Tandon.

Now, CBI quizzes Gehlot’s...

From Page 1

The CBI move involving questioning of a Congress MLA and an official linked to Gehlot comes in the backdrop of political turbulence in the Rajasthan Government following Sachin Pilot’s rebellion and his subsequent sacking as Deputy CM.

While Poonia and Saini are not named as accused in the case but they are under the scanner as per the preliminary suspicion in the matter. However, a final picture will emerge only after the nature of evidence gathered in relation to

the ongoing probe, they said.

In his complaint to the police, Vishnoi’s brother had alleged that the deceased SHO was under pressure which led him to take this extreme step.

Two suicide notes were recovered from Vishnoi, one addressed to his parents seeking forgiveness for his action and the other to the Superintendent of Police of Churu in which he had said he was unable able to bear the pressure put on him. In his suicide note, Vishnoi had also said that he tried to give his best to the Rajasthan Police.

Scribe critical...

From Page 1

“The FIR was registered under IPC sections 307 (attempted murder), 506 (criminal intimidation) and 34 (act done by several people with a common intention) on complaint by Joshi’s brother Aniket Joshi,” Naithani said.

The FIR was registered under three named suspects - Chhotu, Akash Bihari and Ravi besides some unidentified people. Chhotu and Ravi have been arrested, while searches are underway to nab Akash and six police teams are working on the case, he added.

The police have also arrested Mohit, Dalbir, Akash,

Rajiv’s killer...

From Page 1

“It was like blackmail. If the complainant’s cell was changed, Nalini could not extract work from her...She only threatened (to end her life) but there was no attempt,” he asserted. Nalini, in prison for over 29 years, told the jailor that she would end her life in the presence of others including the assistant jailor and prison staffers last evening, the official said.

The high profile case convict legal adviser, P Pugazhenthil told PTI that jail officials gave “contradicting versions” which showed that they were “trying to hide something.” Some officials said Nalini tried to “strangle herself” using her saree during questioning, he claimed, adding others maintained that she only threatened to do so but did nothing.

“We have given a representation to authorities to shift Nalini Sriharan to Chennai Puzhal prison for her safety,” he said. Besides Nalini, six others, including her husband V Sriharan alias Murugan, a Sri Lankan national, are serving life imprisonment in the assassination case.

Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated by an LTTE suicide bomber during an election rally at Sriperumpudur near here on May 21, 1991.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for the general public information that my client Smt. Kamlesh W/o. Late Shri Ram R/o. C1-184, Rohini Sector-20, Delhi-110086 has debarred, disowned and break down all the relationship from her son namely Amit Kumar from her all movable and immovable properties either self acquired or ancestral situated all over India due to his misconduct, disobedience and misbehavior attitude. My client will not be responsible in future for Amit Kumar’s actions.

Sahil Jain (Advocate)
 RU-382, Outer Ring Road, Pitampura New Delhi-34
 Enroll. No. D15191/2017

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Vivek Gaur, on behalf of My clients wants to caution and inform the public at large that they have given on rent his premises Tower 2-202-A, Fairway East, M3M Golf Estate, Golf Course Road, Gungram, Haryana, to the company M/s Doctor Insta Pvt Ltd. Represented through Shri Amit Murgal. The said company is in arrears of rent and damages to the tune of Rs. 24,87,935/-. My client has right of lien and has also legal rights for recovery from the company hence if anyone purchase the share of the company or makes any investment in the company, my client shall exercise his right for the purpose of recovery over those purchased share also. Hence public at large is informed to deal with the share or make any investment in the company shall be subject to the rights of the recovery of lien of my client. My client is initiating the legal action for recovery of arrears of rent and damages in this respect.

Gaur Brothers & Associates, Advocates
 Ch. No. 6, Tis Hazari Courts, Civil Side, Delhi

Delhi Cabinet OK's doorstep delivery of ration

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Terming it as a revolutionary move, the Delhi cabinet on Tuesday approved doorstep delivery of ration to eligible beneficiaries.

The scheme will be known as 'Mukhya Mantri Gahr Ghar Ration Yojna' (MGGRY). Announcing about the scheme, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said under the scheme, wheat, flour, rice and sugar packed hygienically in bags will be delivered to the doorstep of people.

Taking ration from PDS ration shops will be optional."



Delhi government will roll out the scheme in next 6-7 months. If officials are to be believed, Delhi government

will also start Center's One Nation One Ration Card scheme from the day of implementation of MGGRY scheme

Kejriwal said, "In the time of the Corona pandemic, every day, all the news we get is disheartening. But today, I have good news for the people. Every state government along with the help of the central government is distributing ration to its people." "But, ever since



the ration distribution has started in the country, poor people are facing a lot of issues in collecting ration. Either shop is not open, or people have to stand in long queues, or they do not get adequate ration and the ration is not weighed properly," adding, "There are complaints from all over the country that the ration is contaminated, or that people are being charged heavily for it. The ration should be the right of every person, and he/she should not face any troubles in getting ration. Since the last five years, the AAP Government in Delhi has improved the ration

distribution system, and people have started getting ration and the shops had started opening."

Under this scheme, people will not have to go to ration shops to collect ration but the ration will be delivered to the homes of lakhs of people in Delhi.

After his meeting with the cabinet, Kejriwal said, "Wheat grains will be lifted from the FCI godowns and will be taken to the wheat grinding shops to be made into flour. Flour, sugar, and rice and other items will be packed properly and will be delivered to the homes of the

people." This scheme of the central government says that there should be one ration card for all, for instance, if somebody lives in West Bengal or Bihar, and he comes to Delhi in search of job and work, his ration card for that state must be valid in Delhi as well. Personally, I am glad that this scheme has been approved and will be launched in Delhi, because before entering politics, I and Manish Sisodia used to run an NGO called Parivartan," Arvind Kejriwal said reciting days associated with NGOs.

Elderly amnesia patient reunited with family in Patel Nagar

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

An 81-year-old man suffering from amnesia was reunited with her family in area on Tuesday.

The octogenarian has been identified as Hariram Sharma, a resident of Pandav Nagar area.

According to Sanjay Bhatia, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Central district, a police control room (PCR) call regarding an old man, who is unable to tell his home address, roaming around in Patel Nagar was received on July 19 following which a police team was dispatched for the spot.

"When police team reached the spot, the caller told police that one old person was wandering in the street and stray dogs were barking at him so he made call to the police. The old man, Hariram due to old age was incoherent and unable to recall his house address," said the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP).

"On persistent examination, he stated that he lives in DTC Colony. Thereafter, a police team along with senior citizen went to DTC colony, Ranjeet Nagar and made search for his house but the address could not be traced," said the DCP.

"Thereafter, the police team took the old person to Pandav Nagar area and inquired from rickshaw pullers and persons sleeping at taxi stands. One rickshaw puller identified the old person as Panditji and took the police team to his house in Pandav Nagar. The senior citizen was reunited with his family members," the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) added.

Sisodia interacts with 20 teachers of 7 schools with 100% results in Class XII

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Deputy Chief Minister and Education Minister of Delhi Manish Sisodia interacted with 20 teachers of seven subjects from some of the high enrollment schools of Delhi Government recording 100 per cent results in class 12 Board exams.

The teachers are from schools of 9 different districts of Delhi. Encouraging the teachers and students, Sisodia said that every teacher has a story, an experience worth listening to, to understand the classroom process behind such a high results. Sisodia appreciated teachers for their relentless efforts and dedication in teaching the students which has reflected in their outstanding performance in class 12 exams.

"Whenever future generations will look back to this historic score of 98 percent delivered by the Delhi Govt. schools, your names will definitely come up."

The idea of this interaction was to understand and hear the



high performing teachers and their teaching learning approach which led to a historical performance at class 12 board exams by Delhi Govt. schools. "Today we have called you to learn from your experiences, the key strategies adopted by you to get good results at boards so that the community of teachers can learn from each others," he added.

"Mindfulness during Entrepreneurship Mindset Class (EMC) helped solidify the Teacher-Student connect"

During the interaction with the teachers, it was highlighted that mindfulness activities as a part of EMC classes helped build the concentration among students. It also helped in building the teacher-student connect in class.

"English is a foreign lan-

guage for students, earlier they lacked interest in the subject and were stressed about it. Mindfulness has helped a lot in easing stress and helping them concentrate better," said Poonam Arora, English PGT, SKV Timarpur.

"Earlier, students used to think that the teachers would only focus on smart, outspoken kids. Our interaction with those students who were hesitant or spoke less in class also increased significantly because of EMC class. And now these students come up to me without hesitation and share their doubts. That is how EMC class has brought a positive change among students and it reflects in the results of other subjects," said Rajkumari, Economics teacher, SK No.1, Narela.

"Our kids are no more ashamed to be called a part of SKVs. The stigma has been removed and the credit goes to our students who have been continuously outperforming private school students too," said Shilpi, Chemistry Teacher, SKV No.1, Narela.

1,349 fresh cases take city tally to 1,25,096

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With 1,349 fresh cases reported on Tuesday, the total number of people infected with Coronavirus has reached to 1,25,096.

As per the health bulletin released by the Delhi government, at least 106118 patients have recovered, been discharged or migrated so far, while a number of active cases stood at 15288.

Since June 18 after Rapid-antigen tests (RAT) started in the city, a total of 851311 tests through the RT-PCR (reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction) and rapid-antigen methods have been conducted in Delhi with around 15201 (RAT) tests conducted on Tuesday.

According to health authorities, rapid-antigen testing is an easy and cheaper method as compared to the RT-PCR test. Each testing kit costs Rs 450 and can provide results within 30 minutes as compared to RT-PCR test that takes three to four hours.

The kits, called Standard Q COVID-19 Ag detection, have been developed by South Korean company S D Biosensor. The testing method involves looking for antibodies which are produced when the body is exposed to a pathogen. If a person has antibodies associated with novel coronavirus, it means the person is either COVID-19 positive or has recovered.

According to the Indian Council of Medical Research, suspected individuals who test negative for COVID-19 in rapid-antigen test should undergo RT-PCR to rule out the infection.

Rapid-antigen testing requires a prescription and an ICMR form filled by a registered doctor, and a government identity proof, same as that for RT-PCR test.

The helpline numbers can be contacted on 1031, 1800-111-747, 22391014, 22301028, 22302441, 22307133, 22304568, 22307745, 22307135, 22307145, 22300012 and 22300036 in case of emergency.

Bouncers arrested for carjacking in Burari

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested three men, who earlier used to work as bouncers in Lady Hardinge Hospital, for allegedly looting a car in north Delhi's Burari area.

The accused have been identified as Deepak Dalal (24), a resident of Jhajjar district in Haryana, Brij Bihari (24) and Nirala Kumar Singh (24), both residents of Kirari Suleman Nagar in Delhi.

Police said they have also recovered robbed vehicle XUV 500 from the possession of the accused.

According to Monika Bhardwaj, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), North district, on Monday, Burari police station received information regarding car-jacking.

"After reaching the spot, complainant Naresh Kumar said that he works as a driver and drives an XUV-500. Around 1 pm, when he was near Shalimar Palace Banquet Hall at Burari, three persons

came there in a car and alleged that the victim had collided his vehicle with theirs and demanded money for repairing," said the Deputy Commissioner of Police.

"Meanwhile, one of them sat on the driver seat of the XUV and near Nirankari Mandal Gate, Burari, the alleged person pushed the victim out of the vehicle and fled towards ISBT," said the Deputy Commissioner of Police.

"Police took the complainant and chased the robbed vehicle. The picket staff of Kashmere Gate police station intercepted both the vehicles and arrested the accused persons. The robbed XUV 500 has been recovered from their possession," said the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP).

"The accused persons earlier used to work as bouncers in Lady Hardinge Hospital. The contract of the company expired and they were unemployed since then," the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) added.

Heavy rain lashes Capital, waterlogging causes traffic chaos



Vehicles ply on a waterlogged street during heavy rain in New Delhi on Tuesday

Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Waterlogging was reported in several areas, including Sarai kale Khan, Akshardham, Patel Nagar, Shalimar Bagh, Pashchim Vihar, Rohini and Naraina Vihar after a fresh spell of heavy rain lashed the national capital on Tuesday.

Traffic movement also affected in parts of the city due to water-logging.

"There was heavy water-logging on Ring road near the WHO. "The carriageway of Bhairon road leading to

Mathura road had also caved in, blocking thereby the entire traffic," a senior police official said.

"The traffic coming from Akshardham towards Sarai kale Khan was further diverted to go through Barapulla while traffic coming from Ashram side towards Akshardham was diverted to Pushta road, Geeta colony flyover following the water-logging," he said.

"Motorists coming from Ashram side were also advised to take DND, Mayur Vihar, Noida Link road, Akshardham, Pushta road. No vehicle was

being allowed towards ITO from Nizamuddin khatta. Traffic was heavy at/around Sarai kale Khan which was being regulated," he added.

Residents shared on social media pictures and videos of rainwater gushing into their houses and vehicles navigating waterlogged roads.

Kuldeep Srivastava, head of the regional forecasting centre of the India Meteorological Department (IMD), said major weather stations in Delhi, including Safdarjung and Lodhi Road, recorded around 20 mm rainfall.

He said light rains are likely the city till Wednesday morning. Thereafter, isolated light rainfall is predicted for two to three days.

The convergence of moist easterly winds from the Bay of Bengal and southwesterly winds from the Arabian Sea is likely to continue over north-west India for another two-three days, weather experts said.

The monsoon trough is also running through the region. These two factors together led to moderate to heavy rains in Delhi-NCR,

they said. Earlier, the IMD had predicted isolated heavy to very heavy rains in Delhi and neighbouring areas on Tuesday and Wednesday.

"The rainfall intensity and distribution are very likely to decrease significantly thereafter," it had said.

The Safdarjung

Observatory has recorded 127.2 mm rainfall against the normal of 129 mm in July so far. On Sunday, at least four people died as heavy rains lashed the city, inundating low-lying areas and bringing traffic to a standstill at key stretches.

According to the IMD, the Safdarjung Observatory had recorded 74.8 mm rainfall on

Sunday. Ridge and Lodhi Road weather stations had recorded 86 mm and 81.2 mm rainfall, respectively.

Rainfall below 15 mm is considered light, between 15 mm and 64.5 mm is moderate, and above 64.5 mm is heavy, according to the IMD.

Mosquito breeding found on 75 premises

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a special drive conducted by the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) on Tuesday, mosquito breeding was found on 75 premises including government offices, bus depots, police stations and major teaching institutions.

SDMC mayor Anamika termed the situation alarming, saying that agencies are not cooperating even after various advisories issued regarding this. "The 'Public Health Department' compelled to issue 83 legal notices and seven challans to these complexes under Delhi Municipal Corporation (malaria and

other mosquito borne diseases) by-laws, 1957," she said.

Corporation officials found mosquitoes breeding at 75 premises including 20 police stations, eight DTC depots and nine teaching institutions have been found positive for mosquito breeding, she said.

Giving details about complexes where breedings were found, she said that BSES Office Khyala, BSES Power Ltd, Masjid Road, BSES office road, Andrews Ganj, DTC depot Kesho Pur, 'Juvenile Justice Board', model eye hospital, TB Hospital and fire station (Nehru Place) among them. Besides, DMRC (Harkesh Nagar), railway dispensary at



Pulpheldapur, office of irrigation and flood control department, Vasant Vihar police station, Mehrauli, Kalkaji, Sarita Vihar, Dabri and Hari Nagar; IIT gate depot Kalu Sarai are also among the premises where breeding found.

Chairman of standing committee Rajdutt Gahlot said that mosquito borne diseases like dengue, malaria and

Chikungunya can be kept well under control by active involvement general public and the stakeholders by prevention of water stagnations in and around their houses and workplaces since mosquito lays its eggs only in water for its future progeny.

"The water storage containers should be properly covered with tightly fitted lid/cloth and the surface water collection which cannot be covered should be channelized or treated with petrol or diesel," he said.

The number of people suffering from malaria in the National Capital has reached 62. Two fresh cases of dengue also reported in a week, taking

the total number to 63 this year.

According to data provided by municipal corporations out of total dengue cases, 28 patients who diagnosed with the disease belong to Delhi while 23 patients traced here were from different states and other 12 patients did not provide their address.

Meanwhile, mosquito-breeding has been reported in at least 16511 households in Delhi and 14133 legal notices have been issued and 152 number of prosecutions launched this year, according to data released by the SDMC.

The 'dengue breeding checkers' have checked 8746657 houses.

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VACANCY

The Pioneer Group has inherited a rich tradition of journalism and is carrying on the same pursuit of excellence for today's times. The Pioneer is one of the oldest national papers in the country, a heritage that we are proud to have been entrusted with and one we are synchronising with modern readership. At a time when information and knowledge are a flood on digital platforms, The Pioneer stands apart, offering views rather than news, generating diverse opinions, encouraging analysis, making sense of the noise and fostering independent thoughts and implementable solutions for the great Indian conundrum. The newspaper (which has ten English and four Hindi editions) has been the first national paper to introduce colour editions, revolutionise layouts, conceptualise a separate Sunday edition and develop its news website with live updates. Over the years, the paper diversified into other media platforms and opened a magazine and book division. It has organised some events to create a platform for like-minded people.

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At least 10 States not meeting WHO testing criteria

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Even as the Union Health Ministry has been stressing on aggressive testing is necessary to bring down the Covid-19 positivity rate so as to bring down positivity rate below 5 per cent, at least ten States are not meeting the WHO testing criteria i.e. more than 140 tests/day/million. Goa is testing highest at 1,333 tests per day per million.

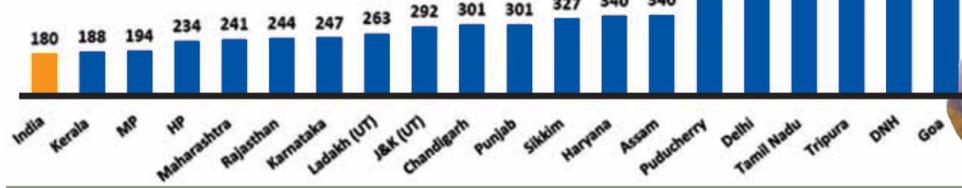
Incidentally, these are some of the populous States like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Odisha, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha where number of cases are on increase in each passing days.

Talking to reporters here at a Press briefing here on Tuesday, Rajesh Bhushan, OSD, Union Health Ministry said aggressive testing is necessary to bring down the Covid-19 positivity rate; the aim is to maintain this level of testing so as to bring down positivity rate below 5 per cent.

India currently has 8.07 per cent positivity rate with 30 State/UTs reporting lower positivity rate than India average. The "Test, Track, Treat" strategy



19 STATES & UTs PERFORMING MORE THAN 140 TESTS PER DAY PER MILLION POPULATION



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- At least ten States are not meeting the WHO testing criteria i.e. more than 140 tests/day/million. Goa is testing highest at 1,333 tests per day per million
- India currently has 8.07 per cent positivity rate with 30 State/UTs reporting lower positivity rate than India average
- The "Test, Track, Treat" strategy encapsulates the holistic framework for management of Covid-19

strategy encapsulates the holistic framework for management of Covid-19. Led by the Centre, it has been implemented through various measures by the State/UT Governments. While States/UTs have substantially expanded their testing network, they have also undertaken measures to facilitate widespread testing by people at

large. As a result the national average of tests/day/million has substantially jumped to 180, as on date, said Bhushan.

WHO in its Guidance Note on "Public Health Criteria to Adjust Public Health and Social Measures in the Context of Covid-19" has advised comprehensive surveillance for suspected Covid-19 cases. WHO

has advised that a country needs 140 tests/day/ million population.

The Centre and ICMR have continually advised the State/UT Governments to improve the number of tests conducted. Through the coordinated efforts, India's testing per million (TPM) has increased to 10,421. This has

helped in early detection and timely and effective clinical management of Covid-19 cases.

In tandem with increased testing, the Confirmation Rate or Positivity Rate for India is continuously reducing and currently stands at 8.07%.

There are 30 State/UTs in India which have lower Positivity Rate than the India

Govt warns against use of N95 masks with valved respirator

SAYING THESE CAN BE DETRIMENTAL AS THE VALVES DO NOT PREVENT THE VIRUS FROM ESCAPING OUT OF THE MASK

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry has warned all States against use of N95 masks with valved respirator, saying these can be detrimental as the valves do not prevent the virus

from escaping out of the mask.

The Ministry has prescribed the use of home-made protective cover described on the website of the ministry, Prof (Dr) Rajiv Garg, Director General of Health Services, issued the directive in a letter to the health secretaries of all States on Monday.

"It has been observed that there is an inappropriate use of the N95 mask (particularly with valved respirator) by the public other than designated health workers. In this regard, I would like

to draw your attention to the advisory on the use of home-made protective cover for face and mouth available on the website of the MoHFW," the letter said.

"It is to bring to your knowledge that the use of valved respirator N95 masks is detrimental to the measures adopted for preventing the spread of the coronavirus as it does not prevent the virus from escaping out of the mask," as per the letter.



how will the vaccines be made available to all those who need it?"

"The Government will leave no stone unturned to ensure people of India and international community have access to an Indian vaccine as early as possible. Every possible facilitation will be ensured making sure trials

conducted scientifically and ethically, and we arrive at an affordable option."

Our death rate is 2.43 per cent which is very less in comparison to other countries. The actual Covid-19 caseload of the country is 4,02,529. We should care more about the active cases instead of the outstanding figures, Bhushan added.

Rahul questions Modi Govt over handling of coronavirus

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

There's no letting up in Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's attack against the Modi Government. In yet another scathing attack on the ruling dispensation, the former Congress chief on Tuesday questioned the Narendra Modi-led Government over its handling of the coronavirus pandemic.

At the same time, accusing the Centre of trying to topple State Governments in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan in the middle of a pandemic, Rahul Gandhi tweeted, "Achievements of the government during the corona period: February — Hello Trump Government dropped in March-MP April — Candle Burning May — 6th government anniversary June — Virtual rally in Bihar July — Rajasthan government tries to topple."

Taking to Twitter, Rahul raised questions over priorities of the Modi Government amid the fight against coronavirus pandemic. "That is why the country is self-sufficient in the Battle of Corona," Rahul Gandhi tweeted as he took a dig at the Modi Government.

Rahul had last week attacked the BJP and accused it of "institutionalising lies" over Covid-19 deaths, GDP figures and the Chinese aggression at the border.

Hitting out at the BJP over the rise in the number of deaths due to Covid-19, he had said India will pay its price when the "illusion" is shattered.

Rahul has been attacking Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the face-off with China too. On Monday, he said Narendra Modi had come to power with the help of a 'fabricated strongman image' but now that image of a leader with



a 56-inch chest was under attack from China.

Rahul, in his second video put on social media in a week, claimed that China may be thinking on a larger scale of "doing something with Pakistan in Kashmir" and wanted to improve its tactical position in areas such as Demchok, Galwan and Pangong Lake.

In the first video the Gandhi scion had said the Prime Minister's blunders, fragile economy, troubled neighbourhood

and a weak foreign policy had prompted China to act.

"PM fabricated a fake strongman image to come to power. It was his biggest strength. It is now India's biggest weakness," Rahul said in his video.

Commenting on the recent India-China border face-off in the Ladakh region, the Congress leader claimed it was not just a border issue but designed to put pressure on Modi.

"And what they are doing is that they are attacking his image. They understand that in order for Narendra Modi to be an effective politician; in order for Narendra Modi to survive as a politician, he has to protect the idea of "chhappan inch" (56-inch chest). And this is the real idea the Chinese are attacking," the Congress leader said.

BIKEBOTSCAM ED attaches assets worth over ₹100 cr

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached assets worth over Rs 100 crore in the multi-level marketing Bikebot scam.

The ED has attached movable and immovable assets to the tune of Rs 103.73 crore of Garvit Innovative Promoters Ltd. (GIPL), its promoter Sanjay Bhati and others in the scam under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Attached assets include 26 immovable properties worth Rs 101.45 crore situated in Gautam Buddh Nagar, Ghaziabad, Bulandshahar, Kanpur and Indore along with bank balances in 22 bank accounts amounting to Rs 2.28 crore.

PMLA investigation into the scam was taken up in June 2019 on the basis of FIRs registered at Dadri police station



in Gautam Buddh Nagar (Noida) against the accused firm and its promoter Sanjay Bhati and others.

GIPL and its promoter Sanjay Bhati, along with others, had floated highly lucrative investment plans in the guise of a Bike Taxi service styled as Bikebot, wherein a customer could invest in one, three, five or seven bikes which would be maintained and operated by the company. In return, the investor would be paid monthly rent, EMI and bonuses (in case of investment in multiple

bikes) and further incentives on adding additional investors in a binary/multi-level marketing structure.

The company also allotted franchisees in various cities but the bike taxi hardly operated in these cities. The plans were floated in August 2017 and the collection of money from investors/customers and repayments to them continued till early 2019.

In November 2018, the company floated similar plans for e-bikes stating that the petrol bikes were facing issues regarding registration and operation. The subscription amount for the e-bikes was almost double the investment amounts for regular petrol bikes. The funds so collected have been used for repayment to the earlier investors, acquisition of other companies, purchase/creation of various

immovable and movable assets in the name of companies and also transfer to other companies and individuals as loans and investments without proper documentation.

Earlier, searches were conducted at 12 locations incriminating documents, including property papers were seized. Survey conducted in a cooperative bank in Noida revealed suspicious transactions and involvement of some banking officials in aiding and abetting the accused in laundering of the public money, the agency said.

"Investigation conducted so far has resulted in identification of 19 immovable properties in Gautam Buddh Nagar, Ghaziabad, Bulandshahar, Kanpur and Indore in the name of GIPL along with seven other properties," the ED said in a statement.

SC to hear Tomar's plea against HC order declaring his election as void

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has agreed to hear former Delhi Law Minister Jitender Singh Tomar's plea challenging the Delhi High Court's verdict holding as "void" his election to the legislative assembly in 2015 polls for furnishing false information of his educational qualification in the nomination papers.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice SA Bobde issued notice seeking replies from the respondents concerned, including those who had contested from Tomar's constituency and its returning officer.

"Issue notice," said the Bench, also comprising Justices AS Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian, which heard the matter through video-conferencing.

In its verdict on January 17 this year, the Delhi High Court had held Tomar's election to Tri Nagar constituency in 2015 polls as "void".

It said false declaration by the Aam Aadmi Party leader about his educational qualification that he had obtained a valid LLB degree, and vocation has resulted in "inducement and thwarted free exercise of electoral right of the voter".

In the apex court appeal, Tomar, represented by advocate Kush Sharma, has sought setting aside of the High Court verdict.

He said the High Court had "erroneously held that the appellant (Tomar) had not lawfully obtained his LLB degree and was not duly enrolled as an advocate at the time of filing his nomination, and further held that nomination of the appellant was improperly accepted".

Cong will become 'party of tweets': Javadekar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The daily ping-pong trading of charges between the ruling BJP and the Congress continued uninterrupted on Tuesday when Union Minister Prakash Javadekar lashed out at the latter for making random criticism of the Modi Government and claimed that Congress was losing a leader a month would soon become a "party of tweets" as it is doing no work among people.

Javadekar said the anti-CAA Shaheen Bagh protests and Delhi riots were the Congress' "achievements" in February followed by desertion of Jyotiraditya Scindia and loss of power in Madhya Pradesh in March, and "incitement" of migrants in April and "May:

6th anniversary of the historic defeat of the Congress" following by June "Defending China" by Congress witnessing in July its "virtual collapse in Rajasthan", he said. Congress leader Sachin Pilot's "rebellion" against the Ashok Gehlot Government has triggered a serious crisis in the State government.

"Rahul Baba note India's achievements in 'war against #Corona. India has the least average cases, active cases and death rate than the US, Europe and Brazil. By making fun of candle lights, @RahulGandhi ji you have insulted the people of India & brave Corona warriors," tweeted senior BJP leader and claimed the consequences that befall the opposition party.

In a swipe at Rahul Gandhi over his regular tweets attacking the Central Government, Javadekar said the Congress would soon become a "party of tweets" as it is doing no work among people and "losing" one leader after another.

"A frustrated and depressed party is trying to launch all sorts of attacks on the Government," he said.

"People are standing with Modi. The Congress has become helpless," Javadekar added.

Rahul had earlier said that attempts to topple Congress Government in Rajasthan and the "Namaste Trump" events were Modi-Government's "achievements" even as a major coronavirus pandemic is still underway in the country.



Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, in the presence of MoS for HRD Sanjay Dhotre, launches Manodarpan, a platform to provide psychosocial support to students, parents and families for their mental health and emotional well-being, in New Delhi on Tuesday

World Brain Day dedicated to raising awareness for Parkinson's Disease

EXPERTS WARN THAT THOSE SUFFERING WITH NEUROGENERATIVE BRAIN DISEASE MAY BE PARTICULARLY IMPACTED BY CURRENT COVID-19 PANDEMIC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the World Brain Day on July 22 this year is dedicated to raising awareness for Parkinson's Disease (PD), experts warn that those suffering with the neurodegenerative brain disease may be particularly impacted by the current Covid-19 pandemic.

Especially, in the backdrop of social distancing norms, leaving the patients to be confined in the four walls of their houses making him vulnerable to anxiety and stress, said Dr Rajinder K Dhamija, Head of Neurology Department of the Lady Hardinge Hospital, Delhi as he advised that they should be encouraged to keep in contact with their healthcare providers.

"Although no direct effect of Covid-19 has been reported yet on people suffering with the PD, there are enormous possible indirect effects and implications," he added.

PD while in India, the prevalence is around 10 per cent of the global burden. It is known to occur in 1 per cent of people above the age of 65 years.

"These days we are getting cases of as young as 40 year-old impacted with the disease. This is called young-onset-PD. PD symptoms develop slowly over a long time, and could be caused by nerve damage in the brain. One of the more common warning signs of the brain condition includes a smelly symptom that you may not be noticing," added Dr Debashish Chowdhury, Head of the Neurology Department of the GB Pant Hospital in Delhi.

Early diagnosis and access to effective treatment are vital in order to help patients find relief and enhance their quality of life. Dr Chowdhury shared that it is must that the patients maintain their routine dosage and healthy lifestyle.

Many symptoms of PD are poorly recognised and under-treated, which is detrimental

for those living with the disease. There is a profound need for improved standards of care across the globe to prevent the neuro-disease, Dr Dhamija pointed out.

Another contributory factor may be that the immune response in PD may be disrupted and this may also predispose this population to Covid 19, he added.

Persons with PD infected with SARS-CoV-2 are likely to have a motor and non motor deterioration. Hence, clinicians must assess these patients for worsening in PD from baseline status and up titrate the dopaminergic drugs as necessary. Lack of physical activity may lead to a worsening in the motor as well as non motor symptoms such as constipation. Patients should be advised to follow a light yoga program at home, mindfulness applications and maintain stretching and exercises may be followed with apps, tele-consultation and video consultation techniques.

KNOW ABOUT PARKINSON'S DISEASE

- Caused by a loss of nerve cells in a specific part of the brain
- Symptoms tend to develop gradually, and only appear as mild at first
- You may be at risk of the condition if you're producing more sweat than you're used to
- Common signs include tremors, slow movement, and muscle stiffness
- The muscle stiffness makes facial expressions more difficult
- Tremors usually start in the hand or the arm, and are more likely to occur when the arm is relaxed



"We are in touch with our patients through tele-consultation to ensure that their better health," said Dr Chowdhury.

Also, PD patients should be encouraged to join peer support groups via social media services as well as various societies so that they may be able to interact with other peers during these trying times. These strategies may encourage PD patients to be resilient even in times of crisis, said the doctors.

UN: Locust attacks serious threat to food security in parts of E Africa, India and Pak

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The United Nations' body, World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), has warned that locust attacks are posing a serious threat to food security in parts of East Africa, India and Pakistan as a result of changing climate conditions that can be linked to human activity.

The Ministry of Agriculture made a detailed presentation before the Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture on Tuesday on the recent locust attacks and steps taken to prevent them in nine States.

As per the presentation, the Ministry told the panel that it had carried out locust control operation in over 3.70 lakh hectare land from the affected areas. "Swarms of immature pink locusts and adult yellow locusts are today active in Jaisalmer, Barmer, Jodhpur, Bikaner, Churu, Sikar, Nagaur, Hanumangar, Sri Ganganagar, Ajmer Pal, Alwar and Tonk districts of Rajasthan," officials added.

Sources said as per the presentation, five companies with 15 drones have been deployed at Barmer, Jaisalmer, Bikaner, Nagaur and Phalodi in Rajasthan for effective control of locusts on tall trees and in inaccessible areas through spraying of pesticides. Aerial spraying capacity has been strengthened for anti-locust operations with deployment of a Bell helicopter in Rajasthan for use in Scheduled Desert Area as per the need and Indian Air Force has also conducted trials in anti-locust operation by using Mi-17 helicopter.

According to sources, the panel stressed that there should be greater scientific research on means to control the menace and also compensation for farmers if the crops get affected.

While the WMO said extreme weather events and climatic changes such as increases in temperature and rainfall over desert areas, and the strong winds associated with tropical cyclones, provide a new environment for pest breeding, development and

migration. WMO cited an article in Nature Climate Change and said while desert locusts have been here since biblical times, recent intense outbreaks can be linked to anthropogenic climate change and the increased frequency of extreme weather events.

"Attribution of a single event to climate change is difficult. However, climatic changes such as increases in temperature and rainfall over desert areas, and the strong winds associated with tropical cyclones, provide a new environment for pest breeding, development and migration. This suggests that global warming played a role in creating the conditions required for the development, outbreak and survival of the locusts," scientists from the Intergovernmental Authority on Climate Prediction and Applications Centre said (ICPAC).

Large and aggressive swarms of these crop-devouring short-horned insects recently invaded over two dozen districts of desert areas



in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat.

The article cited the role of Indian Ocean warming, intense and unusual tropical cyclones in the region and heavy rainfall and flooding as playing an important role. "The recent locust outbreaks and the role of Indian Ocean warming show that the impact of climate change is not merely the consequences of changes in mean temperature, but also of increases in extreme and unprecedented events," the article said.

COVID-19 OUTBREAK

Didi sounds poll bugle, vows to trounce BJP

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday blew the poll bugle calling upon the people of Bengal to reject an "arrogant party of outsiders and promising to trounce the BJP in the next year's Assembly elections."

Speaking in her first mass virtual rally during corona times Banerjee said, "Bengal will refuse to take directions from Gujarat... we will not be ruled by a party of outsiders... Bengal will be ruled by the Bengalis only."

In an apparent reference to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah the Chief Minister said that "it seems that the two brothers have made up their mind to make India opposition free," adding how "the

BJP is splurging crores to topple governments in other States... and now they are trying to do the same in Bengal too by dangling bags full of cash... But the people of this State should ask them where this money is coming from? Whose money is this? I will tell you whose money this is. It is all the public's money which they are spending during the elections."

The Centre was always trying to humiliate Bengal and bulldoze the common man's rights she said. Training her guns at New Delhi, she said, "Centre is always maligning Bengal... But just because you are in power at the Centre, you cannot bulldoze our rights? The people of Bengal will teach you this lesson."

The Chief Minister was speaking on the Trinamool

Congress Martyrs' Day observed on July 21 to remember 14 party men who were killed in a police firing while staging a movement in Kolkata in 1992.

Her urgency to reach out to the electorate saw the Chief Minister announcing poll sops in advance even as she promised free life time ration to the electorate. "If I come back to power mu Government will provide free life time ration to the people of the State," Banerjee said.

Taking a jibe at the BJP for "jumping too much after winning a few seats in 2019 Lok Sabha elections with the help of CPI(M) voters," Banerjee said, "now the time take revenge is coming... we will give them humiliating defeat in the elections so that the BJP will lose its deposit."

Kerala sees 720 new cases but CM asserts all under control

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

On Tuesday 720 new persons were diagnosed with Covid-19 and a septuagenarian woman succumbed to the pandemic at Thiruvananthapuram, according to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. But the Chief Minister, who was sounding cautious till last Friday sounded optimistic, jovial and assured the people that there was nothing to be worried about as the Government is fully in control of the situation.

"There is nothing to worry about. We are doing quite well in managing the pandemic. We have the world's lowest case fatality rate of 0.33 per cent. This means that out of every 100 Covid-19 patients, only 0.33

persons succumb to this pandemic," he said.

Vijayan also said that the State has the best testing rate in the country. "There are 110 testing centres and efforts are on to open more testing centres and ramp up the number of persons tested. It is not the number of persons who are tested that determine the quality of testing. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has complimented and congratulated the pattern which we are using and has asked other States to replicate the same," said Vijayan in his virtual press meet on Tuesday evening.

He said as on Tuesday, there were 8056 Covid-19 patients in the State. "We have 353 hotspots in Kerala. The day saw 984 persons get-

ting hospitalised in the State," said the chief minister.

The Chief Minister further stated that out of the 720 persons tested positive on Tuesday, 528 were infected through contacts and 34 persons could not make out how they got infected.

The capital city of Thiruvananthapuram tested 151 covid-19 positive cases while Kollam had 85 coronavirus cases. There are 13, 994 cases of the pandemic across the State while 274 patients were fully recovered from the pandemic.

Borrowing from the term used by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the chief minister lambasted the opposition for seeing negativity in all development activities undertaken by the LDF Government.

Virus claims 75 lives in TN while 4,965 test +ve

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu on Tuesday diagnosed 4,965 new persons with Covid-19 while the pandemic claimed 75 persons across the State. Though there is no palpable change in the number of persons getting afflicted with Covid-19 in the State, Chief Secretary K Shanmugham said that there was an encouraging development from Chennai which shows a fall in the number of patients.

The day saw 4,894 patients coming out of the hospitals fully cured and this has taken the number of persons recovered from the pandemic till date to 1.26 lakh. The medical bulletin issued by the State Government said that on Tuesday, 50,055

persons were tested making the number of persons tested till date to 1.8 lakh.

As on Tuesday, there were 51,344 active cases of covid across Tamil Nadu while the number of cases diagnosed with the ailment till date reached 1.95 million.

While Chennai tested 1,130 persons positive, the neighbouring districts continued to be of concern. Chengalpet had 256 patients while Kancheepuram registered 262 patients and Thiruvallur 366.

Reports from the Southern and western districts were not inspiring as Thoothukudi diagnosed 269 persons, Virudhunagar 360 cases and Tiruchirappalli tested 127 positive cases. Out of the 75 deaths, 69 had pre-existing morbidity.

608 more test +ve in J&K

Jammu: The total cases of coronavirus jumped to over 15,000 after 608 fresh cases were detected while nine Covid-19 positive patients died in Jammu & Kashmir on Tuesday.

So far, over 5.28 lakh samples have been tested in Jammu and Kashmir. Out of this 15,258 patients have tested positive. The total number of active positive patients stood at 6,540.

According to the media bulletin, out of 608 fresh cases, 106 patients tested positive from Jammu division while 502 cases tested positive from Kashmir division.

A total number of 181 patients were discharged after they recovered. In Kashmir division, the highest number of 213 cases were detected from Srinagar district followed by 83 cases from Budgam and 47 from Kupwara. **PNS**

Gold smuggling: NIA custody of Swapna, Sandeep extended by another three days

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Crucial evidence relating to making counterfeit seals of the UAE Consulate in Thiruvananthapuram came out on Tuesday as the sleuths of National Investigating Agency raided a shop near the Secretariat in the city. The Special Court in Kochi on Tuesday extended the NIA custody of Swapna and Sandeep by another three days.

The NIA team reached the capital city with Sarith, the prime accused in the Gold Smuggling operation through diplomatic channel in Thiruvananthapuram Airport which was busted by the Customs a fortnight back.

Sarith was taken to various places in the city where he, Swapna Suresh and Sandeep Nair, the other two kingpins of the racket, met and devised strategies to smuggle in the gold through diplomatic route. Neither the NIA

nor the Customs officials have spoken to the media about the course of the investigation or the progress so far made.

The Special Court in Kochi on Tuesday extended the NIA custody of Swapna and Sandeep by another three days. The judge asked the NIA sleuths to produce the duo in the court on Friday to hear their plea for bail. Fazal Fareeth, the master-brain who was held by the Dubai Police in connection with the case is expected to reach Kerala in the next two days. Meanwhile, the BJP in Kerala observed Tuesday as Black Day demanding the immediate resignation of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan owning up moral responsibility for the smuggling.

"This is the first time in the history of Kerala, the Chief Minister's Office is getting figured in a smuggling scam. All evidences and reports point to the involvement of the Chief Minister and his office in the case.

Kerala where smuggling is decent profession!

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

What is unique about the Gold Smuggling through diplomatic channel that was busted by the Customs officials at Thiruvananthapuram Airport is the similarities in the character and nature of the three prime accused-Sarith, Swapna Suresh and Sandeep Nair.

All three belong to lower middle class background and had made it big through shady deals. Similarly those who were taken into custody by the Customs from Malappuram district were all persons from financially weak families and were doing menial jobs for survival before they struck gold in smuggling operations.

While Swapna, daughter of a Dubai based small-time entre-

preneur had a wayward life and wanted to make easy money, Sarith and Sandeep offered her the route to make millions easily.

Both Sarith and Sandeep were driving around in swanky imported cars while Swapna changed her husbands many time in the past like the way she changes from one costume to other.

The rise of Rameez, Sayed Alavi and Fazal Fareeth are mind boggling. Their lives have lot of similarities with Intiaz Ali, the poor cycle puncture repairer and Javed Mir, a plumber, both staying in small towns in Kerala and characters of the novel "Who Painted My Money White" authored by Sree Iyer.

Ali and Mir who were struggling to meet both ends together were helped by strangers who

give them ₹five crore each with no conditions attached.

All they were asked to do was to open accounts in the district cooperative banks and issue cheques worth ₹three crore each in the names of some organisations about which Ali and Mir had never heard in their life.

The remaining money would remain with the duo who may have to offer boarding and lodging facilities to the friends of the strangers who may drop in rarely.

The story takes place during the UPA regime of 2004-2014 'fame' when there were strong reports of containers laden with freshly printed currency notes of ₹500/ and ₹1,000/- denominations found their way to Indian economy through Cochin Port.

With limited customers, UP restaurants to shut down again

Lucknow: The hospitality industry in Uttar Pradesh is unable to regain its business in the unlock phase, mainly due to the fear of the pandemic and the restrictions imposed by the government.

While 60 to 70 per cent eateries opened up after the state government gave the nod last month, half of them are planning to shut down again following lack of customers.

The 55-hour weekend shutdown now has worked as a catalyst. **IANS**

Solar power plant on stream at Karanja Naval station in Rajgad

Vice Admiral Ajit Kumar commissions plant

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The first 2 MegaWattST capacity Solar Power Plant of the Western Naval Command went on stream at Karanja Naval Station at Uran in Raigad district of coastal Konkan region, on Tuesday.

Vice Admiral Ajit Kumar, PVSM, AVSM, VSM, ADC Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command, inaugurated the solar power plant.

The solar power plant, which is one of the largest solar plants in the region, comprises solar panels, tracking tables and inverters—all of which have been developed indigenously.



The 2 MW solar power plant at Naval Station Karanja along with the dignitaries involved in the project

BJP, Sena spar over CM's impending Ayodhya visit

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A war of words broke out between the Opposition BJP and Shiv Sena-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance partners on Tuesday over Sena president Uddhav Thackeray's impending visit to Ayodhya for the Ram Mandir's foundation laying ceremony on August 5.

On a day Shiv Sena MP and spokesperson Sanjay Raut confirmed that Uddhav would definitely go to Ayodhya on August 5, Union Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and senior state BJP leader Raosaheb Danve fired the first salvo at the Shiv Sena by lambasting its president over his dilemma about the latter's visit to Ayodhya.

"In the event of his not getting the invite for the

bhoomi puja ceremony, will Uddhav go to Ayodhya as a Ram Bhakt. If it so warrants, let him take the permission of the coalition partners in the MVA (Congress and NCP) to go to Ayodhya. In matters relating to Lord Ram, where is the question of prestige? In the past, Uddhav would say; 'Pehla Mandir Phir Sarakar' (temple is first priority then comes the government) Now he is saying; 'Pehla Sarkar Phir Mandir' (first priority is Government then comes the temple)."

On his part, Raut said: "Uddhav Thackeray will definitely go to Ayodhya for the Bhoomi Puja ceremony of Ram Mandir. We (Shiv Sena) are associated with the Ram Mandir as a matter of faith, religion and politics. The Shiv Sena has in the past played a big role in the Ram

Mandir construction movement. Like I said yesterday, Uddhav Thackeray had gone to Ayodhya before becoming the Chief Minister and also after 100 days in the CM's office."

"From the point of view of the country and Hindutva, the Ram Mandir foundation ceremony is a historic occasion. But for the fact that we are in the midst of Coronavirus, lakhs of the devotees of Lord Ram would have gone to Ayodhya. But because of coronavirus, there will be restrictions on the invites. From the information I have got, only 150 people will be invited to the foundation stone laying ceremony," Raut said.

Maharashtra Youth Congress Committee president Satyajet Tambe hit out at the BJP for its continued efforts to divide the country

on religious lines. "We have been seeing right from the day the it was founded, the BJP did not want 'Amar Akbar Antony' to live harmoniously in the country. This is what the RSS' second chief Golkar has taught the Sangh parivar workers (who constitute the BJP). History has stood testimony for the manner in which the BJP has conducted itself. All the same, it is not a matter of concern for the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi in the state."

Meanwhile, former NCP MP tweeted: "Uddhav Thackeray is among invitees for bhoomi puja of Ram Temple. He may participate respecting Covid 19 restrictions in his personal capacity. The head of a secular democracy should refrain from promoting a particular religious activity."

246 die, 8,369 +ve in Maha

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a marginal fluctuation in the number of recorded Covid-19 infections during the last 24 hours, Maharashtra on Tuesday witnessed 8,369 new infected cases, while as many as 246 people succumbed to the pandemic in various parts of the State.

Having breached 8,000 cases' mark in terms of infections for three consecutive days (Thursday-8641, Friday-8308 and Saturday-8348), witnessed highest-ever daily tally of 9,518 infected cases on Sunday and seen a drop of nearly 1,278 to touch 8,240 cases on Monday, the state witnessed 8,369 fresh positive cases on Tuesday.

With the fresh infections and fatalities, the total number of positive cases rose to 3,27,031, while the total number of deaths went up to 12,276 on Tuesday.

Of the total fatalities reported on Tuesday, Mumbai recorded 62 deaths taking up the total number of deaths in the metropolis from 5,755 to 5,817, while the number of corona cases rose by 992 to touch 103,368.

Apart from 52 deaths in Mumbai, there were 56 deaths in Pune, 27 deaths in Thane, 17 in Aurangabad, 10 in Solapur, 8 in Satara, 7 in Nashik, 6 each in Raigad, Latur and Jalgaon, 5 in Palghar, 4 in Nanded, 3 each in Ahmednagar, Parbhani,

Amid coronavirus crisis, 53-year-old undergoes successful heart surgery

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

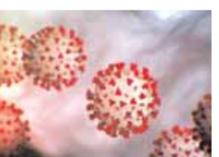
Amid the ongoing coronavirus crisis, a 53-year-old woman from Nanded with severe heart failure and irreversible damage to the heart" has undergone a successful heart transplant at the Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital (KDAH) here.

Announcing Mumbai's first successful heart transplant after the Covid-19 outbreak, Dr. Nandkishore Kapadia, Director, Heart & Lung Transplant Centre, KDAH, said: "Patients are immuno-compromised and given the current COVID situation, additional care had to be taken.

All necessary tests were carried out and all parameters followed that were essential for the success of the surgery. The transplant was successful and the patient is recuperating well."

The recipient was a 53-year-old female from Nanded with severe heart failure and irreversible damage to the heart, which required a heart transplant.

She was on the transplant list from the past eight months. Her condition worsened, the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic reduced her chances of receiving a new heart, as there was a steep decline in the number of organ donations and organ transplants.



Osmanabad, Yavatmal, Kolhapur and Nagpur, 2 each in Nandurbar, Sangli and Washim and 1 each in Dhule, Jalna, Beed, Akola, Amravati.

With 78132 infected cases and 2096 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 59745 infections and 1457 deaths till now.

Meanwhile, the total number of patients discharged from various hospitals after full recovery since the second week of March this year touched 1,82,217. The recovery rate in the state stood at 55.72 per cent. The mortality rate in the state is 3.75 per cent. The state health authorities pegged the number of "active cases" in the state at 1,32,236.

Out of 16,40,644 samples sent to laboratories, 3,27,031 have tested positive (19.93 per cent) for Covid-19 until Tuesday. Currently, 7,79,676 people are in home quarantine while 45,077 people are in institutional quarantine.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES,
SOURA, SRINAGAR- 190011
MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT (Imports)
Email: ammoimports@skims.ac.in, Fax: 0194-2403403

NOTICE

Sub: Procurement of Portal Deployable Isolation System with Negative Air Flow (Model: Bed AIR-ISO) on proprietary basis from M/S Bed Air Ltd. Kemp House, 152-160 city Road, London, UK.

SKIMS intends to procure **Portable Deployable Isolation System with Negative Air FLOW (Model: BED AIR-ISO)** on proprietary basis from **M/S Bed Air Ltd. Kemp House, 152-160 city Road, London, UK.** For the department of Medical Oncology, SKIMS being the proprietary item as claimed by the company.

In this connection, objection (if any) from companies manufacturing / marketing such equipment capable of delivering the same result as intended from the above equipment, regarding the proprietary nature of the above equipment should be communicated **within 15 days on the above mentioned email ID/ FAX,** after which the claim of the company who has claimed for the proprietorship of the said equipment shall be accepted.

Sd/-
Asst. Materials Management Officer Imports, SKIMS
No: SIMS 324- Bed-Air-2020-2330-36-5048-49
Dated: 21.07.2020

PASUPATI ACRYLON LIMITED

Regd. Office: Kashipur Road, Thakurdwara, Distt. Moradabad (UP)

Tel: 011-47627400, Fax: 011-47627497 CIN No.: L50102UP1982PLC015532
 Email: delhi@pasupatiacrylon.com website: www.pasupatiacrylon.com

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 a Meeting of Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Monday, the 27th July 2020 inter-alia to consider and approve the Audited Financial Results of the Company for the quarter and year ended 31st March, 2020.

The said intimation is available on the Company's website at www.pasupatiacrylon.com and BSE Ltd. at www.bseindia.com.

By order of the Board
For Pasupati Acrylon Ltd.
 Sd/-
Bharat Kapoor
 Company Secretary
Dated: 21.07.2020
Place: New Delhi

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that that accused persons namely (1) Anzaar@Bhura, R/o: 106 near Ruby Dhaba, PPG Road, Khureji Khas, Delhi, (2) Sharif, S/o Faiyaz, R/o: 107, PPG Road, Khureji Khas, Delhi, (3) Md. Yamin, S/o Abdul Karim, R/o: 12/1, West Laxmi Market, PPG Road, Aaram Park, Delhi, (4) Salim@Gunda, S/o Abdul Gani, R/o 33/1, Khureji Khas, Delhi, (5) Hazi Iqbal Ahmed, S/o Nausad, R/o 129B, Khureji Khas, Delhi, (6) Bilal@Lamba, S/o Islamuddin, R/o 26/30, Gali No. 6, Old Brijpuri, Delhi, have committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 44/20 U/s 147/148/149/186/188/332/353/307/109/120B/34 IPC** registered at P.S. Jagatpuri, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon that the said (1) Anzaar@Bhura, (2) Sharif, (3) Md. Yamin, (4) Salim@Gunda, (5) Hazi Iqbal Ahmed, (6) Bilal@Lamba cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said (1) Anzaar@Bhura, (2) Sharif, (3) Md. Yamin, (4) Salim@Gunda, (5) Hazi Iqbal Ahmed, (6) Bilal@Lamba have absconded (or are concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proceeding u/s 82 Cr.P.C. has been initiated in this case. Proclamation is hereby made that the said (1) Anzaar@Bhura, (2) Sharif, (3) Md. Yamin, (4) Salim@Gunda, (5) Hazi Iqbal Ahmed, (6) Bilal@Lamba accused of FIR No. 44/20 U/s 147/148/149/186/188/332/353/307/109/120B/34 IPC, P.S. Jagatpuri, Delhi are required to appear before this Court to answer said complaint on or before **20.08.2020**.

By Order
Sh. Anubhav Jain
 Ld. Metropolitan Magistrate-05,
 Room No. 316, Karkardooma Court,
 Shahdara District, Delhi

DP/116/SHD/2020

PUBLIC NOTICE
 It is for the general public information that my client Smt. Kamlesh W/o. Late Shri Ram R/o. C1-184, Rohini Sector-20, Delhi-110086 has debarred, disowned and break down all the relationship from her son namely Nitin from her all movable and immovable properties either self acquired or ancestral situated all over India due to his misconduct, disobedience and misbehavior attitude. My client will not be responsible in future for Nitin's actions.
 Sahil Jain (Advocate)
 RU-382, Outer Ring Road, Pitampura New Delhi-34
 Enroll. NO. DI5197/2017

PUBLIC NOTICE
 To be known to all that, I Rakesh Kumar Daa S/o Shri P.L. Dua R/o Flat No.223-B, Pocket-1, Mayapuri Vihar Phase-I, Delhi, is owner and in physical possession of Shop No.33, measuring 7' X 10' situated at LSC Market, Pocket-1, Mayapuri Vihar Phase-1, Delhi-110091, which has been allotted by DDA vide File No.F76(12)1982/IMPL and applied for conversion from lease hold into free hold of said shop in D.D.A. The Original Allotment cum Demand Letter, Possession Letter, Possession Slip, Bank Chalan and NOC for Electricity and Water Connection, and other related documents of said shop have 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.9869258527 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to this shop can personally inform or write to Dy. Director (LAB) H or Director (R/D), D Block 3rd Floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE
 This is to inform public in general that Kotak Mahindra bank ltd has organized an auction in below mention respect of vehicles.
VEHICLE FOR SALE
 1) T SFC407 REG. NO. DL1LAA3993-YOM-2018
 2) 1075_BUS EICHR VECV REG. NO. DL1LX6739 YOM 2016
 3) VOLVO EICHER-E_10.75_GOODS REG. NO. DL1LAD4778-YOM-2019
 4) SWRJ_MAZDA REG. NO. DL1LAB8054-YOM-2018
 5) SWRJ_MAZDA REG. NO. DL1LAB8019-YOM-2018
 6) SWRJ_MAZDA REG. NO. DL1LAB8065-YOM-2018
 7) SWRJ_MAZDA REG. NO. DL1LAB8025-YOM-2018
 8) SWRJ_MAZDA REG. NO. DL1LAB9511-YOM-2018
UNDER HYPOTHECATION WITH M/S KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK IS UNDER SALE IN ITS "AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION" INTERESTED PARTIES CAN GIVE THEIR QUOTATIONS WITH IN 7 DAYS AT
BRANCH ADDRESS: KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK 3RD FLOOR, PLOT NO 7, SECTOR 125, NOIDA-201313 OR CONTACT : RAJESH ANIL KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD. CONTACT NO. 9711173320

PUBLIC NOTICE
 It is for the general public information that my client Smt. Kamlesh W/o. Late Shri Ram R/o. C1-184, Rohini Sector-20, Delhi-110086 has debarred, disowned and break down all the relationship from her son namely Nitin from her all movable and immovable properties either self acquired or ancestral situated all over India due to his misconduct, disobedience and misbehavior attitude. My client will not be responsible in future for Nitin's actions.
 Sahil Jain (Advocate)
 RU-382, Outer Ring Road, Pitampura New Delhi-34
 Enroll. NO. DI5197/2017

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Message or faith?

Nobody is stalling the Ram temple but the grand *bhumi puja* in pandemic times raises uncomfortable questions



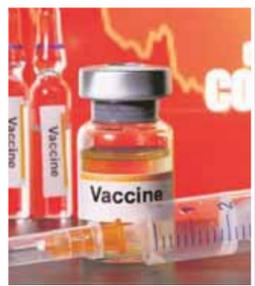
The timing, they say, is everything. So once the Supreme Court paved the way for the construction of a Ram temple at Ayodhya, respecting civilisational belief and the heave of collective emotion and faith — one that had been appropriated by politics — one would have expected the exhibitionist propaganda around it to ebb away. Yet a grand *bhumi puja* or foundation-laying ceremony is being planned during the nation's worst time, in the middle of a pandemic, natural disasters and a stalled economy, if only to keep the temple agenda, and by extension those who live off it politically, alive. Everybody

may be looking towards divine intercession in helpless times but does that behave the temple trust to host a grand ceremony, the expensive resources for which could be used for much-needed COVID-19 relief, or take liberties with social distancing rules as 250 guests, including 50 VIPs, are expected to attend a public gathering? The Government's own advisory against public outings for those above 60 will be defeated as most guests, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and *margdarshaks* LK Advani and Muri Manohar Joshi, are above that age limit. Question is whether these leaders will prize their religiosity over public service and messaging. Five silver bricks, symbolising the five planets as per Hindu mythology, will be used to lay the foundation, 11 priests from Varanasi and Ayodhya will congregate to do the rituals and to ward off evil spirits, silver figurines of a male and female snake and a tortoise will be buried at the construction site. Huge CCTV screens will dot Ayodhya for devotees to catch a glimpse of the proceedings, never mind if it encourages some kind of crowding. Granted, the ruling BJP has ridden a majoritarian wave to get its verdict and in the absence of a challenging Opposition, will ride the pandemic trough out, efficient or not. So it doesn't need to mount another lavish showcase of its Hindu pride. Unless it wants to divert attention from its mishandling of the economy and burdening India's migrant workforce. Agreed, it has to satisfy its core constituency of Hindu voters and ideologues but does that mean humouring them to such an extent that consciously privileges them and their rights over followers of other faiths and practices despite pandemic restrictions? And while world over prayers are on, wishing the end of COVID-19, how can the temple authorities justify that prayers during the ceremony on August 3 or August 5, being the most auspicious days, would help in ridding the country of the virus?

Of course, the political undertones are not too difficult to miss. The expected ceremony coincides with the first anniversary of the revocation of special status of the former State of Jammu & Kashmir and the abrogation of Article 370. While the Government may claim to have enacted that within a constitutional space and is already trotting out figures of developmental funding to justify the conversion of territories, the celebrations at Ayodhya say otherwise. They are meant to be a mid-term campaign of the Modi Government that it has fulfilled the promises made in its manifesto in record time. The event is also an indication that identity politics, which had been derailed by the pandemic, will gain momentum, examples of which are apparent from the way the Government is pursuing dissenters and activists even in the middle of a pandemic. Take the case of Varavara Rao, who was arrested in the Elgar Parishad-Maoist links case in 2018, which is now with the NIA. At 80, he is COVID-19 positive and was moved to a hospital much later. There is radio silence on his status with his family unaware of his condition. The Opposition criticism came from Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar, who said instead of a *bhumi puja* now, the Government should focus on the pandemic and the economy. But the Modi Government, which has apportioned health management to respective States and knows that it could pass the buck in case of a worsening disease spiral to them, can hardly be expected to share Pawar's concerns over Maharashtra, the worst-hit State. Congress leader Digvijaya Singh joined the chorus after Pawar made the move. But both leaders represent the ruling coalition in Maharashtra as partners of the Shiv Sena, which lauded the temple construction and claimed to have "laid the road" to it, "not for politics but out of faith." The political fissures were all too apparent as Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut said that Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray would attend and that the fight against the virus was being fought "by our doctors in white attire, whom we call *devdoot* (messenger of God)." Question is whether Lord Ram himself would have condoned such celebrations or helped the sick instead. The problem is that there is no end to the temple card; it will continue to be used for historical corrections that are guided by narrow political considerations. Ayodhya's godking wouldn't like his *maryada* to be tampered with. Yet, who cares?

A glimmer of hope

With Oxford trials showing positive results in the first stage and India commencing its own tests, a vaccine may emerge



As the Coronavirus plays havoc with economies and lives around the world and goes into the community spread stage in India, throwing up visions of large scale illness, deaths and a tottering healthcare ultimately collapsing, there's some good news on the horizon. Early human trials of a vaccine developed by global biopharmaceutical company AstraZeneca and the University of Oxford showed that it is not only safe but seemed to build an immune response in volunteers. Not only did the people injected with the vaccine build neutralising antibodies, there was also a spike in their numbers of

T cells or white blood cells that protect humans from pathogens and actively destroy infected cells. Encouragingly, the WHO has described the Oxford vaccine as the leading candidate in a worldwide race to halt the pandemic. But researchers are taking a cautious approach as it is early days yet and there is still much work to be done before they can confirm if the vaccine will manage the pandemic. By their own admission, they do not know as yet how strong an immune response is needed to offer long-term protection.

The next phase of the clinical trials, therefore, is even more crucial. The Phase III trials, in low-to-middle income countries like Brazil, South Africa and India, will demonstrate the vaccine's efficacy among a large number of people. We will be lucky if a formal rollout happens by the year-end. And out of the two billion doses that will be created, a whopping 300 million will go to the US. Plus, as the UK will have the intellectual property rights over it, other countries, including India, will need to enter into commercial deals. However, the one advantage that India has over other not so well-heeled nations is that AstraZeneca has entered into a deal with the Pune-based Serum Institute of India for trials and to supply one billion doses for low-and-middle-income countries before 2020 end. Logically, we should get the dibs on the shots. However, the good news is that the Oxford vaccine is not the only candidate and if researchers at Bernstein are to be believed, though the vaccine has shown positive data, the bar set by programmes from Pfizer Inc, BioNTech SE and Moderna Inc is much higher. The titers from immunised patients were lower than convalescent patients, whereas BioNTech and Moderna vaccines both elicited IgGs substantially higher than convalescent controls. India has two trials running concurrently in Delhi and Hyderabad with results expected in October. Whatever the clinical efficiencies at this stage, at least a beginning has been made. Humanity can rest assured that help is at hand and soon.

Leave Lutyens alone

Restructuring the Lutyens' zone will take away the city's soul and character. It will irreversibly deface the city and rob it of its identity and uniqueness



YASHOVARDHAN AZAD

Sir Edwin Lutyens' Delhi, with its heritage and a grace so fragile, will soon be scarred and disfigured as its iconic architecture and lush greenery may give way to modern buildings after the Union Government remains steadfast with its plan to redevelop its stretch from the Rashtrapati Bhavan to the India Gate and even beyond till the Yamuna front.

Some of the mansions sprawling in the cool, green light of the day, with their symmetry — striking and flawless — are waiting to be razed to the ground. The trees that have stood witness to history may not survive to tell a tale of another day. The *amaltas* trees that broke into soft yellow blossoms every summer, the sun-warm *jamuns* dotting the grassy grounds and the bitter-sweet smell of *neem* pods when crushed under the feet after rains may slip into the twilight sepia of oblivion, though assurances continue of no trees being felled during the exercise.

Lutyens' Delhi stands as a tribute to the time and the timeless spirit of the city. The leafy boulevards walk you back to the memories of an era bygone under a soft lilac sky. Generations have grown up to identify the city with its pristine architecture shimmering in the amber sunshine like a jewel unspoiled in the emerald green. The Central Vista, with some of the most iconic buildings of Delhi, came into being when the British capital was shifted to Delhi from Calcutta in 1911. Architects Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker designed large sections of the area with iconic features but could not complete their task. The green expanse left was later filled up with buildings that house Central Government offices, though these are no match to the Lutyens' creations.

Restructuring the Lutyens' will take away from the city its soul and character. It will irreversibly deface the city and rob it of its identity and uniqueness. The stakeholders, however, claim that this will not affect the imposing edifice and architecture as conceived by Lutyens as long as all the regulations are followed.

The revamp has been proposed to meet the crushing need for space and reflect the aspirations of a new and resurgent India as pleaded by Government sources. But then, why can't the lawmakers and Government employees find space to live and work elsewhere in this ever-expanding city? The swathe of green and high-end lifestyle of Lutyens' Delhi cushions its residents from the hoi polloi, from



the crowded zones where the city lives and breathes. The ruling elite will have a real taste of life in the capital if they rub shoulders with the commoners. It will give them a hands-on feeling of the traffic jams, the crowd and the dust, the filth and the garbage, poverty and lawlessness, lack of orderliness — all of which are unheard of within the safe bastion of Lutyens' Delhi, like the palace of Oscar Wilde's *The Happy Prince*, where sorrow was not allowed to enter.

The proposal envisages only the three top-most functionaries of India's democracy, the President, Vice President and the Prime Minister, living and working from the Raisina Hill. The Central Vista revamp brings down the babus literally from their exalted position on the Raisina Hill to the plains, alongside the Rajpath. Is there a message, too, that they are only public servants? The North and South Block will be converted into museums — but do we need more of them and that, too, within Lutyens? We already have the national museum and the archives. Having swarms of visitors in these huge buildings every day will necessitate heavy police presence in view of their proximity to the presence of the highest dignitaries of the country.

Ten square doughnut-shaped buildings, comprising 51 Ministries of the Central Government, will come up at four locations of the Central Vista. One of them would

replace the Indira Gandhi Centre for Arts near a roundabout with heavy traffic density. The police or the NDMC will be under tremendous pressure to cater to the extra load of traffic, parking, civic and other amenities.

In addition, hutments are to be razed to house office complexes, robbing the heritage zone further of its greenery and open space. The subways and the metro link to be provided for seamless movement between the office complexes are a mammoth exercise, difficult to be executed without altering or scarifying the beauty and symmetry. The proposal to add another building to the existing Parliament House will again encroach upon the green expanse left alone so thoughtfully by Lutyens and Baker to preserve the unique façade of New Delhi.

Around 2,000 people filed objections with the DDA and 1,200 were called for hearings. Some averred that the change in land use was not legally tenable. Others felt that the revamp cannot be done in isolation without considering the surrounding zone. Besides, a detailed study is required to study the impact of the resultant pressure on civic amenities, traffic and transportation.

Experts have also warned that any plan of such magnitude should not be executed in haste. They have cited instances of great cities that have integrated modern refurbishments with

iconic historical structures seamlessly and have befittingly renovated heritage structures to suit our new-age demands. Even cities like Washington DC, London and Paris have been modernised where new-age architecture has been blended and balanced with the heritage look and the old-world charm.

In this great city, our countrymen and our generations to come have a stake. For a project of this significance and in a location as critical, there needs to be a widespread consultation before taking any such decision of historical significance. And finally, the moot point is: Whether there is a need for such a project at all?

The best thing heard about the Central Vista revamp is the shifting of the residence of the Prime Minister to the Rashtrapati Bhavan precincts. This will clear up an important arterial road from that zone to South Delhi. Lutyens' Delhi needs to be decluttered further. All political party offices and the *sarkari* ones working from the hutments within New Delhi should be moved out, extending the green belt further. Why not conduct an exercise to assess whether so many Ministries are actually required? Babus of our exalted bureaucracy won't undermine their own strength. We need an outside expert to deliberate, something on the lines of the recent restructuring of myriad cadres in the Railways. Let the core strength remain in

Lutyens' zone and the rest moved out to marked areas like the CGO complex or in new hubs. In this digital age with the facility of video conferencing, do we need overcrowding and increasing pressure on civic amenities in a heritage zone?

Instead, the iconic India Gate environs, giving the impression of an embattled fortress with police barricades and fortifications, need to be further opened up and beautified. The majestic Rajpath Lawns lie trampled under the ugly green PWD poles for almost six months of the year, half in preparation for the January 26 parade and the other half in dismantling the whole façade. It's time to decide whether a resurgent India, whose democratic credentials are solidly established, still needs to purvey its military might in a parade every Republic Day.

With evidence of continuous settlement since the 6th century BC, Delhi is one of the oldest inhabited cities in the world. Destroyed several times as it passed into the hands of many ruling dynasties, the city has been built and rebuilt around its treasured ruins. And now, with plans to revamp the Lutyens' Delhi, the city once again stands muted at the crossroads of time, war-weary and subdued, pleading with a broken soul to be left alone.

(The writer is former IPS officer and Central Information Commissioner)

SOUNDBITE

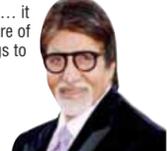
People are unable to speak due to a reign of fear across the country. The Govt has neglected us. People of WB will give it a befitting reply.

West Bengal CM
—Mamata Banerjee



It is the silence and the uncertainty of the next ... it is a wonder of the nature of life ... of all that it brings to us each moment, each living, breathing day.

Actor
—Amitabh Bachchan



We are united in our effort to defeat the invisible China virus and many people say that it is patriotic to wear a face mask when you can't socially distance.

US President
—Donald Trump



I am saddened but not surprised to be at the receiving end of such baseless and vexatious allegations being leveled against me.

Former Rajasthan Dy CM
—Sachin Pilot



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

T-20 in healthy times

Sir — This refers to the report, "T20 World Cup postponed" (July 21). The International Cricket Council's (ICC) decision to hold in abeyance the T20 World Cup in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic is welcome. Given that the cricketers themselves have not been unable to play the sport, the idea of conducting a major tournament like the T20 World Cup this year seemed to be absurd. Although the ICC's decision may come as a shock to cricket aficionados, they must not lose hope as the deferment of the World Cup has enhanced the possibilities for the conduct of the Indian Premier League (IPL).

Tushar Anand
Patna

Sinking hopes

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Rajasthan wrangle" (July 21). The more pertinent question is why is the Congress unable to retain talent and young leaders? The Gandhi family must take the entire

Assam fights two battles

With heavy rains lashing the national capital early this week, social media went into a tizzy. Assam, on the other hand, has been reeling under a catastrophic flood for over a week not but did not receive the same amount of attention as Delhi. Thousands of people have been displaced and many lives have been lost. At Kaziranga National Park, more than 100 wild animals, including eight endangered rhinos, have died due to the catastrophe. Assam is indeed going through tough times as it is already grappling with the Coronavirus pandemic. Health officials are more pre-occupied with handling the public health crisis. The call to maintain social distancing has meant that relief centres are not able to house a large number of the displaced.

However, floods are a regular phenomenon for this State. Despite this, authorities fail to take necessary precautions and act only when calamity strikes. Post the floods, leaders promise huge sums of relief packages



but nothing happens thereafter until the next year when the same tragic drama unfolds. While the immediate task before the Government is to rehabilitate those affected, its flood control measures need a relook. Building dams and embankments are obsolete techniques. Measures are needed in catchment areas.

Basudev Rao
Via email

Testing times

Sir — The University Grants Commission's (UGC's) new set of guidelines, asking universities to conduct the final year/final semester exams before September 30, is unjust. Those students in the rural areas will be the worst sufferers. Aren't students' lives more important than

these examinations? It is an established fact now that maintaining physical distance and breaking the chain of infection is the best remedy to fight the virus. Wouldn't the UGC be putting the students' lives at stake? Many have travelled back to their home States and will have to return for the exams. The UGC must reverse its order and assess the students on the basis of marks obtained in internals.

Nagendra Kumar Vempalli
Hyderabad

Some positivity

Sir — The Coronavirus pandemic has forced us to inculcate a lot of safety-related habits and behavioural changes, too. But what's striking is that according to a BBC report, more than one million people have given up smoking since the pandemic hit. This is a positive development, which must be incorporated in our lives well beyond the lockdown and the pandemic.

Ayush
Via email

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Revive or perish

It is up to the Congress Party to choose as living in past glory is not the answer. There is still time to act



KALYANI SHANKAR

The Congress is facing an unprecedented internal power struggle, which has cost the Grand Old Party dear. It is almost imploding. It had lost a big State like Madhya Pradesh just a few weeks ago and is in the process of losing another big State, Rajasthan, soon. Even if the Ashok Gehlot Government survives the present crisis, which it may, the sword of Damocles is hanging over it in view of the fragile majority in the House.

The present political crisis in Rajasthan is only symptomatic. If one looks at the big picture, the party is destroying itself mainly due to the power struggle between the "old guard" and the "young Turks." Instead of following the dictum "a stitch in time saves nine," the Congress high command has allowed the already weakened party to drift apart further. Even after losing two consecutive Lok Sabha polls, there has been no effort to address the malaise. It is not surprising then that younger leaders like Jyotiraditya Scindia earlier and Sachin Pilot now are looking for greener pastures.

While Congress president Sonia Gandhi managed to anoint her son Rahul Gandhi in 2017 as the party chief, she did not pay attention or ensure a smooth transition. It is this lapse, which is at the bottom of the power struggle in the party right now. Rahul has made it amply clear on many occasions that he is not comfortable with the "old guard." On its part, the "old guard" is resisting Rahul's new ideas and wanting the status quo to continue.

This is why, even though it managed to win Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan two years ago, the Congress has not been able to retain them. The Congress leadership failed to see the crisis brewing for the last two years within the party when the two young and ambitious leaders — Sachin and Jyotiraditya — were denied the top posts and Ashok Gehlot and Kamal Nath, who are part of the "old guard", were made Chief Ministers of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, respectively. The high command did nothing to resolve this power struggle and let old wounds fester.

As for electoral success, the Congress has not been in power for decades in Uttar Pradesh since 1989, West Bengal since 1977, Tamil Nadu since 1977, Gujarat since 1985 and Odisha since 2000. Even in the North-East, the Congress has lost its hold. Despite this slide, the Congress won 11 crore votes in 2019. There is hope yet. But, to keep the BJP out, the Congress needs a united party, good alliance partners, strengthening at the grassroot level and a new narrative.

There is a vacuum at the top and party workers are confused about the designation "interim president" given to Sonia when she took back the presidency post Rahul's resignation in August. There are many who think that the party should have a non-Gandhi as its president but the Congress refuses to let the family go.

It is in this context that the present power struggle should be seen. The "old guard" frowns upon the ambitious "young Turks" and the latter are impatient. Even "Team Rahul" is splintering, going by the way two of his close friends, Jyotiraditya and Pilot, have rebelled. The exit of others like Milind Deora and Jitin Prasada, too, cannot be ruled out sooner or later.

The BJP's strategy has always been to import leaders of stature from other parties to weaken the rivals and it is in a position to lure them with lucrative posts now more than ever.

Also, there is an urgent need to strengthen the party at the grassroot level. The Congress is still alive in some villages and there is enough talent in the party to revive it. But there is no direction or strategy. Those who enter the Congress are anglicised young men and women, who are impatient to get positions. The membership base is eroding and there is no drive to attract new cadres. The party had a committed lot of people earlier but today it is power which lures the members. This is the dilemma the Congress is facing.

This is not the first time the Congress Party is facing a power struggle. Indira Gandhi snatched power from the powerful syndicate that was against her in the late sixties. Every party president or Prime Minister wants to have his/her own loyalists and this generational shift is making it difficult. Unfortunately the Congress is not in power now. Sonia took over the party in 1998 when there was erosion and she was able to arrest it and bring the party to power not once, but twice. Today, the same Sonia is helpless.

The easiest way out would be to counsel patience to the younger leaders while making it clear to the "old guard" that deadwood needs to go. A harmonious blend of both, old and young leaders, would go a long way in resolving this issue.

The Congress has only two options — revive or perish. It is up to the party to choose, as living in past glory is not the answer. There is still time to act.

(The writer is a senior journalist)

POINT COUNTERPOINT

SO MANY INDEPENDENT-FILM-CRUSADERS HAVE TURNED MAINSTREAM-BOLLYWOOD-FLUNKIES NOW. THEY USED TO RANT ABOUT THE SAME SYSTEM EARLIER.
 —ACTOR
RANVIR SHOREY



NO ONE WORKS WITH OUTSIDERS MORE THAN ME. AND I CAN SEE WHAT'S WRONG WITH ALL THAT IS GOING ON AND I SEE THE GAME.
 —FILMMAKER
ANURAG KASHYAP

Tax reforms vital

Despite innovative ideas adopted by the CBDT to encourage people to pay their taxes regularly, India has not moved towards a practical and easy tax regime which encourages full disclosure



SUBHASH CHANDRA AGRAWAL

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has introduced a new kind of form for filing tax returns and form 26AS in anticipation of better tax compliance, wherein form 26AS will now be pre-loaded with information relating to investments as well. With this, the CBDT has given another opportunity to citizens to file accurate and true income returns for the assessment-year 2018-19 by July 31. The CBDT has been scanning computerised records of taxpayers and sending messages via the Short Messaging Service (SMS) and emails to taxpayers who have been found to be remiss in their duty to the nation.

The big question is why is such an exercise needed at all? Despite various innovative ideas adopted by the CBDT to encourage people to pay their taxes regularly, India has not moved towards a practical and easy tax regime where people diligently file their taxes and disclose their true income. We are yet to reach a stage where we, as a society, take pride in filing our taxes and disclosing our actual income.

In view of this general reluctance to pay taxes among Indians, an altogether new tax regime should be introduced without the largely-misused exemptions that we currently have. Why do we need to give two confusing options to taxpayers of either availing some exemptions or getting a flat basic ₹5 lakh as tax-free income? Only the latter option of ₹5 lakh as tax-free income needs to be retained.

The tax system should be further simplified by abolishing cess, surcharges and so on. It is a matter of concern that despite repeated assurances by the Government, the much-awaited, new and simplified Income Tax Act has not been introduced in the country to replace the six-decade-old Income Tax Act of 1961, which is now full of confusing amendments.

The implementation of the Raja Chelliah Committee recommendations to fix the highest tax slab at 30 per cent, to be in tune with most countries around the world, had abolished the practice of converting black money into white money. Gradually increasing the highest slab, as well as imposing cess and surcharges, has undone the good achieved earlier. Hence, the highest tax slab of 30 per cent should be restored so that people find it advantageous to keep their income books honest.

Rather a permanent Voluntary Disclosure Scheme (VDS) should be introduced with a provision for people to declare their income at the highest suggested tax rate of 30 per cent. It could be any income without the taxpayer having to disclose its source.

This will make all cash transactions, especially in property deals, accounted for if registration fee on property deals is also reduced to say, just two per cent, from what it is at present. The names of all those disclosing their incomes under the suggested 30 per cent slab should be on the tax department's website so that status-conscious people may race to disclose their income.

The basic tax exemption now fixed at ₹5 lakh should pave the way for abolishing all tax exemptions, including on charity, donations, contribu-

“
 AT PRESENT, INDIA IS THE ONLY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD TO HAVE SO MANY GST SLABS. ZERO PER CENT GST SHOULD ONLY BE RETAINED ON TOTALLY UNBRANDED RAW MATERIALS, WHICH CANNOT BE CONSUMED WITHOUT GIVING THEM A FINISHING TOUCH, FOR EXAMPLE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, FISH, MEAT, COTTON, YARN AND SO ON. ALL ITEMS OF LONG-TERM USE LIKE CARS, AIR-CONDITIONERS, TELEVISION SETS, REFRIGERATORS AND SO ON COULD ATTRACT 30 PER CENT GST WHILE THEIR PARTS COULD UNIFORMLY ATTRACT 10 PER CENT GST”



tion to political parties and even agricultural income. The fact remains that an ordinary farmer does not earn more than ₹5 lakh. And this provision is grossly misused by ultra-rich people, including celebrities to declare their unaccounted income as agricultural income through purchase of some farmland meant for the purpose of evading taxes only.

Income tax slabs should be 10 per cent and 20 per cent for incomes between ₹5-₹10 lakh and ₹10-₹15 lakh respectively and thereafter it should be 30 per cent for the rest. The LK Jha Committee recommendations to make the calendar year the Financial Year (FY) too, should be implemented in line with most countries around the world. The fiscal year of April-March is a colonial legacy which was introduced by the British in India for their own interests and convenience.

Rather than concentrating on small cash transactions through BhimApp and so on — which result in frauds perpetrated on illiterate people — all sales and purchases above ₹10,000 should be compulsorily made through bank transactions only. For this to work, transaction charges on credit cards should also be slashed to just half per cent (Goods and Services Tax-exempted). That, too, should be borne by the Central Government, with all incentives on purchases made through credit cards abolished.

Such a system will fetch much higher tax revenue for the Government. The present two per cent transaction charges on credit cards force traders to charge it separately from customers, specially where trade margins are low.

Banks issuing credit cards will earn much more even with a half per cent transaction charge because of their increased use. Plus, two sets of credit card swiping machines should be made compulsory for every GST-registered dealer so as to avoid cash payments by those seeking to evade taxes.

The Input Tax Credit system in the GST regime, particularly in the manufacturing sector, is the biggest source of corruption and tax evasion. The GST invoices left out by ordinary customers are sold by traders to manufacturers/producers to avail false Input Tax Credit. Reforms in the Input Tax Credit system can only be possible through drastic changes in the GST structure, wherein basically only two GST rates of 10 per cent and 30 per cent exist, abolishing all other existing GST-rates. Abolishing lower slabs of three and five per cent will be more than compensated by abolishing slabs of 12 and 18 per cent. On the other hand, abolishing the highly corrupt system of Input Tax Credit from the manufacturing and producing sector will fetch much more revenue to the exchequer and it will not harm the manufacturers/producers because of abolition of higher GST slabs of 12 and 18 per cent.

In the same way, a GST of 18 per cent in the service sector is excessively high, where for example those participating in TV panel discussions have to pay roughly half of their honorarium in tax, including GST and income tax. All Government payments can be considered to be exempted from GST to avoid unnecessary Government accounting by putting tax from one Government pocket to other.

Unfortunately, unmindful policymakers brought clutch-plate and clutch-bearing under different GST slabs of 18 and 28 per cent respectively. Likewise similar items sold by confectioners, like sweets, biscuits, savoury items and so on, attract different GST slabs, with diabetes-causing sweets attracting just five per cent GST.

To remove confusion and abnormality, invoices for items like gold jewellery can be drawn in two parts, one for metal and embodied items and the other for making charges so that 10 per cent GST may be payable only on the latter. Cess on extra-luxurious items should be replaced by additional GST slabs in multiples, going as high as 50 per cent in some cases.

The Government must also bring petroleum products under the GST regime to ensure uniform pricing of petrol and diesel in all States.

At present, India is the only country in the world to have so many GST slabs. Zero per cent GST should only be retained on totally unbranded raw materials, which cannot be consumed without giving them a finishing touch, for example agricultural products, fish, meat, cotton, yarn and so on. All items of long-term use like cars, air-conditioners, television sets, refrigerators and so on could attract 30 per cent GST while their parts could uniformly attract 10 per cent GST. In the end, the Government must realise that tax rationalisation on even small things can result in more revenue earning for the Government and turn a country that avoids paying its taxes into one that takes pride in doing so.

(The writer is an RTI consultant)

Parkinson's Disease is not a death sentence

With an estimated 10 million people worldwide suffering from PD, it is important to bust some myths about the disease on World Brain Day



DR SUNIL MEDIRATTA

Among the most common age-related neuro-degenerative diseases affecting people above the age of 60 is Parkinson's Disease (PD). It is second only to Alzheimer's. With an ageing population and increased life expectancy due to better healthcare, India will see a proportional rise in cases of PD, making it a major health problem. The disease was first described by a British doctor named James Parkinson in 1817 as the "shaking palsy." Today, an estimated 10 million people worldwide have PD and it affects one per cent of the population above the age of 60. Men have a 50 per cent higher chance of developing the disease as compared to women. Though the prevalence of this disease in India is less compared to other countries, the

absolute number of cases is much higher due to a larger population. Plus within India, the prevalence of this disease varies across regions and the Parsi community has the highest cases.

PD is a slowly progressive disorder with no identifiable cause. It results from loss/degeneration of dopamine-producing cells in a region of the brain called the *substantia nigra*. The cause of cell death/degeneration is not known. The disease manifests when more than 60 per cent of the dopamine-producing cells are lost. Dopamine is a neurotransmitter which helps in transmitting signals to different parts of the brain to smoothen our movements.

Like many other diseases, PD is also not fully understood despite all the research available today and, therefore, many myths are associated with it. Statistically there is an increased risk of developing PD in people exposed to certain pesticides and among those who have had prior head injuries, while there is a reduced risk in people who smoke tobacco and drink tea or coffee. Genetic factors have been implicated but have

not been proven conclusively in the transmission of the disease.

It usually starts with a barely noticeable tremor in just one hand followed by slowing of movement and stiffness in the limbs. As the disease progresses, simple tasks of walking, writing or talking become difficult and the muscles become rigid. So what are the common myths and misconceptions associated with this disease? As the world celebrates July 22 as the 'World Brain Day', it is vital to bust some of the myths on PD sequentially.

Myth: Hand tremors are a confirmed sign of PD.

Fact: While it is true that hand tremors are seen in most patients of PD, they may be absent in up to 25 per cent of the patients. Tremors can also be caused by stroke, multiple sclerosis and traumatic brain injury. However tremors in PD always occur at rest (while not performing any movement of the limb) and always begin on one side of the body.

Myth: PD only affects our mobility.

Fact: Tremors, stiffness or rigidity of the limbs and slowness to ini-

tiate movement are the hallmark of this disease. However, the body also loses its ability to balance. Besides this, there could be difficulty in swallowing, chewing and trouble speaking clearly. There is increased sweating and salivation. Day time sleepiness and loss of urinary control are other major problems faced by these patients, combined with loss of visual-spatial orientation and visual hallucinations.

Myth: PD is hereditary.

Fact: Most cases aren't hereditary. It's rare for the disease to be passed down from parent to child. However, having a first-degree family member (a parent or sibling) with Parkinson's raises the risk by three per cent.

Myth: PD is not treatable.

Fact: There is treatment but there is no cure, so what does that mean? With treatment a person with PD can lead a good quality of life but the medications have to be taken lifelong. The medications only control the symptoms and do not take care of the underlying cause of the disease. It is just like treating diabetes or high blood pressure. We cannot cure these diseases but can bring them

under control with medication.

Myth: Drugs used to treat PD are not safe and can worsen the disease.

Fact: There are no drugs in Allopathy without side-effects. Drugs used in the treatment of PD can over a period of five to 10 years cause dyskinesia or abnormal, involuntary and uncontrolled movements of the limbs, eyes or the lips. This may require adjustments of the frequency and dose of the dopaminergic drug along with the addition of another medication. These drugs are safe for long-term use.

Myth: The disease affects only the elderly.

Fact: It is true that PD has higher prevalence in the age group above 60 years. However, in India nearly five per cent of the patients are below 40 years of age. More than 10 per cent people now being diagnosed in the US are less than 40 years old. A recent study found that the prevalence of the disease ranges from 41 people per 1,00,000 in the fourth decade of life to more than 1,900 people per 1,00,000 among those who are 80 years and older.

Myth: When medications fail,

there is no hope.

Fact: When a person has disabling tremor or dyskinesia, which is unresponsive to medication or if the symptoms become resistant to medication after many years of treatment, these patients can be offered a surgical option called the Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS). DBS can help relieve the symptoms of tremors, stiffness or rigidity and dyskinesia. In this procedure, electrodes are placed in the brain and are connected to a stimulator device. Similar to a heart pacemaker, the neurostimulator generates electrical impulses to regulate brain activity. Because DBS can worsen cognition or memory problems, it is not recommended for people with dementia.

Myth: The disease follows a predictable pattern of progression.

Fact: PD is very unique to each person. The progression of this disease cannot be predicted even by experts, implying that a few years into the disease some people may be in a far better physical shape as compared to others.

Myth: One can get tested for PD in a lab for confirmation of the diag-

nosis and early treatment.

Fact: The diagnosis of PD is based on clinical examination of a patient and not based on lab reports or brain imaging. The identification of at least two symptoms among *bradykinesia* (slow movements), rest tremor, rigidity and postural instability can confirm the diagnosis. Brain imaging may be used to look for other causes of PD-like diseases.

Myth: PD is fatal.

Fact: Although PD is a disabling disease and its diagnosis is devastating, it is not a death sentence. It is not like a heart attack or a stroke that can immediately be life threatening. It is a slow, progressive disease, which over a period of time makes the patients dependent on others for their mobility and activities of daily living. However, the progression takes many years and with continued medication many patients are able to lead a normal life. Boxing legend, Mohammad Ali lived with this disease for 32 years and Hollywood star Michael J Fox has been living with PD for the last 29 years.

(The writer is a consultant Neurosurgeon at Apollo Hospital)

UK'S SUSPENSION OF EXTRADITION TREATY

Drop fantasy of continuing colonial influence in HK: China

London: China threatened a "forceful counter-attack" on Tuesday in response to Britain's announcement that it would suspend its extradition treaty with Hong Kong following Beijing's introduction of a national security law for the former British colony.

On Monday, British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab told parliament the extradition treaty would be suspended immediately and an arms embargo would be extended to Hong Kong.

"We will not consider re-activating those arrangements, unless and until there are clear and robust safeguards, which are able to prevent extradition from the UK being misused under the new national security legislation," Raab said.

The decision appeared to infuriate Beijing.

"China will make a forceful counter-attack to the UK's wrong actions," said Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin at a daily news conference on Tuesday.

"China urges the UK to give up its fantasies of continuing colonial influence in Hong Kong and immediately correct its mistakes," he said.

London has been dismayed

by a crackdown in Hong Kong, which returned to Chinese rule in 1997, and the perception that China did not tell the whole truth over the coronavirus outbreak.

Raab said he would extend a longstanding arms embargo on China to include Hong Kong, meaning no exports of weapons or ammunition and a ban on any equipment which might be used for internal repression, like shackles and smoke grenades.

Australia and Canada suspended extradition treaties with Hong Kong earlier this month. U.S. President Donald Trump has ended preferential economic treatment for Hong Kong.

Last week, Prime Minister Boris Johnson ordered equipment from China's Huawei Technologies to be purged completely from Britain's 5G network by the end of 2027.

China has accused Britain of pandering to the United States.

Britain says the new security law breaches the guarantees of freedoms, including an independent judiciary, that have helped keep Hong Kong one of the world's most important trade and financial centres since 1997. AGENCY



Riot police stand guard as pro-democracy protesters hold a news conference to mark one-year anniversary of the Yuen Long subway attack at the subway station in Hong Kong on Tuesday

Pompeo holds talks in UK amid rising China tensions

London: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo held "candid" discussions in London with one of America's closest allies on Tuesday, amid growing tensions between the West and China.

Hong Kong and human rights figured high on the agenda as Pompeo met with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson,

the UK leader's office said.

The session came just hours after Britain suspended its extradition treaty with Hong Kong and blocked arms sales to the former British territory — angering Beijing — after China imposed a tough new national security law.

Pompeo described his talks in London as being "construc-

utive" and "candid", and ranging "from 5G telecommunication to our negotiations for a US-UK free trade agreement". Pompeo will also meet with senior members of Johnson's Conservative Party who blocked plans to give Chinese telecommunications company Huawei a role in the UK's new high-speed mobile phone network. AP

Protesters adapt signs, slogans to skirt new law

Hong Kong: It was one of the first protests in Hong Kong after a feared national security law came into effect.

Among a dozen or so lunchtime demonstrators at a luxury mall in the Central business district, a man raised a poster that - viewed from afar - read in Chinese, "Liberate Hong Kong, revolution of our times."

The government had just banned the slogan, saying it had separatist connotations and so ran afoul of the new security law's prohibition of secessionist acts.

Shortly after, riot police entered the mall, shooting away onlookers. They detained the man, telling him the slogan was banned. But when officers looked at the poster up close, no words could be made out. It merely had circular shapes against a contrasting background. They snapped a few photographs of the poster and let him go.

Since the imposition of the security law -- which bans secessionist, subversive and terrorist activities, as well as collusion with foreign forces, with penalties of up to life imprisonment -- anti-government protesters in Hong Kong, and those supporting the movement, have adapted their methods to try to make their voices heard without violating the legislation.

Before the law took effect June 30, protesters often held up colourful posters plastered with slogans that ranged from condemning the Chinese government to calling for Hong Kong's independence. Since then, they have become creative in obscuring their messages.

Many of the protesters at the luxury mall held up blank pieces of white paper to protest against China's "white terror" of political repression. Other posters are designed to circumvent bans on slogans.

The government has not yet made clear if such forms of expression are illegal.

The law has had a chilling effect on "yellow shops" that support the protest movement. Many have removed protest artwork and sticky notes bearing words of encouragement from customers, out of fear that they could land them in trouble with the authorities.

Some shop owners, like Tan Wong, have instead put up blank sticky notes to show solidarity with the movement.

"We are doing this right now because (the shop) is private property. We are trying to tell Hong Kong people that this is the only thing that we 'yellow shops' can do," said Wong, who runs Kok Kok Chicken, a Korean fried chicken store.

"If we do not persist, we would no longer be able to deliver our message to others," he said. AP

Minnesota lawmakers ban neck restraints after Floyd's death

St. Paul (US): The Minnesota Legislature passed a package of police accountability measures early Tuesday that includes a ban on neck restraints like the one that was used on George Floyd before his death in Minneapolis.

The sweeping package was said to be one of the most substantial changes to the state's criminal justice system in years and also bans chokeholds and so-called warrior-style training in which officers are instructed to view all encounters as inherently dangerous.

Passage of the measures comes after nearly two months of negotiations that followed Floyd's death May 25.

The Black man was restrained face down in the street while handcuffed and with three officers holding him down, including a white officer who had a knee to Floyd's neck for nearly 8 minutes.

The House approved the measure 102 to 29 just before midnight Monday. The Senate passed it 60 to 7 and sent the bill to Gov. Tim Walz a couple of hours later.

The legislation also



improves data collection around deadly force encounters and creates a new state unit to investigate those cases.

It increases funding for crisis intervention training, creates an arbitration panel to handle police misconduct cases and establishes incentives for officers to live in the communities they police, the Star Tribune reported.

The Democratic governor had to call the special session to give lawmakers a chance to rescind

Trump, Congress square off over virus aid as crisis worsens

WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump acknowledged a "big flare-up" of COVID-19 cases, but divisions between the White House and Senate Republicans and differences with Democrats posed fresh challenges for a new federal aid package with the US crisis worsening and emergency relief about to expire.

Trump convened GOP leaders at the White House on Monday as Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell prepared to roll out his \$1 trillion package in days.

But the administration criticised the legislation's money for more virus testing and insisted on a full payroll tax repeal that could complicate quick passage. The timeline appeared to quickly shift.

"We've made a lot of progress," Trump said, but added, "Unfortunately, this is something that's very tough." Lawmakers returned to a Capitol still off-limits to

tourists, another sign of the nation's difficulty containing the coronavirus.

Rather than easing, the pandemic's devastating cycle is churning again, leaving Congress little choice but to engineer another costly rescue.

Businesses are shutting down again, many schools will not fully reopen and jobs are disappearing, all while federal aid will expire in days.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said any attempt by the White House to block money for testing "goes beyond ignorance."

The political stakes are high for both parties before the November election, and even more so for the nation, which now has registered more coronavirus infections and a higher death count — 140,800 — than any other country.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and acting chief of staff Mark Meadows will meet privately Tuesday with Pelosi and Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer.

US accuses Chinese hackers in targeting of Covid research

WASHINGTON

The Justice Department on Tuesday accused two Chinese hackers of stealing hundreds of millions of dollars of trade secrets from companies across the world and more recently targeting firms developing a vaccine for the coronavirus.

The indictment, which officials expected to discuss at a news conference, says the hackers in recent months had researched vulnerabilities in the computer networks of companies publicly known for their work in developing vaccines and treatments.

China says it proposed 'package solution' to resolve border dispute with Bhutan

Beijing: China on Tuesday sought to defend its recent claims over the Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary in Bhutan, saying the boundary between the two countries is yet to be demarcated and it has proposed a "package solution" to resolve the border dispute.

In a surprise move, China recently staked claim over the Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary in Bhutan at the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Council and opposed funding to the project.

Asked about China's claim over the sanctuary in Bhutan, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told

a media briefing here that the boundary between the two countries is yet to be demarcated.

"China's position remains consistent and clear. The boundary between China and Bhutan has not been delimited and there are disputes in the middle, eastern and western sections," he said.

"So, China advocates a package solution to resolve the dispute," he said. "China is opposed to making an issue of these disputes at multilateral forums and China remains in communication with the relevant parties on this issue," the spokesman said. PTI



A demonstrator holds a banner as she protests outside the Foreign Office in London during the visit of US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo with Britain's Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab on Tuesday

UK 'top target' for Russian spying: Parliamentary panel

London: The UK is one of Russia's top Western intelligence targets, an influential UK parliamentary panel has concluded in a report released on Tuesday.

The House of Commons Intelligence and Security Committee (ISC), which has oversight over the country's intelligence services, concluded in a long-awaited report on feared Russian influence in British affairs that "immediate

US, and the fact that the UK is seen as central to the Western anti-Russian lobby," notes the 50-page report.

"The way forward lies with taking action with our allies; a continuing international consensus is needed against Russian aggressive action. The West is strongest when it acts collectively and that is the way in which we can best attach a cost to [Russian President] Putin's actions," it adds. AP

action" is needed to assist the country's intelligence services tackle the "very capable adversary" in the form of Russia.

"It appears that Russia considers the UK one of its top Western intelligence targets... This is likely to be related to the UK's close relationship with the

SEARCH OF MISSING/KIDNAPED

General public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo), Namely: Rubi Kumari, D/o: Santosh Kumar, R/o: H.No. 166, Gali No. 1, Near Shiv Mandir, M.Pur, Delhi, Aged: 19 years, has been missing from her house since 29.06.2020 at 09.00 AM. In this regard a Case vide DD No. 24A Dated 30.06.2020, has been registered at P.S. Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:



Rubi Kumari

Height: 5' feet, Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Built: Thin, Clothing: Red Colour Suit and Salwar, Black Colour Chunnis and Sleeper in her feet.

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

S.H.O

P.S. Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi Ph: 011-27811933, 27811934

राजस्थान राज्य पथ परिवहन निगम

दायर प्लान्ट, जयपुर में कन्वर्ट किये गये दायर, दयुब फ्लेस, एकसी बैग, पिचोसी पोली एवं रबर डस्ट आदि सामान की नीलामी (जैसा है जैसा है) के आधार पर दिनांक 18.08.2020 को समय दोपहर 11.00 बजे दायर प्लान्ट, बागवाना, जयपुर में की जानी है। विस्तृत शर्त एवं निगम वेबसाइट www.transportrajasthan.gov.in/rstc and spps.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखी जा सकती है। UBN No. - RTC2021GSOB00090 राज.सावा.द/सी/20/2496 दिनांक 52/2020-21 महा प्रबन्धक (दायर)

PAK AVIATION BODY SUSPENDS LICENCE OF 68 MORE PILOTS

Islamabad: Pakistan's aviation authority has suspended another 68 pilots for possessing dubious licences, taking the number of those taken off duty for flying with fake credentials in the country to 161.

They were suspended by the Aviation Division on Monday, the Dawn newspaper reported.

The suspended persons are among the 262 pilots, who were grounded and put under investigation by the aviation ministry last month, for pos-

sessing suspicious licences, according to the newspaper.

Other than the 161 flying licences that have been suspended so far, 28 licences have been cancelled. The decision on the remaining 73 pilots is expected within the next two days. The government was expected to present a report on July 21 before the Supreme Court on measures being taken for the safety of air travellers after Federal Minister for Aviation Ghulam Sarwar Khan had announced in the National

Assembly that the licences of as many as 262 Pakistani pilots were dubious.

However, contrary to the aviation minister's claim, the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority recently declared that all commercial/airline transport pilot licences (CPL/ATPL) issued "are genuine and validly issued". A spokesman for the Aviation Division said all the Pakistani pilots flying on international or domestic routes had been cleared and are experienced. PTI

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIGENDUM					
Sr. No.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	OLD REFERENCE/NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	BIROGATION & I.R. DEPARTMENT GURUGRAM	NO. S11-26137A-DATED 07.07.2020	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM: IN BRIEF DUE TO SITE ERROR AND DOCUMENT NOT UPLOADING ON ENTERPRISING SYSTEM THE DATE HAS BEEN EXTENDED. NOW THE TENDER WILL BE CLOSED ON 29.07.2020 UPTO 5:00PM INSTEAD OF 23.07.2020 UPTO 5:00PM AND TENDER OPEN ON DATE 30.07.2020 AT 2:00PM INSTEAD OF 22.07.2020 AT 2:00PM	e-tenders.hry.nic.in	www.spsd@gmail.com
2	WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT DEPTT. HARYANA (PANDRI PLANT GHARAUNDA)	RATE CONTRACT FOR PURCHASE OF PPE BAGS FOR THE YEAR 2020-21 (TENDER ID:- 2020_HRY_13324_1)	CORRIGENDUM-2ND :- BID SUBMISSION IS EXTENDED UP TO 04.08.2020 AT 5:00PM AND TENDER WILL BE OPENED ON DATED 05.08.2020 AT 11:00 AM	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01748-25385 panjipranbndg@haryana.gov.in
3	WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT DEPTT. HARYANA (PANDRI PLANT GHARAUNDA)	RATE CONTRACT FOR PURCHASE OF MICRO NUTRIENTS FOR THE YEAR 2020-21 (TENDER ID:- 2020_HRY_13323_1)	CORRIGENDUM-2ND :- BID SUBMISSION IS EXTENDED UP TO 04.08.2020 AT 5:00PM AND TENDER WILL BE OPENED ON DATED 05.08.2020 AT 11:30 AM	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01748-25385 panjipranbndg@haryana.gov.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in RO NO. 81875

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE						
Sr. No.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./ AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	PWD B&R, BHIWANI	SPECIAL REPAIR OF COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE AT VILLAGE DHANANA IN BHIWANDISTT.	20.07.2020 04.08.2020	33.84LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01664-242436 pwd-eept-bhiwani@hry.nic.in
2	PWD B&R, REWARI	CONSTRUCTION OF PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRE BUILDING WITH RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION AT VILL. MASANI IN DISTT. REWARI (P.G. ELECTRIFICATION ONLY) (RECALL) + 10 OTHER WORKS	20.07.2020 03.08.2020	1.59 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01274-250515 eeed-rwr.pwd@hry.gov.in
3	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA, CHARKHI DADR, SHKM, GMC, NALHAR, NUH, HARYANA	PROVIDING UNSKILLED, SEMI-SKILLED AND SKILLED MANPOWER UNDER OUTSOURCING POLICY IN THE OFFICE OF LWS DIVISION	CLOSING DATE 04.08.2020	EMD 3 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in/nicgpp/app	01250-297003 xen-wscdr.jrr@gmail.com
4	FOREST DEPARTMENT AMBALA	1. TENDER FOR PURCHASE OF CONSUMABLES FOR MICROBIOLOGY-V + 3 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 10.08.2020	10,000/EACH TENDER	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	tendergmcwata@gmail.com
5	FOREST DEPARTMENT AMBALA	NEW EARTH WORK & PLANTATION + 6 OTHER WORKS	22.07.2020 29.07.2020	1.26 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0171-2550916, dfo_ambala12345@rediffmail.com
6	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DIVISION NO.1, BHIWANI	A/MTS SEWERAGE SCHEME BHIWANI TOWN, "REPAIR OF DAMAGED SEWER MANHOLE/ CONST. OF ADDITIONAL SEWER MANHOLES IN VARIOUS STREETS OF BHIWANI TOWN AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THERETO	21.07.2020 30.07.2020	13300	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	Executive Engineer

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in RO NO. 81869

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 Web: www.atlasjewelleryindia.com
 NOTICE
 Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 under SEBI (Listing Obligations & Disclosure Requirements) Regulations 2015 (LODR), the reconvened meeting of the Board of Directors of the company will now be held on Monday, July 27, 2020 inter alia to consider and approve the Audited Financial Results of the Company for the fourth quarter and financial year ended on 31 March 2020 along with Audit Report of the statutory auditors for the corresponding period.
 A copy of said Notice and Audited Financial Results shall also be available on the company's website at www.atlasjewelleryindia.com and may also be available on the website of the Stock Exchanges at www.bseindia.com.
 Pursuant to this, the Company has decided that the close period (i.e. closure of trading window) under the "ATLAS Code of conduct for prevention of Insider Trading" would commence from Sunday, July 19, 2020 and ends on 48 hours after the results are made public (both days inclusive).
 By the Order of the Board
 FOR ATLAS JEWELLERY INDIA LIMITED
 Sd/-
 Chandan Mahapatra
 (Company Secretary & CFO)

Ashnoor Textile Mills Ltd.
 Regd. Office : Behrampur Road, Village Khandasa, District Gurgaon, Haryana-122001
 E-mail: atml_delhi@yahoo.com
 Phone: 91 0124 4809756
 CIN: L17226DL1984PLC033384
 NOTICE
 NOTICE is hereby given, pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Tuesday, July 28, 2020, inter alia, to consider and approve Audited Financial Results of the company for the Quarter / Year ended March 31, 2020.
 This information is also available on Company's website at www.ashnoortext.com and also on the website of BSE, i.e. www.bseindia.com.
 By the order of Board Sd/-
 Suneel Gupta
 Managing Director
 July 21, 2020
 Gurgaon, Haryana
 DIN-00052084

Sensex soars on vaccine hopes

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity indices ratcheted higher for the fifth session on Tuesday as positive results from early trials of a COVID-19 vaccine candidate buoyed markets globally.

A sharp recovery in the rupee and healthy earnings from some corporates added to the bullish mood here, traders said. The 30-share BSE Sensex, which opened on a firm foot, stayed in the positive territory throughout the session and closed at 37,930.33, up 511.34 points, or 1.37 per cent.

Similarly, the NSE Nifty rose 140.05 points, or 1.27 per cent, to end at 11,162.25.

This is the highest closing for both the benchmarks since March 5.

PowerGrid was the top gainer among the Sensex constituents, spurring 6.14 per cent, followed by Maruti, ICICI Bank, HDFC, Kotak Bank, Axis Bank, and Reliance Industries.

On the other hand, Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv, Asian Paints and Sun Pharma were among the laggards, dropping up to 4.31 per cent.

Global equities rallied after Oxford University's COVID-19 vaccine candidate showed positive trial results, while EU leaders finished a 750-billion euro stimulus plan.

"EU leaders have finally reached an agreement on a massive stimulus plan to combat the pandemic impact. News about successful progression of COVID-19 vaccine trials also boosted the global markets while positive quarterly earnings results, especially from the leaders, provided an additional support to the Indian markets."

"Although the market



uptrend remains intact, investors are advised to be cautious since it seems to be in overvalued territory.

Result-heavy day today, and stock-specific commentary will be looked at," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

BSE energy, oil and gas, bankex, realty, power, finance and auto indices jumped up to 2.94 per cent, while telecom, FMCG, healthcare and teck finished lower.

Broader BSE mid-cap index slipped 0.22 per cent, while the small-cap gauge rose 0.24 per cent.

HDFC Life Insurance logged 6 per cent rise in standalone net profit at ₹451 crore for the first quarter of the current financial year.

Announcing its results post market hours, FMCG major Hindustan Unilever reported a 5.7 per cent increase in consolidated net profit to ₹ 1,897 crore for the June quarter.

The coronavirus vaccine developed by the University of Oxford appears safe and induces a strong immune response within the body, scientists announced on Monday

after the first phase of "promising" human trials against the deadly disease.

In India, AIIMS-Delhi also began recruiting volunteers for conducting human

₹ rises to 2-week high on hopes of Covid-19 vaccine

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee rose by 17 paise to close at a two-week high of 74.74 against the US dollar on Tuesday tracking positive domestic equities and hopes of a COVID-19 vaccine.

At the interbank forex market, the domestic unit opened on a strong note at 74.79 against US dollar.

During the session, it touched an intra-day high of 74.73 and a low of 74.87 against the US dollar. The local unit finally settled at 74.74, up 17 paise over its previous close.

It had settled at 74.91

clinical trials of the indigenously developed COVID-19 vaccine candidate Covaxin.

Bourses in Shanghai, Hong Kong, Tokyo and Seoul ended on a positive note.

Stock exchanges in Europe were also trading with significant gains in early deals.

The number of COVID-19 cases around the world has crossed 1.46 crore. In India, the number of infections has spiked to 11.55 lakh, according to the Health Ministry.

Meanwhile, international oil benchmark Brent crude futures climbed 2.08 per cent to USD 44.18 per barrel.

In the forex market, the rupee appreciated 17 paise to close at 74.74 against the US dollar.

Green shoots: Downslide in vehicle registration eases in June

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The downslide in vehicle registration eased in June, but was still deep in the red on a year-on-year basis.

Accordingly, the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations' data showed that vehicle registration in June declined by 42 per cent on a YoY basis to 9,84,395 units from 16,97,166 units off-take during the like month of last year.

In May, the downslide rate in vehicle registration had plunged by 88.87 per cent on a YoY basis.

On a sequential basis, June's vehicle registrations were higher than that of May, when the off-take stood at 2,02,697 units.

Notably, the trend shows that India's auto sector continued to reel under the economic impact of the Covid-19 outbreak.

Besides, the data showed that registration of personal vehicles fell 38.34 per cent to 1,26,417 units last month, and that of commercial vehicles plunged 83.83 per cent to 10,509 units.

In the two-wheeler segment, 7,90,118 vehicles were registered, which was 40.92 per cent lower than the 13,37,462 units registered a year ago, the FADA data showed.

However, the data showed that tractor registration during the month under review grew by 10.86 per cent to 45,358 units.

Commenting on the data, FADA President

Centre mulls disinvestment in banking, insurance sectors

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre is planning to expand its disinvestment plans and considering to bring two key sectors - banking and insurance - into the ambit of its new disinvestment policy, officials sources said.

A new disinvestment or privatisation policy is in the making and people in the know of things said that a draft cabinet note is being prepared for the same.

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO), the Finance Ministry and the Niti Aayog have already discussed the inclusion of insurance sector for strategic disinvestment and the banking sector is likely to be discussed upon later.

Among the insurance companies, the Life Insurance

Corporation of India will not be part of this disinvestment process.

There are a total of eight state-run insurers, including six general insurance companies and one reinsurance company.

Of late, the Government had to infuse capital into the general insurance companies as they were undercapitalised.

Earlier this month, the Union Cabinet approved capital infusion of ₹12,450 crore into three state-run insurance companies - the Oriental Insurance Company, the National Insurance Company and the United India Insurance Company. The approved amount also includes ₹2,500 crore infused in FY 2019-20. In the last Budget on February 1, the Government had set aside ₹6,950 crore for recapitalisation

of the three public sector general insurance companies.

Further, the talks of stake sale in banks, interestingly, comes just over couple of months after the merger of 10 public sector banks came into effect on April 1. With the merger coming into effect, India currently has 12 public sector banks, down from 27 in the year 2017. The consideration of widening the ambit of the privatisation plan comes as the government seems confident of a successful stake sale in PSU oil major BPCL, the bidding date for which ends this month. Several global and domestic oil giants have shown interest in buying the 52 per cent stake in the state-run oil company, according to people in the know of things.

During the announcement

of the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' economic package in May, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had said that the Centre will come up with a new Public Sector Enterprise Policy, and open up all the sectors to the private sector.

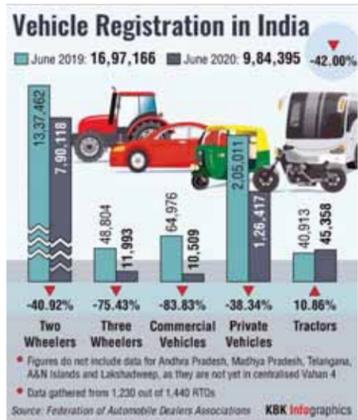
She had said that under the new policy, a list of strategic sectors requiring the presence of PSEs in public interest will be notified and in these sectors, at least one enterprise will remain in the public sector while the private sector will also be allowed.

The Minister had said that to minimise wasteful administrative costs, the number of enterprises in the strategic sector will ordinarily be only one to four and the others will be privatised, merged or brought under holding companies.

India eyes FTAs with Latin America to support domestic EV plan

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

New Delhi: India proposes a major shift in its foreign trade policy, that will explore free trade agreements only with countries that can support its 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' mission and provide it necessary raw materials, critical components and equipment required to support manufacturing activities. As a 1st step in this direction, Dept for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade of the Commerce Ministry has proposed entering into FTAs and mining agreements with resource-rich countries in Latin America and Africa. In an internal presentation made by the dept on augmenting industrial growth in India, it has said such focused FTA arrangements will help country to boost electric vehicle penetration as countries such as Bolivia, Argentina, Chile, Congo, and South Africa are rich in mineral resources, particularly lithium, cobalt. IANS



Ashish Harshraj Kale said: "Unlock 1.0 coupled with increase in demand from the rural market has boosted the retail sales with respect to the May numbers."

"At the end of June, almost 100 per cent dealership outlets (showrooms and workshops) were operational across the country, barring a few cities and towns which have once again implemented stringent lockdown."

Govt notifies two Ordinances for barrier-free farm trading

New Delhi: The Govt has notified two Ordinances which seek to provide barrier-free trade for farmers' produce outside the notified farm mandis, and empowers farmers to enter into farming agreements with private players prior to production for sale of agri-produce. The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Ordinance and the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Ordinance were promulgated on June 5, 2020. However, the Union Agriculture Ministry notified the two Ordinances on July 20. According to the notification, the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce Ordinance allows intra-state and inter-state trade of farmers' produce outside the Government notified mandis.

India e-commerce to grow 27 per cent

Reliance to capture half of online grocery sales: Goldman

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's e-commerce business is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 27 per cent to reach USD 99 billion by 2024, Goldman Sachs said projecting that Reliance Industries would capture half of the online grocery sales through its Facebook.

In a report titled 'Global Internet: e-commerce's steepening curve', Goldman Sachs said the COVID-19 pandemic has driven a doubling of penetration of e-commerce globally with categories such as consumer packaged goods driving as much as three years of penetration growth in three months.

"We forecast India e-commerce will reach USD 99 billion

by 2024, growing at a 27 per cent CAGR over 2019-24, with grocery and fashion/apparel likely to be the key drivers of incremental growth in our view," it said. Online penetration of retail is expected to reach 10.7 per cent by 2024, versus 4.7 per cent in 2019.

"The biggest near term theme in India internet, in our view, is the foray of Reliance Industries (India's largest market-cap company with presence across sectors such as energy, telecom, and retail) into e-commerce, and the company's tie-up with WhatsApp for online grocery," it said.

Facebook has picked up a 9.99 per cent stake in Jio Platforms, the subsidiary of RIL that houses the country's youngest but biggest telecom company as well as an array of apps. RIL's e-commerce venture, JioMart plans to use Facebook's WhatsApp to connect local grocery stores with customers.

Higher forex kitty to lower borrowing cost, net more foreign funds: Report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The record high forex reserves of USD 516 billion, of which USD 81 billion added since governor Shaktikanta Das has assumed office, will help greater foreign fund inflows and lower the cost of overseas funds for corporates, says a report. Governor Das' efforts since assuming office in December 2018, resemble those of the Bimal Jalan-YV Reddy era a decade ago when the reserves touched for the first time to adequately cover imports, and the reserves at over USD 516 billion are sufficient to buffer the economy against any contagion, Bank of America said in a report on Tuesday. The present forex reserves are sufficient to cover 14.9 months of imports, which are around 20 per cent of GDP, said the report, adding pre-Covid, the import cover was 11.4 months.

India's GDP to contract 6.1% in FY21: Nomura

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Economic activity continues to remain weak and will lead to a 6.1 per cent contraction in India's GDP in the current fiscal, a foreign brokerage said on Tuesday.

The Reserve Bank is likely to pause at the upcoming policy review in August and cut rates by 25 basis points each in the October and December reviews, Japanese brokerage Nomura said in a report.

All the analysts expect a

contraction in the GDP due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has impacted both supply and demand forces in the economy since March. Official data also suggests a surge in inflation, which will further drag down the GDP in real terms.

Nomura said the June quarter will be the 'nadir' for a growth perspective and the economy will contract by 15.2 per cent and the GDP will never come into the positive territory in the remaining part

of this fiscal.

It estimated contractions of 5.6 per cent in September quarter, 2.8 per cent for December quarter and 1.4 per cent in the March quarter, which will give a full fiscal GDP at negative 6.1 per cent.

"Overall, aggregate demand continues to lag aggregate supply, especially due to weak services activity and subdued urban consumption demand," it said.

Demand has taken a larger hit from the lockdown, like-

ly reflecting higher precautionary savings by consumers amid rising income uncertainty.

In contrast, the supply side is constrained only to the extent mandated by the rules, it said.

The brokerage said the growth estimates are arrived at after analysing 'ultra' high frequency indicators such as various mobility indices, employment and electricity demand to glean the direction of the growth trajectory.

SEARCH FOR MISSING BOY



General public is hereby informed that one boy Namely: Rajan, S/o Paras Ram, R/o Jhuggi No. 283, Rakhi Market, Zakhira, New Delhi. Age: 6 years, Present 13 years, Height: 3'6", Hair: Short & Black, Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Built: Thin, Wearing: Sky blue color Sweater, Khakhi colour Pant and black & red colour Shirt and red colour Chappal, has been missing since

11.02.2013 from his home, Delhi. In this regard a FIR No. 32/13, U/s 363 dated 11.02.2013 has been lodged at P.S. Moti Nagar, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this boy but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this boy kindly inform to the following.

SHO P.S. Moti Nagar, Delhi Ph. 011-25101150 8750871125 DP/144/WD/2020

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that a male namely Parshant Kumar Moriya, S/o: Parmod Kumar Moriya, R/o: B-41, Lal Quarter Minto Road, New Delhi has been missing since 13.07.2020 from the area of P.S. Kamla Market, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 43A, dated 14.07.2020 has been registered at P.S. Kamla Market, Delhi. The description of missing male is as under:

Name: Parshant Kumar Moriya, Age: 30 Years, Height: 5'3", Face: Long, Complexion: Fair, Built: Thin, Wearing: Pink Color Line Dhar Shirt, Blue Jeans and Brown Color Shoes on his feet.

If anyone have any information about this missing male please inform P.S. Kamal Market, Delhi.

Web: http://cbi.nic.in, Email: cbc@cbi.gov.in Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639 SHO Police Station, Kamal Market, Delhi Ph: 011-23230623, 8750870424 DP/214/CD/2020

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY



General Public is hereby informed that one person Namely: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, Address: Unknown, was found dead at near Mori Gate, Gol Chakkar, Kashmere Gate, Delhi on 15.07.2020 in the area of P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi. In this regard a case has been lodged vide FIR No. 155/20 U/s 279/304-A IPC dated 15.07.2020 at P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi. The description of the dead person is as under:- Age: Approx 50 years, Sex: Male, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Long, Built: Normal, Wearing: White colour shirt and grey colour half pant. If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned.

SHO P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi Ph.: 011-23967889, 8750870123 DP/388/N/2020

SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED BOY

General Public is hereby informed that one boy (depicted in the photo) namely Mohd Taleem S/o Kaleem Aalam R/o H.No. A-114, A Block, Greeland School, Shastri Park, Delhi Aged-15 Years has been reported kidnapped since 29.06.2020 from his residence vide FIR No.317/20 Dated 29.06.2020 registered at Police Station Shastri Park, Delhi. His physical description is as under:-



Complexion: Shallow, Height: 4'7", Face: Round, Built: Normal, Clothing: Blue checked Shirt and Blue Coloured Jeans Pant.

Any person having any information/Clue about this kidnapped boy, may inform SHO, Shastri Park, Delhi at E-mail: cbc@cbi.gov.in or website: http://cbi.nic.in

Delhi- SHO, Shastri Park, Delhi Tel.: 011-24368638 or 24368641 SHO, Shastri Park, Delhi Tel.: 011-22170120, 22170106 DP/188/NE/2020 Mob.: 8750870723

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one unidentified dead body of male Namely: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: about 20-25 years, Height: 5' 5", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Built: Normal, Wearing: Pink colour Shirt and brown colour pant, who was found at Tubewell No. 32 of Delhi Jal Board, Pusta Road, Burari, Delhi. In this regard a case DD No. 9A U/S 174 Cr. PC Dated 14.11.2019 has been registered at P.S. Burari, Delhi.



Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

Sd/- SHO P.S. Burari, Delhi Tel.: 011-27616844 DP/387/N/2020(UIDB)

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one boy namely Manoj S/o Desh Raj R/o B-517 JJ Colony, Madi Pur, New Delhi has been missing/kidnapped from his residence since 29.06.2020. In this regard, a case vide FIR No. 638/2020 Dated 29.06.2020 U/S 363 IPC has been registered at P.S. Punjabi Bagh, Delhi. The description of the missing/kidnapped boy is as under.



Age: 17 Years & 6 Months, Complexion: Wheatish, Height: 5' 6", Face: Long, Built: Thin, Wearing: Red colour T-Shirt & blue colour jeans and black colour plastic chappal in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out him but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing boy then please inform P.S. Punjabi Bagh, Delhi at following Tel No. / e-mail: cbc@cbi.gov.in and Website: http://cbi.nic.in

Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 Fax No. 011-24368639 Sd/- S.H.O. P.S. Punjabi Bagh, Delhi Ph: 011-25225615 DP/151/WD/2020



Newage skills like digital marketing and data analytics are in high demand. Vocational education can step in to fill the gap, says ANKIT SHYAMSUKHA

'Upskill to be job-ready'

PROF CHRISTOPHER ABRAHAM tells SHALINI SAKSENA that the premium learning online courses are curated keeping in mind the critical skills that will be required for professionals to succeed in an ever-changing economy



Prof Christopher Abraham
CEO & Head, Dubai Campus
SP Jain School of Global Management

■ What is Premium Learning Online (PLO)?

The PLO is a unique learning model, carefully designed to be on par with face-to-face classes on campus. This new technology will be used to deliver 13 short online courses for undergraduates, post-graduates and working professionals. These 30-60-hour courses are curated specifically to cater to the growing trend of upskilling in a fast-evolving and uncertain world.

■ How does it work?

The online courses are taught by top international faculty using a lab-style approach, where students learn by doing and practical application. As opposed to only listening to a lecture in a traditional classroom, students are given a practical problem to solve every 15 minutes, in a study group comprising three-five students. Through this, students get the chance to apply theory to practice in an engaging environment, and get immediate actionable feedback. The findings are then presented to the rest of the class. Unlike monotonous recorded lectures, students get the chance to learn, interact and collaborate with professors and peers real-time, thereby making the learning process engaging and enriching

■ What are the benefits of PLO?

The PLO courses are curated keeping in mind the critical skills that will be required for professionals to succeed in an ever-changing economy. The curriculum is packed with projects, case studies, pitches, and group discussions with the objective to ensure that students and professionals develop in-demand job skills and enhance their employability and career progression.

Participants can acquire various new and relevant skills with the cutting-edge curriculum and advance their career in high-demand fields like Business Management, Data Science, Digital Marketing, Innovation & Entrepreneurship, Technology and more.

■ Who can benefit from this programme?

The courses are carefully designed for students (undergraduates and postgraduates) who want to learn new skills and make themselves job-ready, as well as for working professionals who wish to upskill themselves in order to accelerate in their careers. Upon completion, students earn a certificate of completion from SP Jain School of Global Management, a leading Australian business school ranked No 12 in the world by Forbes -2019 -2021), which helps them add immediate value to their career.

The writer is CEO, ICA Edu Skills

TRAINED MANPOWER IS KEY

With technology becoming the core of everything during the pandemic, we have witnessed many advancements and usage of technology, which otherwise would have taken at least another six years. It almost feels like we have taken a leap of six years when it comes to the usage of technology in our daily lives.

Therefore, proper vocational education also demands the adaptation of technology at the Godspeed so that we can align our thoughts in such a way that a product should be manufactured in the least possible time and delivered via technology to the consumer as early as possible.

In order to fight the economic crisis of pandemic, an individual should be skilled enough so that companies can hire him just because he has all the requisite skills to speed up their delivery process.

The Government should also give special focus on the vocation education in order to sail through the economic slowdown. Vocational education is the backbone of every developed nation.

For example- China has a huge platform for vocational training. They make sure that their training

reaches to the last mile of the country so that well-trained people can be placed in the industry. So, this sector needs a push from the government.

Here are some of the ways through which vocational education can be strengthened.

In our country, vocational education is often clubbed with schools, colleges and universities. It needs to be given a distinct identity in addition to importance. The lack of nodal body to control this vocational education provided by the private players show there is a lot of miscommunication.

This is the best time when any support from the Government and a push in the vocational education can ensure a highly skilled India, which is a step towards self-reliance. The move will also attract a lot of investment. For example: Industries go to China because they get trained manpower there and it's easy any day to set up a company there as compared to other countries like India.

It only takes a matter of a day to collect the manpower besides land and others. But, finding a skilled manpower is never an issue there. It's a challenge in many other countries,

In order to fight the economic crisis, an individual should be skilled enough so that companies can hire him because he has all the requisite skills to speed up their delivery process

where vocational education has not been promoted like other streams of education. Importance of trained manpower is the need

As people have been losing jobs due to the coronavirus pandemic, it shows the need of training has become the only pivotal thing at the moment.

The pandemic has highlighted the importance of training in every organisation and trained manpower. It has been seen that skill has always opened doors for many opportunities in our country. We need a big push to come out of the pandemic. There are lots of vocations which cannot be trained online such as stitching, hospitality and nursing.

So, Government should give permission to start any such vocation. All the industries and institutions should embrace the change. With the kind of market we have, everybody has the issue of cash in hand. In our country, the penetration of vocational education is one of the lowest in the world. The entire community especially the youngsters, who are in the age bracket of 21 to 35 year, they need to unlearn and relearn. With a lot of doors being closed, there are 1000 new opportunities are also getting

generated. But the problem is, we don't have the skills required for these jobs.

For example: During the pandemic, the number of websites created in last three months is almost equal to the websites created in a year's time. A lot of new skills and avenues have opened up. Newage skills like digital marketing, data analytics are in high demand

People have shifted to their own home cities because of safety reasons or they have lost their jobs. Now they need to know the skills which are in demand in their particular city. If you are in Bengaluru, you need to know IT skills but when you are in Gujarat, you need to acquire industry skills to get jobs. People should identify skills they need and similarly find the best people/company who can acquire the best skills for that.

In India specialisation is talked about but rarely practiced. Example: You go to an ENT specialist when you have a throat/ear/nose issue but you go to a orthopedic? Similarly, why not going to a specialist for your career? Do career and skills not deserve equal if not higher importance?

The Internet is revolutionising the education system in India. With the novel coronavirus outbreak that forced the entire country to shut down, e-learning and work from home, among others, have become new normal. Smart classrooms and mobile technology are not only transforming education in highly paid private schools, but it is gradually making inroads in government schools.

Every sector is grappling to deal with the unprecedented situation. While it has been slightly easier for corporate houses to adopt work from home and continue business as usual, the situation has been challenging for the education system as it is slow to adopt changes. With disruptions happening everywhere, several concerned academicians,

politicians, scholars, and bureaucrats support the need for reinventing the education system.

The digital wave is transforming the traditional education system in India. Though the crisis is disastrous, it is making our educational institutes technologically advanced and equipped with new-age tools and techniques. However, students and teachers have made bigger adjustments as learning has always been in classrooms and many of them are not well equipped with technology to avail of remote learning.

Digitised Education System: A Boon Amidst Crisis

The crisis followed by prolonged lockdown has accelerated the adoption of digital technology by educational institutes

MINDIT

and online education platforms and data management methods have been forced to work in tandem. Many educational institutes are leveraging the situation as an opportunity to experiment and position smart tools to make education delivery possible and meaningful amidst the crisis.

While there is uncertainty on when the schools and colleges will re-open, they are continuously striving to not let the crisis hamper the curriculum. With digital transformation, the focus is to be more productive and efficient while developing improved and innovative professional skills

through online learning and assessment.

While we see a transformation from teacher-centric education to student-centric education, virtual classrooms are helping to continue and enhance the engagement between the teacher and learners as close to the classroom type experience. Moreover, smart classrooms provision everything from teachers-parent meetings to staff-management meetings.

In a move to aid the education system when colleges and schools remain shut, government at all level — Centre and sState, as well as, private players are taking

various initiatives to support and benefit the students. Also, the government has taken numerous efforts to ensure that the impact of the crisis on education is least.

To make sure that students continue their learning during school closures, various e-learning portals, and apps like e-Pathshala, Swayam, Diksha portal and STEM based games have been launched by the Government and education bodies. Online learning is increasingly seen as a revolutionary experience in the education system. Major world changing events often become an inflexion point for swift innovation like the growth of e-commerce post SARS. Though it is not the right time to predict, there might be an unprecedented rise of e-learning post COVID-19 wherein the best

of faculty will be available from across the globe to students.

What came as a rescue from the crisis, is popularising because of improved attendance, competency-based learning, creating high calibre learning pathways for future, trackable learning, high engagement, fewer distractions, and quick assessment. The online assessment platforms are continuously making efforts to improve their products considering the limited bandwidth. A lot has already been planned and implemented and more improvement is underway. Quality of faculty and its familiarity with digital teaching technologies combined with the quality of IT infrastructure are important parameters foreseen in the future.

The writer is Kiran Dham, CEO, Globus Infocom Ltd



liveliness, skills and enterprises, and agri-business and value chains.

The IHMR University invites application for Late Shri PD Agarwal Scholarship for students enrolling for its two-year MBA in Rural Management course. The university is offering 21 scholarships in two categories.

The first category of scholarships will cover 20 per cent of the total tuition fee on a first-come-first-serve basis. This is available to the first 20 students with 50 per cent and above marks in graduation. The second category of the scholarship will cover 50 per cent of the total tuition fee and is only for one student with 50 per cent and above in CAT/XAT. The tuition fee for the two-year course is ₹5,25,000.

The amount of scholarship will be adjusted in the fee and will not be disbursed directly to the student.

The MBA in Rural Management course by IHMR University is committed to developing a cadre of trained professional managers. They can manage rural development organisations and programmes in both the public and the private sectors.

The course admits 30 students every year and focuses on rural-urban linkages and inter-dependencies, water, sanitation and nutrition, child development, rights and protection,

The University of Indianapolis invites applications for its International Student Grant based on students' merit. By providing the 30% tuition fee annually, this grant will assist students to achieve their educational goals without any hurdles. Indian students can apply.

Eligibility: You should be an international student; you should have minimum GPA: B or above. You must be accepted into any undergraduate degree programme at the University of Indianapolis. Aspirants must submit the following documents: Pre-qualification degree, copies of academic transcripts, certificates of English language proficiency, a statement, and a copy of passport. **Admission requirements:** All high school diploma holders will be selected for an undergraduate degree programme at the university.

Language requirement: Applicants must have sufficient knowledge of English if their first language is not English. The minimum requirement is TOEFL 70, IELTS 6.0, or PTEA 54.

How to apply: Applicants don't need to make a formal application. They will automatically be identified once they are admitted.

Application deadline: The last date is November 1, 2020.

MOBILE APP DEVELOPMENT AT BLUEHATT

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹18,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/4583425
Deadline: August 13, 2020

HUMAN RESOURCES (HR) AT TOPHIRE

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹15,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/4583431
Application deadline: August 13, 2020

DIGITAL MARKETING AT TYPICAL COMIC

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/4583434
Application deadline: August 13, 2020

GRAPHIC DESIGN AT MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/4583435
Application deadline: August 12, 2020

UI/UX DESIGN AT PLATFORM TECH SOLUTIONS

Location: Chandigarh, Mohali, Panchkula
Stipend: ₹10,000-₹13,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/4583437
Application deadline: August 11, 2020

STORYTELLING & VIDEOGRAPHY AT THE/NUDGE FOUNDATION

Location: Ranchi, Lohardaga
Stipend: ₹12,000-₹15,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/4583438
Application deadline: August 9, 2020

LINUX SERVER ADMINISTRATION (CLOUD) AT ORBONIX LABS

Location: Bhubaneswar
Stipend: ₹5,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/4583439
Application deadline: August 10, 2020

STUDY ABROAD

5 key visa changes to ease student woes

Australia has made changes in its visa policy to accommodate Indian students who want to pursue higher education in the country

During the challenging period for higher education, the Australian Government has announced five key changes to accommodate international students

including Indian students: ■ The Government will recommence granting student visas in all locations lodged outside Australia.

This means when borders re-open, students will already have visas and be able to make arrangements to travel.

■ International students will be able to lodge a further student visa application free of charge if they are unable to complete their studies within their original visa validity due to COVID-19.

■ Current student visa holders studying online outside Australia due to COVID-19 will be able to use that study to count towards the Australian study requirement for a post-study work visa.

■ Graduates who held a student visa will be eligible to apply

for a post-study work visa outside Australia if they are unable to return due to COVID-19.

■ Additional time will be given for applicants to provide English language results where COVID-19 has disrupted access to these services.

Study Group Managing Director for Australia, Alex Chevrolle, said: "These announcements send an important and timely signal to students considering studying in Australia and give confidence that they can start applying for their visas now. Study Group has been working closely with partners across the higher education sector and government to strengthen our message to potential students, and these policies will help us show that Australia is putting its welcoming words into action. The principle is that international students can start their courses online and complete them onshore when borders reopen and it's safe to do so."

Students who have enquiries about specific visa issues can find further details from Australia's immigration department: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au>.

IN BRIEF

JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR FRESHERS

The Internshala has announced the launch of fresher jobs on the platform where it will offer verified and premium job opportunities for freshers and help employers hire talent from its pool of six million-plus job seekers.

With this launch, the final year students and graduates with 0-2 years of work experience will be able to apply to jobs in various profiles including web development, sales and marketing, operations, graphic design, digital marketing, finance, data analytics, and many more.

In addition to in-office job opportunities, Internshala will also be providing permanent remote job opportunities in the wake of COVID-19. Each job on the platform will come with a minimum CTC of ₹3 lakh per annum.

The jobseekers will be able to apply to jobs free of cost. On the other hand, the employers will be charged a fee of ₹4999 per job post. However, to help companies save on their recruitment costs during the pandemic, the employers will also be able to post fresher jobs on the platform for free until October 31, 2020.

NEW PROGRAMMES FOR YOUNG EXECUTIVES

The WileyNXT in collaboration with IIM Lucknow has announced the launch of the Data Driven Product Management course. It is the only executive education programme to converge Product, Marketing, Development and Scale Up Strategy across product lifecycle with Data Analytics and Design Thinking.

The six months of intensive experiential learning is meant to provide learners with an effective and action learning approach, one that outcomes in significant solutions to meaningful problems. The course is made for young product managers, product, marketing and business leads, team members and

technology professionals who drive business capacities, and managers of product design, success and transformation. The course will offer a joint certification from WileyNXT and IIM Lucknow along with Executive Alumni status.

This collaboration will bridge the gap between workplace needs and workforce skilling.

GIM ACADEMIC YEAR STARTS WITH ONLINE CLASSES

The Goa Institute of Management (GIM), a B-school, has commenced its academic year with online classes for its seniors. Students will now be able to attend classes digitally from the safety of their homes.

Among the various programmes, the Post Graduate Diploma in

Management and the Post Graduate Diploma in Healthcare Management have commenced online classes from the first week of July 2020.

Students of the Post Graduate Diploma in Management — part-time programme have classes scheduled over the weekend through the year.

Faculty members have been conducting these classes online since the last three months.

First year students who have just joined the institute will possibly see classes commence in August 2020 as per the guidelines issued by All India Council for Technical Education.

Full-fledged IPL most likely in UAE

Governing Council chairman Brijesh Patel confirms venue for 13th edition for T20 tourney, detailed plan announcement in a week or 10 days

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

With the ICC T20 World Cup's postponement clearing the decks for a full-fledged IPL, the glitzy event's Governing Council will meet in a week or 10 days' time to plan its next course of action, eyeing UAE as the host this year.

An IPL between September and early November has been made possible by the ICC's decision on Monday to postpone the T20 World Cup in Australia, scheduled for October-November, due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"The IPL GC will meet within a week or 10 days and all decisions (including final schedule) will be taken there. As of now, the plan is to have a full fledged IPL comprising 60 games and most likely in the UAE," Patel said.

Asked about the main challenges in conducting the event in current scenario, Patel added: "Just the operational side of it. Whether you do it here or outside, it doesn't matter (with no crowds)."

The franchisees had already been working on their plans for the IPL even before the ICC announcement.



With majority of the Indian players not having access to grounds amid the pandemic, teams will need at least three to four weeks to get them match ready.

Foreign players will fly in directly to the UAE from their respective countries.

"Our players will need at least three to four weeks of training, if not more. We will finalise all our plans once the

BCCI announces the dates. It looks like the IPL will be in the UAE and we are ready for that," a team owner said.

Since India tour Australia for a four-Test series right after the IPL, training of the Test players is also an important issue.

Test specialists like Cheteshwar Pujara and Hanuma Vihari, who are not part of the IPL, are likely to

train for the eagerly-awaited series in a bio-secure environment at the newly-renovated Motera Stadium in Ahmedabad during the time of the IPL.

A few fringe players are expected to join them at Motera along with the Indian team's support staff, which is free during the IPL.

Work from home has become the norm amid the

pandemic, therefore, there is a possibility that IPL commentary will happen from the comfort of the living room, a safer and cost effective-option considering the likes of Sunil Gavaskar, who is 71, are involved.

The viewership is expected to be a record one with people craving for Live cricket, something KXIP co-owner Ness Wadia has said.

However, it remains to be seen how much the broadcasters and teams are able to attract from the sponsors in the current financial climate.

More moot points and questions ahead of the IPL GC meeting:

- 1) More double headers expected (original schedule had only five double headers).
- 2) BCCI will need to provide a Standard Operating Procedure to IPL teams even though they will have their own SOPs in place.
- 3) Will the BCCI compensate teams for not being able to generate gate money this year?
- 4) Will there be virtual commentary from Star Sports? It was seen in the recent 3TC event in South Africa with the likes of Aakash Chopra, Deep Dasgupta and Irfan Pathan commenting from home.

Decision on women's World Cup in two weeks: NZC chief

PTI ■ WELLINGTON

New Zealand Cricket chairman Greg Barclay has said that a decision on the fate of the 2021 Women's World Cup will be taken in the next two weeks.

Barclay's comments came after the International Cricket Council (ICC) on Monday said the event, to be held in New Zealand from February 6 to March 7, was still on schedule despite the Covid-19 threat.

"The decision (about the ODI World Cup) will be made in the next two weeks," Barclay told Radio New Zealand.

"...Because if there is a

need to postpone that event then obviously we need to know that sooner rather than later and likewise if it is to go ahead then we need to make a final decision so that we can throw all the resources necessary to run a first class world event in February."

Though New Zealand is among the least affected nations by the pandemic, possible travel restrictions there and

around the world at that time make the event a bigger logistical challenge.

"How do you get teams travelling around the world, they've got to hub through other countries and what are the implications of that?" Barclay wondered.

"Then getting them through the quarantine restrictions that may be in place and of course all of that comes with a cost and so there are budgetary implications heading into February (but) all of that is surmountable," he added.



CA accept ICC's decision to postpone T20 WC

MELBOURNE: Cricket Australia (CA) on Tuesday said it accepts the ICC's decision to postpone this year's T20 World Cup owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, reiterating that there was considerable risk in hosting 16 teams "in the current environment".

"The COVID-19 pandemic is impacting sporting tournaments across the globe and cricket is not immune," CA's interim chief executive and chief executive of the ICC T20 World Cup 2020, Nick Hockley said in a statement.

"The complexities and risks around hosting a 16-team international event in

October in the current environment ultimately proved sufficient for the ICC to postpone the event," he added.

The global event was supposed to be held from October 18 to November 15 in Australia but the CA, in May itself, had expressed its inability to host amid a second surge of Covid-19 cases in the state of Victoria.

"We accept the ICC's decision to postpone the T20 World Cup in Australia. It was a decision made with the safety and wellbeing of fans, players, officials and staff in mind."

"We are confident that with this decision, we will give

ourselves the best chance to safely welcome fans into the outstanding venues across the country to enjoy watching the world's best men's cricketers compete in this major global event in either 2021 or 2022," Hockley said.

Australia successfully hosted the women's T20 World Cup in February-March this year and the country aims to do the same with the men's event.

"The ICC women's T20 World Cup earlier this year will forever be remembered as a groundbreaking moment in Australian sport, and I have no doubt the men's edition will also be a spectacular event," Hockley said. PTI

Stokes becomes No 1 Test all-rounder

PTI ■ DUBAI

England star Ben Stokes has outdone West Indies captain Jason Holder to become the world's top-ranked Test all-rounder while also attaining a career-best third position among batsmen in the ICC Test Player Rankings, following a match-winning performance at Old Trafford.

Stokes, who trailed Holder by 54 rating points going into the second Test in Manchester, enjoys a lead of 38 points after his memorable knocks of 176 and 78 not out and a match haul of three wickets helped England win by 113 runs and level the three-match series 1-1.

Stokes ended Holder's 18-month reign at the top, becoming the first from England at the summit since Andrew Flintoff in May 2006. His tally of 497 rating points is the highest by any Test all-rounder since Jacques Kallis aggregated 517 in April 2008.

India's Ravindra Jadeja remains in third spot with Australian Mitchell Starc and Ravichandran Ashwin rounding up the top-five.

Among batsmen, Stokes is joint-third with Marnus Labuschagne, only behind Steve Smith and India skipper Virat Kohli, with specialist batsmen like Kane Williamson and Babar Azam below him in the list. His captain Joe Root is ninth while opener Dom Sibley has advanced 29 places to a career-best 35th position after a sturdy first innings 120.

Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane have a dropped a spot each to be eighth and 10th respectively.

Stuart Broad, who was not picked for the opening Test, returned to the top 10 of the bowlers' rankings after claiming three wickets in each innings.

He is now England's top-ranked bowler, one slot ahead of James Anderson, who dropped to 11th after being rested for the match. Chris Woakes, who scalped five in the match to reach the 100-wicket mark, is in 21st position, his highest since late 2016.

For the West Indies, Holder remains the top-ranked West Indies batsman in 41st position despite slipping four places.

He has also dropped a slot among bowlers to take third place, behind Pat Cummins and Neil Wagner.



Indian Eves pull out of proposed Eng tour

London: The Indian women's cricket team has pulled out of the proposed tour of England due to the Covid-19 pandemic, according to media reports.

The Indian women's team was originally slated to play a bilateral series comprising three ODIs and three T20Is against England in June which got postponed due to the coronavirus outbreak.

However, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) announced it was in talks with their Indian and South African counterparts to host a tri-series in September.

"With South Africa due to arrive later in the summer, it had been hoped the three sides would play a tri-series, but the rising number of cases in India mean they will not be able to travel," the BBC reported.

"It is understood England will try to extend the series against the Proteas," the report said.

PTI

Bowlers hold key against India, says Lee

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former speed merchant Brett Lee reckons Australia's pace triumvirate would hold the key during the year-end home Test series against India and is keen to figure out how much the kookaburra ball swings without saliva Down Under.

Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood form a fine pace attack for Australia.

With the ban on saliva due to the Covid-19 pandemic, one of the world's fastest bowlers wants the custodians of the game to come up with an "artificial substance" to maintain the balance between bat and ball.

"Playing at home obviously gives you that advantage, but that said I know that India will pack a full strength squad to tour Australia. I still believe if Australia is to win our bowlers hold the key," Lee said.

The kookaburra seam is not



as pronounced as Dukes or SG Tests balls and the flattening of seam coupled with ban on saliva will make it harder for bowlers of both teams.

"It will definitely change the way the game is played so we don't want to make it even harder for bowlers even more than it is currently is," said the 43-year-old Lee.

India's pace attack, which has been phenomenal in the past

Kohli & Co to undergo two-week quarantine period in Adelaide

Melbourne: India will have to undergo a two-week quarantine period, most likely in Adelaide, once they touch down in Australia for the much-anticipated tour later this year, said Cricket Australia acting chief Nick Hockley.

Hockley's statement is in complete contrast to the views of BCCI president Sourav Ganguly, who had already made it clear that he was not in favour of a two-week quarantine period for the Indian team once they disembark in Australia.

Hockley said all the players and support staff will be provided with the best of the facilities to train within quarantine rules. "The two-week quarantine is pretty well-defined. What we are working on is making sure

that even within that quarantine environment, the players have got the absolute best training facilities, so that their preparation for the matches is as optimal as it can possibly be," Hockley was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo.

"We'll obviously take the guidance of the health experts and the authorities. Whether it's a hotel on-site or hotels in close proximity to venues, it's certainly about creating that environment where we are minimising risk of infections and creating a bio-secure environment is the absolute priority."

The website reported that not just the visiting Indian team but also the IPL-returned Australian cricketers will have to serve the mandatory quarantine period. PTI

We may play two spinners in Eng: Waqar

PTI ■ KARACHI

Pakistan bowling coach Waqar Younis says the nature of pitches in England has changed and it gives them the option of playing two spinners when the Test series begins in hot conditions next month.

Younis said the ongoing England-West Indies series has shown that the pitches at Southampton and Manchester are now slow and sluggish.

"We will see how the pitch behaves in the third Test between West Indies and England at Manchester but there is no doubt that the behaviour of pitches has changed in England," Younis said during an online media interaction. "Early to say who will play but



we have got an idea after the WI Test matches. We are trying to prepare those players who can be effective on such pitches. We are looking at all option look at weather as well it gets hot in August and we might even have to think about playing two spinners as well," Younis said.

The former pacer said the team management will keep an eye on the third Test as well.

Pakistan's first Test against England begins from August 5 at Manchester.

Younis said Pakistan's track record in England was good and he remained optimistic that the team will not disappoint in the coming series.

"I am sure we will not let our supporters and followers down. We will try to make them proud of us with our performances."

'Amir remains part of our plans'

Karachi: Pakistan bowling coach Waqar Younis on Tuesday said he has moved on from the hurt caused by Mohammad Amir's Test retirement last year and considers the pacer a crucial part of the national team's plans going forward.

Having initially pulled out due to the birth of his second child, Amir made himself available for next month's T20 series on Monday. Waqar welcomed him back saying, "Amir remains part of our plans for the future as he is experienced. We want to utilise him if he is up to the mark, if he can win matches

for Pakistan. Next year we have the World Cup."

Waqar defended the decision to call Amir to join the squad in England to replace Haris Rauf.

"We called Amir because he is part of our white ball cricket plans. And if we felt this was the ideal opportunity to assess all our bowlers going forward. It is not about this series but also about future commitments including the World Cups coming up," Waqar said. "We want to see how he is bowling as we want to get a fair idea of which bowlers to take forward and assess them all," he added. PTI

Wolves' Europa fate in own hands

Nuno's side will qualify for Europa League if they win at Chelsea



Daniel Podence, second right, celebrates after scoring Wolves' first goal

AFP ■ WOLVERHAMPTON

Wolves moved closer to a place in the Europa League with a 2-0 win over Crystal Palace, while Sheffield United's own European hopes were dashed by a 1-0 defeat against Everton on Monday.

Premier League table, Brighton guaranteed their Premier League survival with a 0-0 draw against Newcastle.

Wolves, now unbeaten in three games, opened the scoring four minutes before half-time at Molineux.

Andros Townsend lost possession and Joao Moutinho

found Matt Doherty, who crossed for Portuguese midfielder Daniel Podence to head his first goal for Wolves.

Jonny condemned Palace to a seventh successive defeat in the 68th minute, turning to fire home from close-range after Adama Traore and Raul Jimenez carved open the Palace defence.

Nuno Espirito Santo's side climbed to sixth place, one point above Tottenham, and will be certain to qualify for the Europa League if they win at Chelsea in their last game of the season on Sunday.

They would also qualify if Tottenham lose at Palace in their final match.

At Bramall Lane, Sheffield United were handed a second successive defeat, ending their bid to cap a superb first season back in the top-flight by earning a European berth.

History-maker Ronaldo

Cristiano becomes first player to score 50 goals in Premier League, La Liga & Serie A

AFP ■ TURIN

Cristiano Ronaldo put Juventus on the brink of a ninth consecutive Serie A title on Monday after he scored twice in a 2-1 win over Lazio to become the first player to hit 50 goals in Serie A, La Liga and the Premier League.

Juventus ended a three-match winless run thanks to Ronaldo's second-half brace that moves them eight points clear of second-placed Inter Milan with four games remaining. Maurizio Sarri's side could win the title on Thursday against Udinese, or on Sunday at home against Sampdoria, depending on their rivals' results this week.

Praising his star forward Sarri said, "Cristiano is an impressive player because he has the extraordinary ability to complete a quick recovery between games. Not only physically, but



Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates after scoring Juventus first goal against Lazio

above all, mentally. He is a champion with his feet, but also with his head."

Ronaldo grabbed the first goal from the penalty spot just after the break and was handed a tap-in three minutes later by teammate Paulo Dybala.

The Portuguese has scored

30 goals this season, equal with Lazio's Ciro Immobile, who ended his three-match drought with a late penalty. His second was his 50th goal in Serie A, after also passing the landmark in England and Spain.

The 35-year-old is now looking to become the first

player to finish top scorer in three of the top five European leagues after doing so England and Spain. "Records are always important, but the team victory is more important," said Ronaldo.

"I'm helping the team to win. It's important to win the title. There are four games left and we know that Serie A is a difficult championship." Lazio's hopes of a first Serie A title since 2000 are effectively over as the defeat leaves them fourth, 11 points adrift of the leaders. Just one point had separated Juventus from Lazio when Serie A returned last month following the three-month coronavirus lockdown. But Simone Inzaghi's side have been hit by injuries and poor form since the return, losing five of eight games, with four of those defeats coming in the last five matches.

ISL in Kerala or Goa, I-League set for Kolkata

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Super League may be held either in Goa or Kerala while Kolkata is set to host all the I-League matches with likely kick-off in November, as the All India Football Federation (AIFF) seeks to stage both the competitions in a single city in view of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The League Committee of the AIFF, which met virtually on Tuesday, deliberated on the likely venues and dates of the two top leagues in the country.

"FSDI (ISL organisers) is in conversation with authorities in Kerala and Goa to explore possibilities of hosting ISL season in one state," a release said following the League Committee meeting chaired by AIFF senior vice-president Subrata Dutta.

"The Committee tentatively decided to host the 2020-21 Hero I-League at Kolkata provided the State Association obtains the necessary approval in writing from the State Government."

The Committee deliberated at length on the dates for the kick-off of various youth league competitions and unanimously felt that a final decision on the venues and dates would be taken soon in accordance with Government guidelines pertaining to operational and medical aspects.

Regarding the second division league, the Committee tentatively proposed a kick-off in the third week of September, taking into consideration the transfer window, which would end on October 20. A decision on this will be taken on August 14.