

USIBC INDIA IDEAS SUMMIT

Growth agenda must place poor, vulnerable at core: PM Modi

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said that it had taken a global pandemic to remind countries across the world how important resilience is in the face of external shocks which cannot always be predicted with precision.

"Global economy over the recent past has focused extensively on efficiency and optimism but on the way we for-

got to focus on resilience against external shocks and it has taken a global pandemic to remind us how important resilience is," the Prime Minister said referring to the Covid-19 pandemic which has affected people in over 185 nations across the world.

"In our growth agenda we must put the poor and vulnerable at the core. We all agree that the world is in need of a



better future. And, it is all of us who have to collectively give

shape to the future. I firmly believe that our approach to the future must primarily be a more human-centric one," PM Modi said. He was addressing the India Ideas Summit hosted by the US-India Business Council via video conferencing.

PM Modi said that the one of the methods to achieve economic resilience was by building stronger domestic economic capacities. This

meant improved domestic capacity for manufacturing, restoring the health of the financial system and diversification of international trade.

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi invited other countries to invest in India's healthcare sector.

The healthcare sector in India is growing faster than 22 per cent every year. "Our companies are also progressing in

production of medical-technology, telemedicine and diagnostics," he said.

"Today, there is global optimism towards India. This is because India offers a perfect combination of openness, opportunities and technologies. India celebrates openness in people and in governance. Open minds make open market and open markets in turn lead to greater prosperity," PM

Modi said highlighting the achievements of the Indian health infrastructure at the summit.

The Summit is being hosted by the US-India Business Council (USIBC). This year marks the 45th anniversary of the formation of the Council. The theme for this year's India Ideas Summit is 'Building a Better Future'.

The virtual Summit will see

participation from Indian and US Government policymakers, state-level officials, and leaders from business and society. Other key speakers at the Summit include Minister of External Affairs Dr S Jaishankar, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, former US Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley, among others.

PTI

Recent clashes initiated by PLA latest examples of 'unacceptable behaviour' of CCP: Pompeo

Washington: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Wednesday said the recent clashes "initiated" by the Chinese military against India in eastern Ladakh are the latest examples of the "unacceptable behaviour" of the ruling Chinese Communist Party. Pompeo also praised India's recent decision to ban 59 Chinese apps, including TikTok, which he said presents "serious security risks" to the Indian people.

"It's important that democracies like ours work together, especially as we see more clearly than ever the true scope of the challenge posed by the Chinese Communist Party.

"Our infrastructure projects, our supply chains, our sovereignty, and our people's health and safety are all at risk. If we get it wrong," Pompeo said in his virtual keynote address to the annual 'India Ideas Summit' of the US India Business Council.

"The recent clashes initiated by the People's Liberation Army (PLA) are just the latest examples of the Chinese Communist Party's unacceptable behaviour. We were deeply saddened by the deaths of 20 Indian service members. I'm confident that with our concerted efforts, we can protect our interests," he said.

The troops of India and China are locked in a standoff in several areas along the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh since May 5. The situation deteriorated last month following the Galwan Valley clashes that left 20 Indian Army personnel dead.

Pompeo's remarks came a day after US Defence Secretary Mark Esper described the Chinese military's aggressive activities in the region as "destabilising".

Esper also said the US was "very closely" monitoring the situation between India and China

along the Line of Actual Control. In his virtual address, Pompeo commended India's recent decision to ban 59 Chinese mobile apps, including TikTok, that he said present "serious security risks" for the Indian people.

Pompeo said he was happy to report that India is a "rising US defense and security partner in the Indo-Pacific and globally".

Asserting that the United States has never been more supportive of India's security, he said New Delhi too, is an important partner and a key pillar of President Donald Trump's foreign policy.

"We work closely together to make sure that the world intellectual property organisation election was won by someone who respects property rights. It seems pretty basic," Pompeo said amidst Washington's growing dispute with Beijing over intellectual property rights. PTI

Pak files plea for appointment of legal counsel for Jadhav: Report

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

In a unilateral move, the Pakistan government on Wednesday filed a petition in the Islamabad High Court seeking appointment of a "legal representative" for Indian national Kulbhushan Jadhav, according to the Pakistani media.

However, the main parties, including the government of India, have not been consulted ahead of the filing of the application by the Ministry of Law and Justice under a federal ordinance.

The Pakistan Government, in the petition, has asked the court to appoint a legal representative for Jadhav so that Pakistan can fulfil its responsibility to see to the implementation of the International Court of Justice's decision, the Geo News, reported.

Jadhav, the 50-year-old

retired Indian Navy officer, was sentenced to death by a Pakistani military court on charges of espionage and terrorism in April 2017. India approached the International Court of Justice against Pakistan for denial of consular access to Jadhav and challenging the death sentence.

The Hague-based ICJ ruled in July 2019 that Pakistan must undertake an "effective review and reconsideration" of the conviction and sentence of Jadhav and also to grant consular access to India without further delay.

Pakistan enacted an ordinance called the "International Court of Justice Review and Reconsideration Ordinance 2020" on May 20 under which a petition for the review of a military court's decision can be made to Islamabad High Court through an application within 60 days of its promulgation.

CONTEMPT PROCEEDINGS SC notices to Prashant Bhushan, AG

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Wednesday issued notices to Attorney General KK Venugopal and advocate Prashant Bhushan on the contempt proceedings it has initiated against the activist-lawyer for his alleged derogatory tweets against the judiciary.

The apex court directed that Twitter INC be made a party, instead of Twitter India, to the contempt proceedings it has initiated suo motu (on its own) and asked the US-based firm to file a response in the matter.

A bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra was told by Twitter's

counsel that if the top court directs, then the firm would disable the alleged contemptuous tweets of Bhushan.

The bench, which asked the Attorney General to assist in the matter, posted the case for hearing on August 5. The allegedly contemptuous tweets were critical of the top court and posted by Bhushan on Twitter on June 27 and June 29.

Advocate Sajjan Poovayya, appearing for Twitter, told the bench that Twitter India has wrongly been made a party in the matter and it should have been Twitter INC.

The bench, while not-

ing that the correct party in the matter should be Twitter INC and not Twitter India, permitted the company to file an appropriate application in this regard.

The bench also observed that initially the contempt issue was placed before the administrative side of the apex court but it was directed to be listed on the judicial side.

Bhushan has been raising issues pertaining to judiciary and recently he was very critical of the way in which the top court handled the matters related to migrant workers amid the COVID-19 pandemic. PTI

Sonu Punjaban gets 24 yrs...

From Page 1

She also injected drugs to the victim so that the body of the victim became tight and

more suitable for prostitution, police said.

The victim escaped on February 9, 2014 and filed a complaint at Najafgarh police station.

The police is yet to catch all the accused in the case.

Arora was convicted by a special POCSO court under various charges pertaining with kidnapping, etc of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and relevant Sections of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act dealing with prostitution.

A day after her conviction last week, Arora attempted suicide at Delhi's Tihar jail. She was immediately rushed to Deen Dayal Hospital after her condition worsened. She is said to be out of danger now, according to doctors.

Raj Speaker...

From Page 1

"In 1992, a Constitution Bench ruled that the Speaker has the power regarding disqualification. Chief whip of Congress party filed a petition before me & I issued showcause notices to MLAs concerned. After that, the matter was taken to court," Joshi said at a Press conference when he announced the decision to move the highest judiciary.

Joshi said he has directed his counsel to file SLP in the Supreme Court as the Rajasthan HC is intervening even before his decision on the showcause notices to 19 Congress MLAs.

The Speaker said court intervention at the stage of Speaker issuing notices will lead to "constitutional crisis".

Senior advocate and a Congress member in Rajya Sabha Kapil Sibal requested the Chief Justice to list Rajasthan Speaker's appeal against HC urgently. The court said take the matter with concerned registrar who will bring it to court's notice. When Sibal narrated how the HC was wrong, the SC said, "don't argue the case right now."

The rebel leader Sachin Pilot, on his part served a legal notice to party MLA Giriraj Malunga, for claiming that the former had offered him money to join the BJP. "Former Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot has served a legal notice to Congress MLA Giriraj Malunga for his Rs 35 crore bribery allegation," a source close to Pilot said.

associations and state bar councils and sought their response in two weeks.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta accepted the notice on behalf of the Centre, and Mishra on behalf of the BCI.

The top court also issued notice on the transfer petition filed by BCI seeking transfer of similar cases pending in different high courts to the apex court.

"The pandemic has taken a toll on citizens of the country including the legal fraternity," the bench said and noted that as per the BCI rules lawyers are not entitled to take up any other profession to earn livelihood and legal profession is their only source of earning.

It said: "There is constant demand for resumption of normal functioning of courts but the resumption of normal court functioning jeopardises the health of judges, lawyers and staff of courts. Medical advice is not to start physical court hearing.

PTI

respective in jail and were imposed fines of Rs 2,000 each. All sentences would run concurrently, the court said.

The court also ordered payment of Rs 30,000 to the next of kin of each of the deceased and Rs 2,000 to the four injured persons, Vijai Singh, Chandan Singh, Nawab Singh and Babu Lal, in the encounter. Out of 18 persons sent up for trial by the CBI, three policemen, Sita Ram, Neki Ram and Kuldeep, had died during its pendency and the case was abated against them. The three ex-policemen who were acquitted of charges of shielding their colleagues by creating false records are former inspector Kan Singh Shirvi of Bharatpur Crime Branch and head constables Hari Kishan and Govind Prasad. One former policeman, Mahendra Singh, was discharged in the case.

ED raids properties of...

From Page 1

The ED searches came just a day after the CBI questioned a Congress MLA Krishna Poonia and OSD to Rajasthan CM Devaram Saini in connection with the alleged suicide of a police official in Churu district on May 23.

The action by the Central agencies also coincided with the political upheaval in the State due to the tussle between CM Ashok Gehlot and his former deputy Sachin Pilot.

The ED action came after the agency filed a criminal Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) (FIR in police parlance) in a 2007-09 Customs Department case relating to alleged irregularities in the supply of subsidised Muriate of Potash (MOP) to farmers. The Customs case probe had concluded in 2013 with the filing of a chargesheet.

The subsidised fertiliser meant to be supplied to farmers was allegedly exported despite a ban on export of the item. Agrasain Gehlot is the promoter of a seeds and fertiliser company named as Anupam Krishi that was allegedly involved in the diver-

sion and export of the subsidised fertiliser, sources said.

The premises of a former Congress MP, who is alleged to have business ties with Agrasain Gehlot, was also searched by the ED.

Agrasain Gehlot and his company have been slapped with a Customs penalty of about Rs 7 crore in this alleged fertiliser supply scam worth Rs 60 crore, the sources further said.

The ED is also probing an alleged forex law violation case against a Jaipur-based businessman Ratan Kant Sharma, who is alleged to have had business ties with CM Ashok Gehlot's son Vaibhav in the past.

On July 13, the Income Tax Department had carried out multiple raids at over 40 premises of three Rajasthan-based business groups on tax evasion charges leading to the seizure of about Rs 12 crore cash and incriminating documents. The IT Department searches related to premises linked to two State Congress leaders and a business group said to be close to the top party leadership in the State.

Asymptomatic ...

From Page 1

While there's little evidence to suggest reinfections are broadly occurring, health experts have yet to pin down specifics. The latest findings raise concern that protection from reinfection may not last long in those with mild symptoms, which accounts for the majority of cases.

Further studies will be needed "to define a quantitative protection threshold and rate of decline of antiviral antibodies beyond 90 days," according to the researchers led by F Javier Ibarrodo, from the David Geffen School of Medicine at the University of California Los Angeles.

While the protective role of antibodies against infection isn't fully understood, they are generally considered a good representation of some protection against infection in general, according to the report.

On April 24, the World Health Organization (WHO) addressed the question of immunity passports in the context of Covid-19, writing in a statement, "There is currently no evidence that people who have recovered from Covid-19 and have antibodies are pro-

tected from a second infection." It's still not known if people can be infected more than once with the novel coronavirus. But there are other, related coronaviruses that cause common colds, and people can and do catch those repeatedly.

In another study from King's College London showed that the level of antibodies may drop to a degree that makes them undetectable as soon as three months after infection. However, the body also mounts other forms of immunity responses, including from so-called T-cells, which appear to play a role in protecting against reinfection with Covid-19.

In Sweden, the nation's top health authority said on Tuesday that people who have had the virus are likely to be immune for at least six months after being infected, whether they've developed antibodies or not. In new guidance, the Swedish Public Health Agency said it's now considered safe for individuals who've been infected to come into contact with people in high-risk groups.

A survey of people in Spain released earlier this month found similar results.

11 former cops get life for Raja ...

From Page 1

The encounter had taken place in Deeg grain market a day after Raja Man Singh, then contesting the state Vidhan Sabha election as an independent candidate, had allegedly banged his jeep into former Rajasthan's chief minister Shiv Charan Mathur's helicopter.

According to the prosecution, he was also accused of damaging some publicity material 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.

Days after the killings of the royal family chief and his two colleagues, the case was transferred by the then Central Government to the CBI on February 27, 1985.

The trial was later shifted from a Jaipur special court to Mathura in Uttar Pradesh by

the Supreme Court in November 1989 on the plea of complainant Vijay Singh, a son-in-law of the slain chief of the erstwhile riyasat.

"Besides undergoing life imprisonment, all the eleven convicts will have to furnish a fine of Rs 10,000 each failing which they will have to undergo additional imprisonment of two months each," District & Session Judge Thakur announced in a jam-packed courtroom.

Besides being held guilty of murder, all 11 former policemen were also convicted for "committing riots armed with deadly weapons" and being part of the unlawful assembly committing an offence with common objective under sections 148 and 149 of the IPC respectively.

For these two offences, all 11 convicts were sentenced to two years and six months

respectively in jail and were imposed fines of Rs 2,000 each. All sentences would run concurrently, the court said.

The court also ordered payment of Rs 30,000 to the next of kin of each of the deceased and Rs 2,000 to the four injured persons, Vijai Singh, Chandan Singh, Nawab Singh and Babu Lal, in the encounter. Out of 18 persons sent up for trial by the CBI, three policemen, Sita Ram, Neki Ram and Kuldeep, had died during its pendency and the case was abated against them. The three ex-policemen who were acquitted of charges of shielding their colleagues by creating false records are former inspector Kan Singh Shirvi of Bharatpur Crime Branch and head constables Hari Kishan and Govind Prasad. One former policeman, Mahendra Singh, was discharged in the case.

opened fire and Joshi fell on the ground.

The accused fled the spot, while his elder daughter rushed back to him and sat next to him on the road looking for help, the purported footage showed. Shahnoon and Akash have been arrested while Ravi is still absconding, police said. Besides them, the police have also arrested seven men identified as Mohit, Dalbir, Yogendra, Shaqir, two men who go by the same name of Abhishek, and another accused Akash (besides the one who was named in the FIR), the officials said.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has announced a financial aid of Rs 10 lakh for Joshi's family, a job for his wife and free education for his children, an official spokesperson said in Lucknow.

Criticising UP's law and

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BARIPADA

O-179 "e" Procurement Notice for PMGSY-I (RCIP-2) (Tr-I) ADB/T-I Works

Identification No.- Online Tender- PMGSY ADB/T-I N.C.B. No. 169 for 2020-21

Letter No. 1260 Date: 20.7.2020 //

- Name of the work :- Construction, of Balance PMGSY-I (RCIP-2) ADB/T-I works in the District of Mayurbhanj for the Year 2017-18.
- Total No. of works :- 02 Nos. (Two Nos.)
- Estimated Cost :- As per annexure Rs.229.25 lakhs to Rs.229.58 lakhs (approximately).
- Eligible Class of Contractor :- 'B' & 'A' Class (of Odisha P.W.D.) or relevant Class of other licensing authorities.
- Period of Completion :- 12 (Twelve) Calendar months for works below Rs.5.00 crores up to Rs.3.00 crores and 09 (Nine) Calendar months for the works below Rs. 3.00 crores as specified in DTCN.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender On-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of opening Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/S E.R.W. Circle, Baripada	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Supervising Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Baripada	PMGSY ADB/T-I Online N.C.B. No. 169	DL 28.07.2020 at 11.00 A.M.	DL 17.08.2020 up to 3.00 P.M.	DL 16.08.2020 up to 1.00 P.M.	DL 17.08.2020 at 3.30 P.M.	DL 25.08.2020 at 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the website: www.pmgstenders.gov.in

Any Corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the above e_tender website only.

Superintending Engineer, R.W. Circle, Baripada

OIPR-25130/11/0003/2021

Invitation for Quotations
Shipra Srishti Apartment Owners Association Invites quotations from companies engaged in providing Facility Management Services for providing maintenance services at Shipra Srishti, 15, Ahinsa Khand 1, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad-201014

Quotations are to be sent via mail to aoa.srishti@gmail.com by 29th July 2020. Firms may contact Mr Anurag Srivastava on 9717597954 for necessary site visit for sending the quotations.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Public Notice is being issued on behalf of our client Sh. Kapil Kumar Jain, S/o Sh. Pawan Kumar Jain, R/o House No.12, First Floor, Manak Vihar, East Delhi - 110092, who is the absolute owner and in possession of property bearing House No.12, First Floor, Manak Vihar, East Delhi - 110092.

That my client has lost One Original Sale Deed documents of the above said property on 11.10.2013. Details of Sale Deed is Registration No. 15721, Book No. 1, Volume No. 5730, registered in the office of Sub Registrar-VIII, Delhi on 20.09.2011.

If any person finds the above said documents, please contact at 9971400026 within fourteen days from the date of publication hereof.

Gaurav Kumar (Advocate) Enrollment No. D/7600/2019 Sachdeva Tower, 5th Floor, Karkardooma Community Centre, Delhi-110092

Scribe shot by niece's tormentors dies...

From Page 1

Senior Superintendent of Police Kalanidhi Naithani said nine assailants were nabbed on Tuesday and Pratap Vihar police post incharge Raghendra Singh was suspended with immediate effect for dereliction of duty as he did not pay heed to the harassment complaint lodged by Joshi.

Joshi had filed a police complaint on July 16 that Ravi and his accomplices were harassing his niece, the SSP said.

A CCTV footage of the attack on the journalist that has surfaced on social media purportedly shows Joshi's two-wheeler swerving before falling down and him getting attacked by the armed group of men. His daughters ran away to some distance, while the men caught hold of Joshi and started thrashing him. Suddenly, one of them

order situation, Rahul said, "Journalist Vikram Joshi was killed for opposing molestation of his niece. My condolences to the bereaved family." "They [UP gov] had promised Ram Raj, instead gave Gunda Raj."

Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee also took a potshot at the UP Government, saying, "He was shot in UP for filing an FIR to book his niece's molesters. An atmosphere of fear has been created in the country. Voices being muzzled. Media not spared. Shocking."

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav said the people of the State are in a shock after a journalist in Ghaziabad was shot dead. "The strength and morale of criminals and miscreants are flourishing. #NoMoreBJP," he said.

Delhi Chief Minister

Arvind Kejriwal too demanded "strictest punishment" in the crime.

BSP chief Mayawati said the way heinous crimes like murder and those against women are continuing unabated, it is clear that instead of law and order, jungle raj is prevailing in UP. "Crime virus of criminals is more active than the coronavirus in UP. People are fed up and the Government must address this issue," she said.

"This incident has revealed that 'Gunda raj' is prevailing in Uttar Pradesh. It is clear there is no law and order in the state. Will the police not heed to calls by journalists like Joshi? Will journalists be killed by gangsters in broad daylight? The situation in Uttar Pradesh is pitiful," said Congress spokesperson Randeep Singh Surjewala.

opened fire and Joshi fell on the ground.

The accused fled the spot, while his elder daughter rushed back to him and sat next to him on the road looking for help, the purported footage showed. Shahnoon and Akash have been arrested while Ravi is still absconding, police said. Besides them, the police have also arrested seven men identified as Mohit, Dalbir, Yogendra, Shaqir, two men who go by the same name of Abhishek, and another accused Akash (besides the one who was named in the FIR), the officials said.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has announced a financial aid of Rs 10 lakh for Joshi's family, a job for his wife and free education for his children, an official spokesperson said in Lucknow.

Criticising UP's law and

TACKLING CORONAVIRUS

Govt plans sero-survey every month to stem virus spread

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In order to formulate better policies for tackling Covid-19, Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain on Wednesday said fresh sero-survey will be conducted in the national Capital from August 1-5 and such exercises will be conducted every month in both containment and non-containment zones.

The decision comes after the city Government analysed the results of the latest sero-survey which showed that 23 per cent of the people here had exposure to the novel coronavirus.

"The sero-survey was conducted in Delhi last month in which we collected blood samples and checked the presence of the antibodies in a person. The presence of antibodies implies that the person was infected by Covid-19 but has

now recovered. It has indicated that around one-fourth of Delhi has been exposed to the novel coronavirus so far and has recovered," Jain said.

The survey was conducted by the Delhi government in collaboration with the National Centre for Disease Control on around 21,000 samples between June 27 and July 5.

"The survey report found antibodies in around 24 per cent or 1/4th of the population in Delhi. This means that nearly one-fourth of Delhi's population was infected by the Covid-19 and has recovered. Most of these people did not know that they were infected," he said.

Jain said, "We are trying to collect a representative sample of the society, by collecting samples from senior citizens, young people, children, men, and women. Around 21,000 samples have been collected



Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain addresses a Press conference in New Delhi on Wednesday

until now,"

"The Delhi government is working towards making a proper protocol of the sample collection. This time, the survey will be conducted in the entire Delhi," he said.

On reports of some people trying to indulge in monetary transaction for convalescent

plasma, Jain warned that "strict action" will be taken if anyone tries to buy or sell plasma.

The health minister further said that the Delhi government is very serious about plasma therapy. "If there is any report of corruption regarding plasma donation then the government will take serious action against the people associated with such corruption," he said.

On the question of herd immunity in Delhi, he said that experts have different views on this. "Experts say that herd immunity is developed when 40-70 per cent of the population has recovered from COVID-19. The government has received the results for 24 per cent of the population, and therefore, we cannot say that in Delhi the herd immunity has developed within the population as per the results of the survey," he said.

Jain also said that the gov-

ernment will provide financial compensation to the family of a 42-year-old contractual doctor Javed Ali, who was working with Delhi government's National Health Mission as he was a frontline worker and died during COVID-19 duty.

"The percentage of deaths due to COVID-19 in July is far less as compared to what it was in June due to measures taken by the government. Earlier, there were complaints that people had to wait for a long time to get admission to the hospitals but Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal directed that there should be a separate holding area in the hospital where the patients would be taken immediately and oxygen would be given," he said.

The government has distributed 24,000 pulse oximeters which have also helped to reduce the number of deaths

due to COVID, he added.

Delhi recorded 1349 fresh coronavirus cases on Tuesday, taking the tally in the city to over 1.25 lakh, while the death toll from the disease mounted to 3,690, authorities said.

Government officials said, all precautions will have to be taken by people to combat coronavirus, and government will continue with measures as "we can't let our guard down" even though comparatively less cases are being reported than couple of weeks before.

The total number of COVID-19 tests done till June 21 in Delhi stands at 8,51,331.

The number of tests done per million to detect infection, as on Tuesday was 44,805, while the number of containment zones stood at 689.

As per the latest survey, Southeast district of Delhi was found to have sero-prevalence of 22.12 per cent, Shahadara

27.61 per cent, Northwest 23.31 per cent, New Delhi 22.87 per cent, Central 27.86 per cent, Southwest 12.95 per cent, Northeast 27.7 per cent, East 23.9 per cent, North 25.26 per cent, South 18.61 per cent and West 19.13 per cent.

Highlights (In Box)

Serosurvey results conducted between June 27 and July 5 show nearly 24%, which is one-fourth of the population in Delhi was exposed to Coronavirus and has recovered.

The serosurvey report includes samples collected from 27th June to 5th July, 24 percent of the people were found to have antibodies.

The survey was done based on a representative sample including youth men, women, and senior citizens.

The government will collect more than 21000 samples this time to find out the difference and devise policies.

Part of Ashoka Road caves in after heavy rain

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A part of Ashoka Road in the heart of Lutyens' Delhi caved in on Wednesday after a heavy rain and gusty winds lashed the national Capital and neighbouring areas on Wednesday, leading to waterlogging and traffic disruption in several areas.

Waterlogging was reported in several areas including Sarai Kale Khan, Civil Lines, Sadar Bazar, Akshardham, Patel Nagar, Hauz Khas, Munirka, East of Kailash, Shalimar Bagh, Pashchim Vihar, Rohini and Naraina Vihar.

The Safdarjung Observatory, which provides representative figures for the city, recorded 67.6 mm rainfall till 2:30 pm.

It has recorded 157.4 mm rainfall so far in July, 13 per cent more than the normal of 139.1 mm.

The Palam and Lodhi Road weather stations gauged 81.2 mm and 72 mm precipi-

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

The Delhi Traffic Police reported snarls near the World Health Organization building, Minto Bridge and ITO among others. Residents shared pictures and videos of rainwater gushing into their houses and vehicles wading through waterlogged areas on social media platforms.

Municipal bodies reported 10 incidents of trees being uprooted due to the rains. A part of Ashoka Road in central Delhi caved in due to the downpour, while the wall of a house collapsed in the Kotla Mubarakpur area.

Earlier, the IMD had forecast widespread rainfall with "isolated heavy to very heavy rain" in Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Chandigarh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and the Union territories of Jammu



and Kashmir and Ladakh. The rainfall intensity and distribution are very likely to decrease significantly Thursday onwards, it had said. The convergence of moist easterly winds from the Bay of Bengal and southwesterly winds from the Arabian Sea is likely to continue over northwest India for another two-three days, weather experts said.

The monsoon trough is also running through the region. These two factors led to moderate to heavy rains in Delhi-NCR, they said. Delhi had recorded moderate rainfall (24.8 mm) on Tuesday. Four people lost their lives due to heavy rains on Sunday.

CM congratulates students for stellar performance in exams

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A few days after the announcement of Board results, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, along with his Deputy Manish Sisodia, met Government-run schools' students and congratulated them for their outstanding performance.

Addressing students, Kejriwal said, "Each one of you have faced a difficult situation, be it health complications of a family member or financial shortcomings at home, but you did not give up. By sheer determination you achieved such a good result. The results are proof of your undeterred efforts and dedication towards studies."

He said, "You have to move forward and keep dreaming big, and if you keep working day and night, you will always be successful." "It is the taxpayers' money that is being utilized to fund government schools making education free and accessible to all students, so it is also the responsibility of the students to pay back to their nation when they grow up."

"Everything is free in your school. How is it free? Where is the money coming from? Who

is paying the government to sponsor education in government schools? It is the taxpayers' money that is being utilised. And who pays taxes? Everyone including even the poorest man of this nation pays tax. It is the money paid as a tax by a poor man through which you are receiving free and good quality education. So when you grow up, be what you have aspired to be but never forget what the nation has done for you. Be ready to give it back one day, in return for what this country has done for you," said Kejriwal while speaking to the students.

Kejriwal said, "A perception was created that a low-income family does not want their child to study. They want their children to work and earn money. But the reality was that the failure on the part of government in not ensuring quality education to kids made the low-income families think that sending kids to school would be a waste of time. Now that the government schools' condition has improved in Delhi, the poor man wants his child to study and make a bright future for himself. A common man now wants his child to go to school, study hard,

and make a name for himself. Every father or mother is committed to seeing to it that their kids have access to good education. So many parents have started attending the parent-teacher meetings. It shows their dedication and commitment towards their kids' education. If the rich don't study, the parents have left money and savings for them, but if a poor man's kid doesn't study, where will he go? They have the only option to study hard and make a future for themselves."

Raghav, a student from Bihar and lived alone in Delhi before his mother came to support him.

He used to work in nearby factories in his spare time and also take tuitions for students in his neighborhood.

"I left my uncle's home in class 11 and started living independently; my teachers helped me a lot financially."

I failed in Class 11 and had given up on my studies. Through the constant support and encouragement of my principal and teachers, I have proved myself today in class 12 boards-Charu Yadav- R.P.V.V, Sector 11, Rohini.

Rain throws life out of gear in G'gram; waterlogging in many areas, traffic hit



PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

Heavy rain caused waterlogging on multiple stretches and areas in Gurugram on Wednesday. Both vehicular traffic and pedestrian movement have been disrupted due to waterlogging on several roads. Commuters were stuck in massive traffic jams due to inundated roads.

According to the IMD, the sky will generally remain cloudy in Gurugram. The city may receive one or two spells of rain or thunderstorms over the next 2-3 days.

Morning rush hour traffic was affected and the police struggled to keep the vehicles moving. The policemen were seen standing in knee-deep water while struggling to keep traffic going.

Light rains started at around 12:30 am, but it gained momentum by 1.15 am and between 10.45 to 11.30 am, it turned into a heavy downpour. The traffic movement on the Delhi-Jaipur-Mumbai highway was severely hit due to waterlogging.

Nearly 70 per cent of the city was submerged in an average of 1.5 feet of water with the worst hit areas being Iffco Chowk, Sohna Road, Narsinghpur, Basai Chowk, Sohna Chowk, Sector 4-7, Hanuman Chowk, Bilaspur Chowk, Fazilpur Chowk, Vatika Chowk, Subhash Chowk, Baghtawar Chowk,

Atul Kataria Chowk, Mahavir Chowk, Dundaheera and Jawala Mill.

In an encouraging development, once again the traffic police were quick to issue online alerts via Twitter about severely affected areas and deploying staff to clear the jams.

"Traffic Alert: Water logging has been reported at Sohna Chowk. Our traffic officials are on the spot to facilitate traffic flow. Commuters are requested to plan their travel accordingly," read one of the series of alert messages tweeted by the traffic police.

"We were already alert when clouds were building up and took our spots as soon as it started raining. We stand in the open in such harsh conditions and try doing our best to clear traffic movements. But, things are difficult during rains. Vehicles move slowly due to much water on the roads," said a traffic cop at the old Delhi-Gurugram road.

Several residents took to Twitter to share their experiences and posted photos of waterlogging and traffic jams.

Office-goers in the city, too, faced a lot of inconvenience due to traffic disruptions.

"It's a perennial problem of this city as well as district administration. Roads drown every monsoon, in spite of scores of money spots to avert waterlogging. But still the local authorities don't have any solutions. When they fail, they

start a blame game on each other," complained Sachin, a commuter stuck in a massive traffic jam at the Atul Kataria Chowk.

Gurugram police commissioner KK Rao insisted that the authorities are doing their best to deal with the issue.

Man arrested, triple murder case solved

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With the arrest of a 39-year-old man, the Delhi Police on Wednesday claimed to have solved a murder mystery of a woman and her two children Delhi's Nihal Vihar area on Sunday last.

The accused has been identified as Gagan Kumar Sahu, a resident of Shiv Ram Park in Nangloi area and he used to work as a mason.

According to Dr A Koan, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Outer district, on July 19, a police control room (PCR) regarding a murder of a woman and her two children was received following which a police team was dispatched for the spot.

"At the place of incident, the bodies of a woman and two children were lying on a bed. There were multiple injuries on the head and face of all the deceased persons. Hence, a murder case was registered at

Nihal Vihar police station and investigation was taken up," said the DCP.

"On July 21, specific inputs were received that Gagan, husband of the deceased woman, who was missing since the incident. Police team apprehended him from Paschim Vihar where he tried to mislead the police team and concealed his identity. During the sustained interrogation, the accused broke down and confessed his involvement in the murder," said the DCP.

"Gagan told police that he suspected that his wife was having an affair. On the night of the incident, an altercation happened between the victim and the accused over the affair and the accused smashed her head and face with a blunt object. The children woke up and started crying. He also hit them with the same weapon of offence and disappeared from the house," said the DCP.

Two snakes rescued in Capital

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

As monsoons finally hit Delhi and National Capital Region (NCR), an increase in reptile sightings has become normal.

Recently, two snakes have been rescued from a temple and residential unit in the Capital vicinity.

A wolf snake from a temple and a full grown Indian Rock Python rescued by the Wildlife SoS team.

Heavy rains and thunderstorms have brought much needed respite from the sweltering heat in the national capital, but with the drains and culverts flooding up across the city, numerous snakes have been displaced from their homes, forcing them to seek shelter elsewhere.

In one such incident, a juvenile Wolf Snake (Lycodon aulicus) had taken up temporary shelter from the rains inside the Pracheen Kal Bhairav Mandir in

Jhandewalan.

Concerned for their safety and that of the young snake, a two-member team rushed to the spot and proceeded to extricate the snake safely without causing it further stress. The snake was found in an exhausted state and is currently under observation.

In another corner of the city, a 5-foot-long Indian Rock Python also faced the brunt of

rain, and found itself in the bathroom of a home in Indira Kalyan Vihar, Okhla Ph-1. The jhuggi (hut) was established atop a sluice that had flooded and the family was shocked to find the large python curled up amidst buckets. After they contacted the NGO's emergency helpline, a rescue team arrived at the location and was able to successfully bring the python to safety.

The Wildlife SOS team also rescued another juvenile Wolf snake that was found in the garden of a home in Ashok Nagar, Ghaziabad.

Kartick Satyanarayan, Co-founder and CEO Wildlife SOS said, "Operations involving snakes are highly sensitive. We have trained rescuers who are efficient and employ precautions so as to avoid causing further stress to the animal. We are glad to see that people are making a conscious decision to help out reptiles in distress by reporting such incidents to Wildlife SOS. We must remain sensitive towards animals in times like this."

Wasim Akram, Deputy Director - Special Projects, Wildlife SOS, said, "The monsoon has prompted a sudden increase in the appearance of snakes. As common shelters for these snakes are flooding, they are looking for safe and dry land, thus inadvertently being spotted in residential areas."



Accused who attacked constable on duty arrested

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

An on-duty Delhi Police constable was attacked by a miscreant in Outer Delhi's Shahbad dairy area. Police said they have arrested the accused who allegedly also tried to snatch the service revolver of the constable.

The accused has been identified as Lalit Paswan, a resident of JJ cluster in Shahbad Dairy area. According to a senior police official, on July 18, at about 1:00 PM, Constable Kalicharan was on bike patrolling in JJ Cluster in Shahbad Dairy and when he reached at open DDA Land near Panch Mandir Shahbad Dairy, he saw 4-5 suspicious alcoholic type persons sitting there.

the pioneer
www.dailypioneer.com

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.

The paper has further envisaged a digital expansion which will be more immersive and holistic about the Indian experience and connect with the Indians globally. So, we are in the process of building an innovative and dynamic marketing team for our website.

MANAGER (Digital Marketing)

MBA/Postgraduate/Graduate with minimum of 5 years experience of working in Digital Marketing. The candidate shall be responsible for managing overall digital advertisement revenues of the organisation and achievement of revenue targets. Developing and implementing strategies for increasing online advertisement revenue from regional and national clients shall be the key result area. Should possess good communication, leadership and inter-personal skills.

The above positions are based in Delhi (NCR). Remuneration package will commensurate with qualification and experience.

Interested candidates may mail their resume at career.thepioneer@gmail.com

Rajnath lauds IAF's combat readiness in Ladakh

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Without mentioning Pakistan and China, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday lauded the Indian Air Force (IAF) saying its Balakot strike and the current combat readiness in Ladakh have sent a strong message to "adversaries".

Given the situation on the Line of Actual Control (LAC), he asked the IAF to be ready to handle any eventuality while alluding to the ongoing efforts for de-escalation at the border.

Incidentally, during his first visit to Leh last week since the face-offs began more than eight weeks back, Rajnath had sounded sceptical about the ongoing dialogue to defuse tension at the LAC. He said he said could not "guarantee" the outcome of the talks and urged the armed forces to be ever ready.

Addressing the IAF commanders' conference on the opening day of the two-day event here on Wednesday, the defence minister also complimented the IAF for its rapid deployment of assets at forward locations in response to the border row with China in eastern Ladakh, saying its Balakot strike and the current combat readiness have sent a



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Indian Air Force (IAF) chief Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria and Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar with commanders at the inaugural session of the Air Force Commanders Conference in New Delhi, Wednesday

strong message to "adversaries".

He also said the nation's resolve to defend its sovereignty stands firm and that the people of the country have full confidence in the capability of its armed forces.

Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria said the IAF was well prepared to counter short term as well as strategic threats and the units were "evenly poised" to counter any aggressive action

by the adversary.

He said the response by all commands in ensuring deployment and readiness of forces was prompt and laudable. He also emphasised on the need to focus on the ability to handle situations at a short notice for ensuring a robust response.

The two-day meet of the IAF top brass will review the current situation on the LAC and the Line of Control (LOC) facing Pakistan

and the operational readiness to handle any threat. The IAF in the last few weeks has deployed its front line fighter jets in nearly all the forward airbases along the 4,000 km long LAC.

With the first four Rafale fighter jets arriving from France at the Ambala airbase on July 29, the commanders will also chalk out the integration programme of the French manufactured the Russian origin jets like the SU-

Galwan Valley martyr's wife gets Dy Collector post

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Government on Wednesday handed over a letter of appointment as Deputy Collector and also a house site in the city to the wife of Col Santosh Babu, who was martyred in the recent violent clashes with Chinese troops in the Galwan Valley.

"The State Government has appointed Santoshi, wife of Col Santosh Babu who was martyred in the recent clashes on the Indo-China border, as Deputy Collector. Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao on Wednesday at Pragathi Bhavan handed over the appointment letter to Santoshi," an official release said.

Rao instructed the officials to post Santoshi in Hyderabad and its surrounding areas and also asked his secretary Smita Sabharwal to help Santoshi till

she receives proper training and settles down in her job, it said.

Rao had lunch with 20 members of Santoshi's family at Pragathi Bhavan, the camp office-cum-official residence of the Chief Minister. He assured them that the government would always stand by Col Santosh Babu's family.

Earlier, Hyderabad district Collector Sweta Mohanty and ruling TRS MLA Gadari Kishore Kumar handed over the documents pertaining to the allotment of 711 sq yards of land at posh Banjara Hills to Santoshi. Santoshi thanked the Chief Minister and the district Collector for the help.

"In remembrance of the martyrdom of Col Santosh Babu, CM came to our house and helped...the Collector invited me today, showed the place (land in Hyderabad) to me and gave the related documents. I am thankful to the



CM and Collector, Santoshi handed over a letter appointing Santoshi as a Group I service officer in the State Government and documents allotting a house site of 711 sq yards at the Banjara Hills here.

It was exactly a month ago (on June 22), when the Chief Minister visited the bereaved family at Suryapet town, about 130 km from here, and pledged his Government's full support to the family.

During his visit then, Rao handed over cheques for Rs five crore announced as ex-gratia by him.

He had also personally

Mirage 2000 aircraft in key frontier air bases. The IAF has also deployed Apache attack helicopters as well as Chinook heavy-lift helicopters to transport troops to various forward locations. It has also pressed

into service a fleet of C-17 Globemaster III transport aircraft as well as C-130J Super Hercules in transporting heavy military equipment and weaponry to several forward bases in the region.

Scindia, Diggy, 43 others take oath as RS members

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Congressman Jyotiraditya Scindia hogged the limelight on Wednesday as he took oath as a BJP MP in the Rajya Sabha and exchanged greetings with his old party colleague and bitter rival Digvijay Singh, who too was among the 45 parliamentarians who were administered the oath of affirmation by Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu.

Deepender Hooda, Shakti Singh Gohil, Sharad Pawar, Rajeev Satav and Priyanka Chaturvedi were among others.

Owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, the oath of affirmation to 45 of the total 61 members newly elected to the Upper House from 22 States was held in the Rajya Sabha chambers and for the first time during inter-session. Other MPs who were not present for the ceremony will be administered the oath at a later date.

With 19 BJP MPs taking the Oath on Wednesday, BJP's strength in the Upper House has now gone up to 86.

Sumer Singh Solanki from Madhya Pradesh; Nabam Rebia from Arunachal Pradesh; Bhuvaneshwar Kalita and Biswajit Daimary from Assam; Vivek Thakur from Bihar;



Newly elected Rajya Sabha member and BJP leader Jyotiraditya Scindia (L) greets Congress leaders Ghulam Nabi Azad and Digvijay Singh before taking oath, at Parliament House in New Delhi on Wednesday

Abhay Bharadwaj, Ramlal Bara and Narhari Amin from Gujarat; Ram Chander Janra from Haryana; Indu Goswami from Himachal Pradesh; Deepak Prakash from Jharkhand; Ashok Gasti and Irrana Kadadi from Karnataka; Udayanraje Bhosale and Bhagwat Karad from Maharashtra; Maharaja Leishemba Sanajaoba from Manipur; K Vanlalvena from Mizoram; and Rajendra Gehlot from Rajasthan were others who took the Oath.

The numbers of the National Democratic Alliance has gone up to 100 in the 245-member upper house. Parties friendly to the BJP, such as the BJD, AIADMK and the YSRCP, too saw an increase in

their tally.

From the Congress, which has 41 MPs in the house, the leaders who took oath were KTS Tulsani from Chhattisgarh; Shaktisinh Gohil from Gujarat; Deepender Singh Hooda from Haryana; Mallikarjun Kharge from Karnataka; Digvijay Singh from Madhya Pradesh; Rajeev Satav from Maharashtra; and Neeraj Dangi and KC Venugopal from Rajasthan.

Oath was also administered to JDU's Harivansh and Ramnath Thakur and RJD's AD Singh and Prem Chand Gupta from Bihar; and to Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharya, of the CPI-M from West Bengal. Priyanka Chaturvedi from Shiv Sena,

NCP chief Sharad Pawar and RPI chief and minister of state for social justice and empowerment Ramdas Athawale were administered the oath from Maharashtra.

Three MPs from YSRCP, who represent Andhra Pradesh, include Ayodhya Rami Reddy Alla, Pili Subhaschandra Bose and Venkataramana Rao Mopidevi.

Representing Odisha, Muzibulla Khan, Subash Singh, Sujeet Kumar and Mamata Mohanta from the Biju Janata Dal also took oath. From Tamil Nadu, KP Munusamy of the AIADMK and M Thambidurai of the AIADMK and GK Vasan of the Tamil Maanila Congress also took oath.

Of the 61 new MPs, 49 were elected to the upper house for the first time while 12 were re-elected.

After vacancies arose in March in 20 states, 42 were elected unopposed, including 28 first timers, and elections were held for 19 vacancies and 15 other first-timers won a berth in the Rajya Sabha.

Addressing the new members, Naidu said they should reflect on their role and responsibility and not fall for the temptation of disrupting the House for short-term gains.

Renounce Bollywood celebrities with Pak, ISI links: Baijayant Panda

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

BJP's national vice president and spokesperson Baijayant Panda took to Twitter on Wednesday to allege links between some Bollywood stars with "certain Pakistanis & NRIs with undeniable track record encouraging violence in J&K".

The former Member of Parliament from Odisha, however, did not give away any name.

The BJP leader urged 'patriotic Bollywoodies' to renounce celebrities who have a connection with some Pakistanis and ISI elements.

Panda tweeted that he came across "shocking threads documenting personal & business links of some Bollywood personalities with certain Pakistanis & NRIs with undeniable track record encouraging violence in J&K, who have verifiable links to ISI & Pak army. I urge patriotic Bollywoodies to renounce them".

The circumstances leading to the death of film actor Sushant Singh Rajput has recently triggered a debate over "insiders versus outsiders" in Bollywood

While Bollywood's links to the underworld has often been talked about, of late, it is in the news for a hotly debated topic of nepotism leading to factions in the film fraternity taking on each other.

The circumstances leading to the death of film actor Sushant Singh Rajput has recently triggered a debate over "insiders versus outsiders" in Bollywood with a suggestion that a clique is operating in a certain way to dole out favours to the actors who toe its line. There is a demand for a CBI probe into the alleged "suicide" of Rajput, who hailed from Bihar.

Dubey encounter: Ex-judge BS Chauhan to head enquiry panel, to finish probe in 2 months: SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Wednesday approved Uttar Pradesh Government's draft notification for appointing former apex court judge Justice (ret'd) BS Chauhan as chairman of the 3-member inquiry commission on the killing of eight policemen and the subsequent encounter killings of gangster Vikas Dubey and five of his alleged associates.

A bench headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde directed that the inquiry commission should start functioning within a week and the probe be concluded within two months.

The other two members of the inquiry commission would be - former high court judge Justice (ret'd) Shashi Kant Agarwal and retired Director General of Police of Uttar Pradesh K L Gupta.

The bench, also comprising Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian, cleared the draft notification and asked the Uttar Pradesh Government to notify it.

The top court directed the Centre to provide secretarial assistance to the inquiry com-

mittee and said that assistance be provided either by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) or any other central agency.

The bench said the inquiry commission will submit its report to the apex court as well as the state government under the Commission of Inquiry Act.

The apex court said scope of investigation to be conducted by the inquiry commission should be wide enough.

The bench said the top court is not in favour of "tying the hands" of the commission and it will not be wise to have a term of reference for it.

It said the commission will have to inquire into incidents of killing of eight policemen and subsequent encounters killings of Dubey and his alleged associates.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for Uttar Pradesh, informed the bench Justice (ret'd) Chauhan has given his consent to be a part of the inquiry commission.

Mehta told the bench that the commission would also probe the circumstances under which Dubey, who was facing 65 FIRs, was released on bail.

Comet Neowise can be seen in sky till July-end



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

One of the rarest and brightest, Comet Neowise, officially known as C/2020F3, can be seen in the sky till July-end in India as it is closer to the earth these days. The Neowise, once it disappears, will be visible only after 6,800 years.

The Nehru Science Centre in its 'Lockdown Lecture' series organised 'Comet NEOWISE - A Primer' to discuss the exploration aspects related to comets.

Director, Nehru Planetarium, Dr N Ratnasree, explained comets, their position in the sky and ways to observe it through a telescope, DSLR camera or even the naked eye.

Comet is an icy small body which consists mostly of rocky

materials, dust and ice. As they come closer to the sun there is evaporation of volatile contents from these comets. When they start melting, the particles start glowing by the reflected sunlight. This makes the 'dust tail' of Comets.

For those keen to capture the image, Dr. Ratnasree said, "Point your camera towards the North West direction and try to take a long exposure shot. Try clicking regular photographs on different days at the same time with the same camera settings to find out the trajectory of the comet in relation to the horizon," she said.

The comet can be seen in clear sky conditions in areas with lesser light pollution and will be perfectly visible when the sky is dark, she added.

Kashyap appointed HP new BJP chief

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After appointing new chiefs of Gujarat and Haryana, the BJP on Wednesday appointed Suresh Kumar Kashyap, MP from Shimla, as its Himachal Pradesh unit president.

Kashyap is an ex-serviceman and has been elected as MLA on the party's ticket earlier.

He replaces Rajeev Bindal, who resigned in May within five months of his appointment

after his name had cropped up in a police investigation in a corruption case.

BJP president JP Nadda this week appointed CR Patil and OP Dhankar as presidents of Gujarat and Haryana units respectively.

More changes at all party levels to be effected soon with new faces inducted in the office bearers team in the party's central leadership as also in the Parliamentary Board, the highest decision making body.

ED files money laundering case in Kerala gold smuggling scam

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday registered a money laundering case in connection with the Kerala Gold Smuggling Scam.

The ED registered an Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) (FIR in police parlance) taking cognisance of the NIA's FIR relating to the probe into criminal aspects of the scam, officials said.

The ED case has been booked under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and the agency will soon record the statements of the arrested accused, they said. The ED will probe if "pro-

ceeds of crime" were generated by the accused persons by laundering of funds that were earned in an illicit manner through the alleged gold smuggling racket.

The ED has authority to attach the immovable and movable assets of the accused persons under the PMLA.

The Kerala Gold Smuggling Case was unearthed on July 5 when gold, weighing over 30 kg, was seized by the Customs (Preventive) Commissionerate, Cochin from the "diplomatic baggage" that had landed by air cargo at the Thiruvananthapuram international airport from the Gulf. The seized gold is estimated to be worth ₹14.82 crore.

VP Naidu unveils Ambedkar's statue at CAG office



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu unveiled a statue of Dr BR Ambedkar at the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) office in New Delhi on Wednesday.

"The CAG is a strong and credible institution and the credit for this must go to the framers of the Constitution, particularly to Dr BR Ambedkar," Naidu said while unveiling the statue. He said Babasaheb Ambedkar had the vision to ensure independence and a wide mandate to the CAG.

Describing him as a multi-faceted genius - a visionary statesman, philosopher, towering intellectual, eminent jurist, economist, writer, social reformer and a humanist par excellence, he observed that Dr Ambedkar was the messiah of the oppressed.

Applauding the CAG for being a strong and credible

institution, the Vice President said the core values of the top auditor - independence, objectivity, integrity, reliability, professional excellence, transparency and positive approach - drew inspiration from the life and work of Dr Ambedkar. He called accountability, transparency and good governance as very essential for democracy.

He credited the reports of the CAG and the consequent deliberations in the committees of the legislatures for having led to various changes in the regulatory framework, governance structures and delivery mechanism of the government, ensuring economy, efficiency and effectiveness of government operations.

He said the CAG has evolved as an enabler to ensure public financial accountability but also acts as a friend, philosopher and guide of the executive.

Mylan secures DCGI approval for new anti-TB drug Pretomanid



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India has become the second country in the world to provide DCGI approval for anti-tuberculosis drug pretomanid for conditional access under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Program (NTEP) programme.

Pretomanid has been approved as part of a three-drug, six-month all-oral regimen consisting of bedaquiline, pretomanid and linezolid, collectively referred to as "BPaL" for treatment of adult patients with pulmonary extensively drug-resistant TB (XDR-TB), treatment intolerant or non-responsive multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB).

The drug manufacture, Mylan will initially make its pretomanid available in India through a donation of 400 treatment courses to the NTEP which provides free, high quality anti-tubercular drugs and care across the country to ensure that the treatment is accessible to patients who need it the most.

Mylan president Rajiv

Malik said, "To date, Mylan and TB Alliance have secured approvals for pretomanid in two countries" while president and CEO of TB Alliance Mel Spigelman, said, "The approval of pretomanid in India as part of this three-drug, all-oral regimen is the first in a country with a high TB burden. By embracing innovation, India has an opportunity to lead the charge to end TB and meet its ambitious goals for eradication."

India has the goal of TB elimination by 2025.

India accounts for approximately a quarter of the world's TB burden, with an estimated 2.7 million cases per year, highest for any country, globally. Of these, around 130,000 patients have some form of drug-resistant TB.

Patients frequently face complicated and lengthy treatment regimens of up to 20 months which often result in poor clinical outcomes. The WHO has reported treatment success rates of 48% for MDR-TB and 30% for XDR-TB in India.

TN sees 5,849 +ve, highest in a day

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Within 24 hours of Tamil Nadu's Health Minister Dr C Vijaya Baskar claimed that the State has the best medical strategy in the country, the Directorate of Health and Preventive Medicine came out with a bulletin which stated that Tamil Nadu diagnosed 5,849 persons with Covid-19 on Wednesday. This is the

highest number of coronavirus cases detected in the State on a single day.

What upset the Tamil Nadu Government is the steep hike in the number of persons afflicted with coronavirus within a day. On Tuesday, 4,965 persons were tested positive for the pandemic and this means that the number of Covid-19 patients in the State shot up by almost 1,000 during the last 24 hours.

In last 24 hours, 74 patients succumbed to the pandemic.

By noon itself it was known that the number of patients infected with the virus would be on the higher side. A doctor in the Government service expressed his anxiety as the hike in the number of patients came at a time when the State is experiencing rainfall as part of the South West Monsoon. "We were expecting some respite once the rains set in but

it has been proved wrong," said the doctor who did not what his name to be quoted.

The bulletin said as on Wednesday, Tamil Nadu has 51,765 active Covid-19 cases while the day saw 4,910 persons getting discharged from hospitals across the State.

While the situation in Chennai remained similar to that of previous days (the Metropolis tested positive for 1,171 persons), neighbouring

Chengalpet accounted for 223 cases. Kancheepuram (325) and Thiruvallur (430) saw steep hike in the number of patients.

Situation in Ranipet (414) and Virudhunagar (363) were turned grave as the numbers from these districts show. Thirunelveli (267) and Thoothukudi (202) are the other districts which recorded unabated spreading of the disease.

Kerala Covid cases cross 1,000 mark on single day

STATE MAY OPT FOR COMPLETE LOCKDOWN

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

More than 1,000 new patients joined the army of Covid-19 affected persons in Kerala on Wednesday.

"Today has turned out to be a crucial day in Kerala. We diagnosed 1,038 persons with Covid-19 and this is the highest number of patients identified on a single day since the first coronavirus case was detected in the State in the month of March," said Pinarayi Vijayan, Chief Minister of Kerala.

The Chief Minister said he may have to think seriously about the proposal for another round of total lockdown in the State as this is the first time Kerala sees the Covid-19 cases breaching the 1,000 mark. Vijayan blamed a section of the media and certain political outfits for spreading fake news and lies for the increase in the

number of Covid-19 cases. "Out of the 1,038 persons tested positive today, 785 were infected through contacts which reiterates that the people have to be careful in their dealings," the CM said.

He said the entire coastal stretch of Thiruvananthapuram and Kollam have been shut down because of the hike in the number of persons afflicted with the pandemic.

Thiruvananthapuram continued to lead the table with the highest number of coronavirus cases. The district tested 226 new cases out of which 190 were infected through contacts, he said. Vijayan also pointed out that in all the districts in the State, the pandemic has spread through contacts.

But the Chief Minister said that Kerala stands in the forefront of the States and has earned all round appreciation

from global bodies. "While the national average for covid cases per million is 419, Kerala is less than half of this figure. There is an attempt by many persons and entities to portray Kerala in poor light," said the Chief Minister.

As on Wednesday evening, there were 15,032 Covid-19 patients in the State. "There are more than 9,000 persons undergoing treatment in various hospitals in Kerala. Today, 1,164 patients have been admitted to hospitals because of Covid-29," he said.

Life has come a full circle in Kerala which was praised by some media houses in the country and abroad for "effective measures" adopted by the CPI(M)-led Government in the State. But as on Wednesday, the Chief Minister himself disclosed that the situation in the State has become a matter of concern.

MAHA PEAKING? Covid cases cross 10K mark

280 more die, records all-time high of 10,576 cases, total infections jump to 3,37,607, deaths 12,556

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Covid-19 graph appeared to be gradually peaking in Maharashtra on Wednesday, as the State recorded an all-time high of new 10,576 infected cases, while 280 more people succumbed to pandemic.

After recording the then highest highest-ever 9,518 infected cases on July 19, Maharashtra notched a new daily high of 10,576 cases — much to the discomfort of the State health authorities.

Interestingly, after the infections crossed 8,000 mark on five occasions in a week (July 16-8,641, July 17-8,308, July 18-8,348, July 20-8,240 July 21-8,369) and even breached 9,000 mark once on July 19, the infections touched five-digit mark of 10576 on Wednesday.

With the fresh infections and fatalities, the total number of infections mounted to 3,37,607, while the total number of deaths rose to 12,556.

Of the total 280 deaths reported on Wednesday, Mumbai recorded 58 deaths, taking the total number of deaths in the metropolis from 5,817 to 5,875, while the number of corona cases rose by 1,310 to touch 1,04,678.

Apart from 58 deaths



A health worker checks the Aadhaar card of a woman as he screens people for Covid-19 symptoms at a residential building in Mumbai on Wednesday. AP

reported in Mumbai, there were 57 deaths in Pune, 50 deaths in Thane, 27 in Aurangabad, 16 in Kolhapur, 12 in Solapur, 9 in Jalgaon, 7 in Nashik, 6 in Ahmednagar, 5 in Palghar, 4 each in Raigad and Sangli, 3 each in Ratnagiri, Latur, Nanded, Nagpur and Akola, 2 each in Satara and Parbhani and one death each in Nandurbar, Jalna, Hingoli, Osmanabad and Buldhana. In addition, one more person from another State died in Maharashtra.

With 79,911 infected cases

and 2,146 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 63,351 infections and 1,514 deaths till now.

In a related development, the total number of patients discharged from various hospitals after full recovery since the second week of March this year touched 1,87,769. The recovery rate in the state stood at 55.62 per cent. The mortality rate in the State is 3.72 per cent. The State health authorities pegged the number of "active cases" in the State at 1,36,980.

Out of 16,87,213 samples sent to laboratories, 3,37,807 have tested positive (20 cent) for Covid-19 until Wednesday. Currently, 8,58,121 people are in home quarantine while 44,975 people are in institutional quarantine.

Meanwhile, in yet another sting operation, social activist Binu Varghese helped the Crime Branch sleuths of the Thane trap a 5-member gang indulging in blackmarketing of Remdesivir injections for ₹25,000 per vial. The investigators also recovered other expensive cancer injections and medicines.

PAK ARMY RESORTS TO UNPROVOKED CEASEFIRE VIOLATION ALONG LoC

Jammu: The Pakistan Army on Wednesday resorted to "unprovoked" ceasefire violation along the Line of Control in two different sectors of Qasba, Kirni and Mankote of Poonch district. According to ground reports, Pakistan army targeted several civilian areas along with forward posts of the Indian Army.

Hitting back, Indian army

too retaliated strongly and targeted several 'offensive' gun positions of the Pakistan Army to silence them.

Ministry of Defence spokesman in Jammu, Lt-Col Devender Anand said, "Pakistan army violated ceasefire agreement around 7.15 pm in Qasba, Kirni sector on Wednesday".

PNS

Voices are being choked: Didi on UP scribe murder

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday slammed the Uttar Pradesh Government for throttling the voices of dissent even as she expressed shock over the killing of journalist Vikram Joshi who was gunned down in Ghaziabad.

Expressing her condolences she said, "My heartfelt condolences to the family of Vikram Joshi, a fearless journalist who passed away today." He was shot in UP for filing an FIR to book his niece's molesters.

She added, "An atmosphere of fear has been created in the country. Voices are being muzzled and even media is not spared. Shocking."

Banerjee had from a mass virtual rally on Tuesday said the BJP Government was not only threatening the dissenting people and choking their voices but also using the central agencies to suppress them.

"There are fear of bullet, jail and so many other things but I don't fear bullet, gun or

any Agency. They will try to choke my voice but I will come out stronger," she said.

Meanwhile, Banerjee is likely to hold a virtual meeting of the Trinamool Congress leaders on Thursday apparently to decide on electoral strategies. Her decision comes a day after promising in a virtual rally to decimate the BJP in the next year's Assembly elections.

The Chief Minister is likely to instruct the regional satraps to rise above narrow personal interests and work in a united manner, insiders said. "Though the TMC unites in the name of Mamata Banerjee there are reports coming that there are a lot of intra-party feud at the local levels. The Chief Minister wants the local leadership to address the issues and work united," said a Minister and MLA from Kolkata.

Banerjee is also likely to tell the district leadership to start searching for non-controversial and popular faces, sources said, adding she would also ask the leaders to begin a reach-out programme.

"As mass connect is the key she is likely to ask the leaders to launch house-to-house contact programmes so that the general grievances of the people can be assessed and later addressed," another senior TMC leader and MLA from North 24 Parganas said.

However the most important thing the Chief Minister is likely to focus on is "counter-propaganda for the BJP's regular disinformation campaign."

According to this leader "the BJP is getting its oxygen from the Left cadres who have suddenly started backing that party... it is not possible for rigidly conscious cadres of the CPI(M) to turn to extreme right overnight. So it seems that there is a plan that has been hatched by the Left use the BJP to bring down the TMC Government otherwise they would not have got 40 percent votes in the general elections... Our Chief Minister is aware of this and that it why she asked the CPI(M) workers not to commit a big mistake by backing the BJP from behind." PNS

BSF jawan dismissed for involvement in smuggling activities

PNS ■ JAMMU

A jawan of Border Security Force (BSF) deployed along the International Border in Samba sector of Jammu frontier was dismissed for his alleged involvement in smuggling activities in connivance with anti-national elements and trans-border criminals.

A BSF spokesman in Jammu said, "A BSF constable identified as Sumit Kumar, resident of Gurdaspur in Punjab was dismissed from services by the BSF authorities."

BSF spokesman added, "Sumit Kumar was apprehended on information of the Punjab Police on July 11, 2020, for his alleged involvement in smuggling activities, connivance with anti-national elements and trans-border criminals". A 9 mm pistol, 2 magazines, 80 rounds of 9 mm ammunition and 2 rounds of 12 bore ammunition were recovered from his possession.

India footballer Mehtab quits BJP 24 hrs after joining

Kolkata: In a sudden development former India footballer Mehtab Hussain pulled out of the BJP a day after joining the party amid allegations that he had been pressurised by the TMC to quit the saffron outfit.

"Withdrawing from politics" Hussain a fiery midfielder who had his stints with Mohun Bagan, East Bengal and other clubs too said "I had joined the BJP yesterday but when I returned home my relatives, near and dear ones and my fans expressed their displeasure about my joining politics. They said that they want me to see me in the field and not in the politics and so I could not refuse their requests." When asked as to whether he received threats from Bengal ruling outfit he said he had not been pressurised by anyone. PNS

WESTERN RAILWAY
IMPROVEMENT TO HERITAGE VALUE OF HQ BUILDING
 Tender Notice No.: EL 81/716/WA/64 (R) dt. 22/07/2020. Work and Location: Churchgate - Improvement to Heritage Value of HQ Building at Churchgate by Providing Facade Lighting. Approx. Cost of Work: ₹ 1,30,21,730/- EMD: ₹ 2,15,100/- Date & Time of Submission: Till 24/08/2020 15:00 hrs. Date & Time of Opening: On 24/08/2020 at 15:30 hrs. Note: Please visit our website www.ireps.gov.in to download the tender document, corrigendum and further details.
 Follow us on: twitter.com/WesternRly

NOTICE
 No. DUBA/Cons/434/MR/20-(58)
 Dated: 15/07/2020
 Mr. Jomon Davassy Komban S/o Komban Davassy Kochappo Resident of 101 Jaibharat Opp Anamath Towers Panch Marg Off Vani Rd Andheri W Mumbai 400 061 M S. Present Address Flat No 215, Shamal Waves, JVC, PO Box 263411, Dubai UAE And Miss. Richa Malhotra Daughter Of Sanjay Malhotra Resident Of B-59 Gulab Bagh Uttam Nagar Nawada, Delhi Pin 110059, Delhi India. Present Address Flat No 410 Al Raffa Building, Near Al Fahid Metro Station, PO Box 263411 Dubai UAE.
 Above mentioned Indian National are presently residing in UAE have given notice of intended marriage between them under the Foreign Marriage Act, 1968. If any one has any objection to the proposed marriage he/she should file the same with the undersigned according to the procedure laid down under the Act/ Rules within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice.
 (Jitender Singh Negi)
 Marriage Office & Consul (Consular & Labour) Consulate General Of India P.O.Box:737, Dubai (UAE) Fax No.009714-3970453 Email: cons1.dubai@mca.gov.ae, cons3.dubai.gov.ae Homepage: www.cgidubai.org

WESTERN RAILWAY
PROVISION OF TELECOM FACILITY AND OTHER WORKS
 Sr.No.1. Tender No.: W 421/2/811/Te/ WA(R) dated: 22/07/2020. Name of Work: Provision of Telecom Facility in Connection with Construction of FOBs and Construction / Renovation of Booking Offices Works between Churchgate - Virar Section of Mumbai Division, Western Railway. Approx. Cost of Work: ₹ 96,09,481/- EMD: ₹ 1,92,200/- Time & Date for Closure for Submission of E-Tender Documents: At 15:00 hrs. on 21/08/2020. Time & Date for Opening of E-Tender: After 15:30 hrs. on 21/08/2020. Sr.No.2. Tender No.: SG-246/6/ANA dated 22/07/2020. Name of Work: Upgradation of Railnet Connectivity at Stores Depots / Mahalaxmi, Diesel / Loco Shed / Valsad, Car Sheds / Mahalaxmi, Kandivli & Virar, Scrap Yard / Mahim and Wi-Fi at Remaining Floors of HQ Building at Churchgate of Mumbai Division, Western Railway. Approx. Cost of Work: ₹ 1,71,22,695/- EMD: ₹ 2,35,700/- Time & Date for Closure for Submission of E-Tender Documents: At 15:00 hrs. on 21/08/2020. Time & Date for Opening of E-Tender: After 15:30 hrs. on 21/08/2020. Sr.No.1 & 2 - Type of E-Tender: Open E-Tender. Particular Office Where E-Tender Open: Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer (CO), 2nd Floor, Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Mumbai Central, Mumbai - 400 008. The tender can be viewed at website http://www.ireps.gov.in
 Like us on: facebook.com/WesternRly



The flood situation in Assam deteriorated on Wednesday with two more persons losing their lives, even as the number of people affected rose to over 26 lakh across 26 districts, an official bulletin said. (In pic) A man walks on a temporary bamboo bridge to reach a ferryboat along the banks of swollen Brahmaputra river, in Guwahati on Wednesday. PTI



Close to half a million people in nearly a dozen districts in Bihar have been affected by the flood that has cut a swathe of destruction across the northern parts of the State, the disaster management department said on Wednesday. A total of 4.6 lakh people in 245 panchayats of 10 districts have been affected by the deluge that has displaced more than 13,000 people. So far, 4,845 people have been put up at 16 relief camps, according to a release issued by the department. (In pic) Villagers with their cattle move to a safer place from a flood-affected area at Jagari Tola, in Gopalganj on Wednesday. PTI

Complete lockdown in Valley ahead of Eid

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

To further contain the spread of coronavirus especially in the worst affected areas of Kashmir valley, the Union Territory administration on Wednesday announced complete lockdown in all nine red districts except Bandipora of Kashmir division from Wednesday evening till 6.00 am on July 27. These preventive measures were taken by the administration to restrict movement of local residents ahead of Eid-ul-Adha on August 1.

Meanwhile, 453 fresh cases of coronavirus were detected while ten more deaths of covid-19 patients were reported from Kashmir division on Wednesday. The total tally of coronavirus patients stood at 15,711. The total number of active positive cases in Srinagar has crossed 2,100 mark. On Wednesday 165 fresh cases were detected in Srinagar, followed by 62 cases from Kulgam and 58 from Baramulla.

In Jammu division also, District Magistrate, Samba, Rohit Khajuria on Wednesday ordered complete lockdown in Samba and Barabrahmana tehsils from July 23 to July 26. The situation remained grim in Rajouri district as 47 fresh cases were detected on Wednesday.

Responding to the concerns of the local population ahead of Eid celebrations, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir Pandurang. Pole said that the markets shall remain open for three days from July 28 to July 30 to facilitate hassle-free purchase of sacrificial animals and other necessary items.

Chairing a meeting to review Eid arrangements, he also directed all Deputy Commissioner's of Kashmir to establish sale centres where people can purchase the sacrificial animals with proper Covid-19 protocol.

J&K cop shot by ultras in Kulgam

Jammu: A former counter insurgent-turned-Jammu & Kashmir Police cop was gunned down by "unidentified" terrorists near his home in South Kashmir district of Kulgam late on Wednesday night.

According to a police spokesman, "Terrorists fired upon a policeman Ab Rashid Dar at his native place in village Furrak of Kulgam late on Wednesday night". Local reports said Dar was shot at from a very close range. He received three bullet injuries on his chest and abdomen. He was rushed to GMC, Anantnag.

"He was shifted to hospital but succumbed to his injuries. Police and security forces have cordoned the area and search is on to nab the terrorists", police spokesman added. Nine years ago terrorists had also killed his son. PNS

700 MW Kakrapur atomic plant-3 achieves 1st criticality

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a historic development, the Unit 3 of the Kakrapur Atomic Power Project (KAPP-3 700 MW) in Gujarat attained its first criticality (controlled self-sustaining nuclear fission chain reaction for the first time) at 9.35 am on Wednesday.

First of its kind indigenous 700 MW Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR), the KAPP-3 is designed entirely by the Indian scientists and engineers. The components and equipment for the reactor have been manufactured by Indian Industries, while the construction and erection was undertaken by various Indian contractors.

Lauding the State-run NPCIL's feat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted, "Congratulations to our nuclear scientists for achieving criticality of Kakrapur Atomic Power Plant-3! This indigenously designed 700 MWe KAPP-3 reactor is a shining example of Make in India. And a trailblazer for many such future achievements!"

"The reactors have been designed and constructed to the highest safety and quality standards comparable to the best in the world. The 700 MW PHWR has advanced features

like steel lined inner containment, Passive decay heat removal system, containment spray system, Hydrogen Management systems etc," a Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) spokesman said.

The fuel loading of the reactor core was completed by mid-March this year. Thereafter many tests and procedures were carried out during the lockdown period following all the Covid-19 guidelines. We could achieve the tasks with the excellent coordination among the NPCIL, contracting agencies, Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) units and various Central, State and local authorities," NPCIL's Associate Director (CP&CC) AK Nema said.

As a next step, various experiments will be conducted and power will be increased progressively. Thereafter it will be connected with the Western grid. The KAPP-3 is the third nuclear power reactor in the country. It is the front runner in a series of 16 indigenous 700 MW PHWRs which have been accorded administrative approval and financial sanction by the Government and are at various stages of implementation.

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIGENDUM					
SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD CORP./AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HPGCL,PANIPAT	((NIT NO.PTP/POM-200018) (TENDER ID 2020_HBC_131483_1) SUB- SUPPLY OF RETURN ROLLER WITH ASSEMBLY FOR CHM-III, PTPS PANIPAT	Last date 05.08.2020 at 13:00 hrs	www.hpgcl.org.in	0180-2566015 xenmtcplg1@gmail.com
2	HVPNL PANCHKULA	21/GNL-161 DATED 22.03.2020	The last date of online bid submission is extended up to 30.07.2020.	https://www.hvnpn.org.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvnpn.org.in 8059922323
3	DHBVN, GURUGRAM	NIT NO. 2/XEN/CIVIL/GGN/2020-21 DATED 22.06.2020	Date Extended upto 27.07.2020 (13:00 Hrs)	www.dhbvn.org.in	xenncivilgn@dhbvn.org.in
4	UHBVN, PANCHKULA	NIT NO. 01/2020-21	Hiring of building for office purpose of SDO OP 5/Div Madanpur having carpet area of 3500-4500sq.ft. Closing Date: 04.08.20 at 12:00 Noon Opening Date: 04.08.20 at 03:30PM	uhbvn.org.in xenopanchkula@org.in	xenopanchkula@uhbvn.org.in
5	UHBVN	1/UH/GA-953 DATED 19.03.2020. REG - VARIOUS FIRMS FOR PROVIDING LEGAL SERVICES TO UHBVN	Regarding extending NIT-1 (previous closing date 20.07.2020 at (1:00 pm) now extended closing date 18.08.2020 (1:00 pm)	www.uhbvn.org.in	0172-3019132 usga@uhbvn.org.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in RO NO. 81887

NORTHERN RAILWAY
OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE
 The Sr. Divisional Engineer-IV, Northern Railway, Delhi Division for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender on prescribed form for the following work.
 Invitation of tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)
 1. Name of work with its location. 1. Supplying and stacking of stone ballast (machine crushed) at ballast depot JHI under ADEN/JHI. (17-W-IV-20-21).
 2. Construction of platform shelter size 16.5x9.14mtrs. (One bay) for passengers at PF no. 1 at JHI, PF No. 2 at BLZ, PF No. 182 at JNA, PF No. 2 at MSZ under jurisdiction of Sr. DEN-IV. (18-W-IV-20-21)
 2. Approx. cost of work 1. Rs. 2,66,12,400.00 (2). Rs. 1,81,24,616.86
 3. Earnest money. 1. Rs. 2,83,100.00 (2). Rs. 2,40,600.00
 4. Date and Time of submission of tender and opening of tender Bidding Start date for work no. 1&2 Up to 15:00 hrs. on 31.07.2020 opening of e-Tender at 15:00 hrs on 14.08.2020.
 5. Website particulars, published e-tender, notice location etc. complete details of tender can be seen and web site where the tender form can be downloaded Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in
 No. 128-W/260/Tender Notice/17&18/20-21/W-IV Date: 21.07.2020 1594/2020
 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Delhi can't ease up

The sero surveillance map explains why COVID-19 cases are dipping but we can't let up on vigilance and testing



Just like everything else, disease-mapping is a crucial component in the fight against COVID-19 as it helps to formulate mitigation strategies and recalibrate them according to evolving situations. And as the virus chases us, it helps us strategise on ways to outrun it and chase it instead. It is in this respect that Delhi's first sero surveillance, or tracking the antibodies of its residents, has given us a fair idea about the extent to which the disease has spread in the city. So much so that Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain, himself recovered from COVID-19, has announced that such surveillance will be held every month to assess preparedness to combat the disease and reset response mechanisms given the mutating strains of the virus. Many would say that with one in about four Delhiites affected and with about 23.5 per cent of the total samples tested found to have antibodies or past history of infection, the spread is big enough and rapid. But given Delhi's population is two crore, this means that nearly 47 lakh people may have contracted the infection already and probably even recovered without knowing, considering that antibodies appear in the blood after three weeks of the infection. So though far away from herd, there is at least some immunity. The high positivity rate varied zonally, highest in the New Delhi area, and lowest in the southwest. The mortality rate continues to be the same as in April end, at 0.07 per cent, so there is a possibility that the virus is yet to let up as over 70 per cent of the population has still not been affected. On the positive side, the high sero-prevalence among a densely-packed population means the city may have crested or is cresting the peak, that we may have scraped through within limits and the case explosion may not be as high as expected. While experts want this pattern to hold, the flattening responsibility is on us. And that can be possible only when we are not complacent about strict vigilance, preventive behaviour and what is now being called compliance with a COVID-appropriate code. So far, the enforcement of rules has largely been top-down, officially sanctioned and all-enveloping. But that cannot be unending and as we unlock layers of permissive behaviour, a lot of discipline has to come from people and communities themselves. Of course, this mapping will undoubtedly help in devising containment strategies for low and high density areas and ease off the blanket approach in some places, which have been sealed in for over 90 days. Sealing plans can now be customised according to the intensity of disease prevalence and transmission possibility. There could be more surveillance in such identified spots. But it is the low prevalence or virgin zones that the virus is waiting to consume at the slightest drop of guard. Besides, most of the high risk group, the elderly, children, those with co-morbidities and immuno-suppressed, have largely been indoors and some degree of restlessness is now affecting them, too. So testing must be ramped up in seemingly green zones and a watch kept on isolated cases springing up in unexpected places. In fact, these new cases should be hunted down with aggressive contact testing, isolation and treatment. Given the contiguous existence of Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR), a sero surveillance must be done across all zones periodically to arrest the spiral, force the curve down and hold it there. In fact, the COVID response module for Delhi-NCR needs to be seamless and coordinated if we do not want resurgence of any kind.

Of course, there are many questions about the lability of antibodies and immunity. Worldwide research is on to analyse re-infection among recovered patients, with some studies showing rapid antibody depletion in about two months and some predicting that re-occurrence is rare before six months. And while these predictions need to be backed up by scientific evidence and the promised vaccine has some time coming, given its untested protective worth against the Indian strain, we still have to fall back on basics — social distancing, hand hygiene and mask-wearing. And not slacken up on preparedness. If anything that the estimates of the city's caseload crossing five lakh by the end of July have done, it is to perk up the healthcare infrastructure and step up testing and early treatment, which have led to a drop in cases. Delhi now has more than 15,000 beds in hospitals for COVID care and has increased its critical care infrastructure. As more than 80 per cent of COVID patients do not require hospitalisation, the home quarantine allowance has helped people come out for testing than hide symptoms for fear of being carried away to an institutional facility. Testing still has to be more aggressive though given our population and more private labs need to be certified for conducting them. Yes, the rapid antigen tests are quick but not accurate and show up negative even when a swab test confirms positivity. So swab tests are the way to go forward and though it may not be possible to cover every antigen-tested patient, at least testing should cover a wider arc of the population. For Delhi has mostly asymptomatic cases, a silent threat that is waiting to explode. The city needs to keep a plan ready for a year at least.

Let the games begin

Will the IPL be played in the UAE later this year? Surely, it appears so. The Arab nation will stand to benefit



It appears increasingly likely that the festival of short-form cricket, which we know as the Indian Premier League (IPL), will take place in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) though much depends on the permissions from the Arab nation. But this wouldn't be the first time that the IPL will be shifted to the UAE. Several matches have been played in Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah in the past during the time when elections were conducted in India. The UAE is geographically close enough to India. Thus, match timings do not have to be significantly altered. The fact that the IPL will take place in cooler winter climes should help with scheduling, too. But most importantly, the relatively low local population and a large number of resorts will possibly ensure that the players, officials and broadcast teams can also be kept inside a "bio bubble", just like those involved in the ongoing summer cricket series in England.

While cricket purists can argue about the value of T20 cricket and the concept of a "franchise"-based tournament in a sport that has since time immemorial been a joust between regions and nations, the return of the glamour and excess of the IPL will be a shot in the arm for the cricket economy. The IPL funds grassroots cricket not only in India but thanks to the country's contributions, several nations across the world stand to benefit. That said, why isn't the IPL being hosted in India? Is this an admission of the fact that the Government expects a second wave of the Coronavirus this winter, the traditional flu season? Or are the authorities trying to better be safe than sorry? True, the relatively compact UAE will involve bus journeys between resorts and cricket grounds. Thanks to its once flourishing expatriate population, the UAE has several cricket stadia. In fact, the International Cricket Council is based out of Dubai. The cancellation of the IPL would have meant a billion dollar hit to the Indian economy, both directly and indirectly. While the UAE will garner significant revenues, hosting the games there will also allow the Arab nation to promote itself as a safe tourist haven. Indian television channels and cricket writers will hopefully get some financial support from the IPL because it is unlikely that India will be hosting a cricket series until late 2021. Here is to IPL 2020.

India's Baloch card

Given Balochistan's strategic location, India must support its cause and help it gain independence. This will give us a counterweight against Pakistan and China



NISHIKANT DUBEY

Jammu & Kashmir is an integral part of India, geographically, culturally and economically. The BJP Government's decision last year to revoke Article 370 paved the way for full integration of this State with the rest of India. Prior to the country's independence, Jammu & Kashmir was a Muslim-majority princely State ruled by Hari Singh, a Hindu king. The State was relatively tranquil due to the amicable relationship between the king and his subjects. However, four Congress-led policies soon after changed the dynamics of the State. First, the Congress supported the Khilafat Movement of 1919. This movement brought the Muslim League in the limelight and made MA Jinnah an important political figure; the latter played a crucial role in India's partition and the start of the "Kashmir problem."

Second, Kashmir was politically vibrant in the years after the Khilafat Movement. Numerous factions, each wielding the support of different sections of Muslims, emerged. The primary factions consisted of Hari Singh, the Muslim League led by Jinnah, Azad Conference led by religious leader Mirwaiz Shah and the All India Jammu Kashmir National Congress led by Sheikh Abdullah. The four factions were in a constant tussle to garner the support of the Muslim population and created wide divisions within the socio-political fabric of the troubled State. During the 1940s, former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru had a renewed sense of "Kashmiriness" and felt the need to come to his State's aid. In his attempt to resolve problems, Nehru supported Sheikh Abdullah and alienated the other three factions — each was equally supported by the Kashmiri population — and widened the existing divisions.

Third, Mahatma Gandhi launched the "Quit India" movement against the British regime and by 1945, it reached Jammu & Kashmir. While in other parts of the country, the movement was against the British regime, in Kashmir, where it was led by Sheikh Abdullah and supported by Nehru, it was against Hari Singh's rule. Jinnah supported Hari Singh during this tumultuous time. Thus, Hari Singh's distrust of Nehru was the primary reason for his hesitation to sign the Instrument of Accession. Hari Singh's dithering was seen as an opportunity by Pakistan to invade Kashmir and claim it by force, which it managed to do. The result of the bitter relationship between Nehru and Hari Singh is Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

Lastly, Nehru agreed to his "friend" Sheikh Abdullah's demand to pass



Articles 370 and 35(A), which would provide Kashmir with a separate Constitution, flag and head of State. This further distanced the once tranquil State from India.

The BJP Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah was able to successfully integrate the State into India and bring in peace and development in the militancy-ridden State.

For the last seven decades, Pakistan has approached almost all international fora and organisations to justify its claim to two illegally-occupied regions: PoK and Balochistan. Recently, it bore the expense of a few British and European Members of Parliament (MPs), who visited PoK, and attempted to hold fraudulent elections in the region to gain legitimacy.

Prior to India's independence, Balochistan was ruled by the Khan of Kalat, who was forcefully taken to Karachi at gunpoint to sign the Instrument of Accession. However, Khan's decision had to be confirmed by the two Houses of the National Assembly of the kingdom for Balochistan's integration into Pakistan. Two days prior to Pakistan's independence on August 12, 1947, the Houses

voted against acceding to either nation and decided to be an independent State.

Thus, Pakistan's occupation of Balochistan is illegal. The Balochi people, as a result of this illegal occupation, have not been able to completely integrate into Pakistan; the Balochis and the Pakistani population have distinct cultures, social norms and values which make reconciliation between the two unachievable. Balochistan has tried to remove its illegal occupiers on numerous occasions: The wars of 1958, 1962 and from 1973-1977. One war is still being fought. Cultural and social differences are not the only catalysts. Even though Balochistan is a mineral-rich State, with its wealth of resources fuelling Pakistan's economic growth, Balochi people are illiterate and have the highest unemployment rate in Pakistan, around 40 per cent.

Balochistan province constitutes nearly half of the country's landmass, yet its people are only four per cent of the Pakistani population. Now is the time to support nationalist groups in Balochistan, who are fighting against widespread inequalities and overall degradation of life. Groups such as the Balochistan National Party, National Party, Jamhoori Watan

Party, Baloch Haq Talwar, Pashtun Khawa Milli Awami Party and the Balochistan student organisation have been forwarding Balochistan's resolve for independence. This province is located strategically and its independence would have significant consequences for the South Asia region. Chinese aggression will be checked, Pakistan will be weakened, the Taliban can effectively be countered and the oil pipeline between Iran and India will see quick development.

Many nations, which support Balochistan's resolve, have not come to its aid because they respect Pakistan's sovereignty and say that it is an internal matter. Balochistan had played an integral role during India's independence and, thus, it is our duty to help it gain independence. An independent Balochistan will not only benefit the Baloch nation but would also be a geo-political investment for India. Balochistan's energy resources are vast and India's emerging economy could get enormous access to them.

Currently, China is militarising Balochistan's coastal belt to have a better stranglehold on India. Balochistan's leader had approached the Congress-led UPA-II Government for strategic aid against Pakistani

occupation. However, he was largely ignored. Baloch leaders are supportive of Indian causes and have even applauded India's decision to revoke Articles 370 and 35(A).

Culturally, Balochistan is very much similar to India due to its respect for Hinduism and its ideals. In the Kalat region of Balochistan lies a 2,000-year-old Kali temple; the second tallest in South Asia. A post-independence Balochistan will help protect Indian interests from foreign aggression.

Pakistan, on the other hand, has been instigating terrorist activities in Jammu & Kashmir, holding elections in PoK, speaking against India's decision to revoke Articles 370 and 35(A) and is even attempting to create an environment against us at international fora and organisations.

In the midst of such an adversity, if India decides to support Balochistan's cause of independence, the decision would be morally correct. India should approach international conferences and organisations to seek the support of major countries in Europe, Russia and the US to help Balochistan gain independence from Pakistan's illegal occupation.

(The writer is a BJP leader and Lok Sabha MP. Views expressed are personal)

SOUNDBITE

The people who sit in Delhi think that they can trample democracy and when they fail to kidnap democracy, they use ED for raids.

Congress leader —Randeep Singh Surjewala



Ups and downs are part of life, they don't happen only when you're struggling for your first break, even after becoming an actor, I've been through very deep lows.

Actor —Vidya Balan



You (China) can't go make claims for maritime regions that you have no lawful claim to. You can't threaten countries and bully them in the Himalayas.

US Secretary of State —Mike Pompeo



We hope that as an important force in global multi polarisation, India will stay to its independent diplomatic policy and maintain regional peace and stability.

Chinese official —Wang Wenbin



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Cong needs overhaul

Sir — This refers to the article, "Revive or perish" (July 21) by Kalyani Shankar. Verily speaking, the Congress is beset with internecine bickering between the old guard and the young Turks over power-sharing issues in States where it wields power. Ironically, despite working like a Trojan, Congress president Sonia Gandhi has miserably failed to nip this internal power struggle in the bud. The issue snowballed and culminated in the Congress' drubbing in the last Lok Sabha polls. What has made matters worse is Rahul Gandhi's failure to lead the party.

The top leadership's failure to contain internal feud is now out in the public domain. This has cost the grand old party dearly and led to disenchantment and resultant estrangement of a couple of its young leaders like Jyotiraditya Scindia and, now, Sachin Pilot. The writer's observation that even if Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot succeeds in surviving the ongoing crisis, the Damocles' sword would still hang over the Congress in view of its fragile

Bubble has burst but difficult road ahead

This refers to the editorial, "Blowing bubbles" (July 18). The creation of "air bubbles" for international travel has unnecessarily led to desperate travellers getting excited. In essence, two countries, which wish to re-open their borders and re-establish connections with almost similar restrictions such as quarantining or testing of passengers, are said to have put air bubbles in place. India has reportedly signed bilateral agreements with France and the US to operate flights. The country has also set quarantine rules for its citizens returning home and Overseas Citizen of India cardholders.

The biggest impediment that lies in the way of resumption of international flights is threat perception. With cases mounting each day, perhaps nobody would want to risk their lives despite so many rules and regulations in place. The quest for relaxation may turn into an exercise to fend off grim-faced foreign authorities. Routine fliers, too, do not seem to have lost sight of the fact that hotels in many foreign countries are yet to admit



residents. Ditto with recreational spots and important market places. While India has done well to commence a few international air operations, the initial bubble of an average international traveller appears to have burst. But it may take some time for the normal rush that is associated with foreign sojourn to return.

Ganapathi Bhat Akola

important assignments.

As the verse goes, *Na masjid me, na mandir me, na kaba-Kailash me, moko kahan dhundhe bande mai to tere paas me* (neither in the mosque nor in the temple nor in Kaba-Kailash, where are you searching me, I am beside you). Lord Ram is omnipresent. He is in no hurry for the Ayodhya temple to be built.

MC Joshi Lucknow

Still a long way to go

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "A glimmer of hope" (July 22). The Oxford vaccine is a promising step forward in the search for a cure against COVID-19. But even if the third phase of the trials goes as expected, it may take another few months before the world can claim victory over the virus. Till then, the social vaccine, along with other concerted efforts, is the most effective way to control the pandemic.

Sudeshna Via email

Why this hurry?

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Message or faith?" (July 22). A landmark verdict by the Supreme Court had effectively brought closure to the decade-old Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid case. It was left to the temple trust authorities to decide on the date for the con-

struction of the shrine. The trust's decision to lay the foundation stone on August 3 was uncalled for at this moment when we are fighting a pandemic. The editorial is right to point the political overtones behind this move. The ceremony could have been deferred for a better time and the Prime Minister, an invitee of the ceremony, could have been spared for more

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Some hope for the planet

According to latest population predictions, global population in 2100 will be only 8.8 billion. That's just one billion more than now



GWYNNE DYER

If you wanted evidence that reasonably competent government — not great, not corruption-free, just not awful — produces good results in the end, here it is. Back in 1971, when the two countries split apart, Bangladesh had 65 million people and Pakistan had 60 million. By the end of this century, Bangladesh will have around 80 million people and Pakistan will have a whopping 250 million. Bangladesh is usually seen as a seriously overpopulated country, and it still is today, with 160 million people. But its birth rate is dropping so fast that its population will halve by 2100, leaving it with no more people per square kilometre (sq km) of farmland than the United Kingdom (UK).

It has achieved this mainly by educating its girls and young women and making contraception easily available. That is what is driving the global numbers down, too. The latest population predictions, published last week in the British medical journal *The Lancet*, forecast a global population in 2100 of only 8.8 billion. That's just one billion more than now. True, we will reach a peak of 9.7 billion in about 40 years' time, but by the century's end we will be sliding down the other side of the population mountain quite fast.

These are "surprise-free" predictions, of course, and the future always brings surprises: Wars, pandemics, a new religion or ideology. The forecasts don't even factor in the impact of foreseeable calamities like climate change. Nevertheless, these numbers are not just fiction and they really are good news.

The numbers come from the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, University of Washington, and they predict an end-of-century world population that is two billion lower than the United Nations' Population Division's forecast last year of almost 11 billion people. As they say: A billion here, a billion there and pretty soon you're talking real numbers.

Even better, the assumption is that the global population will continue to go down after that. Give it another century of gentle decline and we could hope for a global population of four or five billion by 2200, which would make the task of dealing with the long-term impacts of climate change a lot easier. Meanwhile, there are three other big things going on right now.

The first is that more than two dozen countries will lose around half their population by the end of this century, including all the countries of East Asia (China, Korea, Japan and Taiwan) and most of the countries of central, eastern and southern Europe (e.g. Italy, Poland, Spain and Greece). Some will fall even further: Bulgaria from seven million to 2.6 million, Latvia from two million to less than half a million. The problem for all of these countries will be a huge overhang of elderly people as the younger population shrinks. The population pyramid will be stood on its point, more or less, with each person in the working population having to support at least one retired person (unless retirement ages are raised radically, as they may well be).

The second group are countries, almost all in Africa or the Middle East, where population growth is still out of control. These are the only regions where some countries will triple their populations (e.g. Israel and Angola), or quadruple them (Afghanistan and Nigeria), or even more (Chad's population will grow eightfold, Niger's ninefold). Many countries in this category have more modest growth rates, of course, but the fact remains that if these two regions are excluded from the count, the population of the rest of the world in 2100 would be lower than it is today.

And finally comes the oddest group: The countries where the birth rates are already far below replacement level but the populations will hold steady or even grow somewhat by the end of the century. They include not only the rich countries of Western Europe, North America and Australasia but also many of the Latin American republics. What's their secret? Immigration. They almost all have a well-established tradition of accepting immigrants from other continents and cultures and they're prosperous enough to be attractive to immigrants. So Sweden, Norway, France and the UK will each add a few million people by 2100. Canada, Australia and the US will each add around ten million (and New Zealand gets a million). The rest will attract at least enough newcomers to plug the holes left by their very low birth rates.

This may seem unfair but it gets worse. When the researchers factored predicted economic growth into the study, the ten countries with the biggest Gross Domestic Product 80 years from now were, in order: The US, China (whose population will have fallen to 731 million), India, Japan, Germany, France, UK, Australia, Nigeria and Canada. Six of those ten countries use English as their primary national language. To them that hath shall it be given.

(Gwynne Dyer's new book is 'Growing Pains: The Future of Democracy and Work')

I HAD A TALK WITH SACHIN (PILOT). HE OFFERED ME MONEY TO JOIN THE BJP BUT I REFUSED, SAYING I WILL NOT JOIN THE SAFFRON PARTY.

—CONGRESS MLA FROM RAJASTHAN
GIRRAJ SINGH MALINGA

POINT COUNTERPOINT



I DEMAND A WRITTEN APOLOGY (FROM MALINGA) BEFORE THE PRESS FOR ISSUING FALSE AND FRIVOLOUS ALLEGATIONS AGAINST ME.

—FORMER DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER OF RAJASTHAN
SACHIN PILOT

Pandemics shape history

Over centuries, disease outbreaks have shaped politics, crushed revolutions and entrenched racial and economic discrimination. In short, they have been a mirror to society



SURAVI SHARMA KUMAR

Each disease has a persona and it isn't just an interchangeable cause of death. The persona depends upon the nature of humankind and how societies react to it. It also depends upon how many people the disease kills, how it kills, whether it has children among its victims or orphans them, or if it surprises everybody. And once it has acquired a definitive trait, it reflects in popular culture as the transformative agent of the human condition.

During the last plague epidemic in the 19th century, one can see the impact of the disease on the thinkers and the artistic world. There was a cult of religiosity, there were themes of sudden death, repentance and getting your affairs and soul in order just in case the plague suddenly got you. It had a transformative effect on the iconography of European art.

The bubonic plague killed half the population of full continents and, therefore, had a tremendous effect on the advent of the industrial revolution, slavery and serfdom. The circumstances created by the pandemic set free many serfs in Europe, forced wage rise for labourers and caused a fundamental shift in the economy along with an increased standard of living for the survivors.

The 1918 Spanish Flu disproportionately affected young men, which in combination with World War I, created an overall shortage of manpower. This gap enabled women to play a new and indispensable role in the workforce during the crucial pandemic period, which in turn led to granting of suffrage to women in the US soon after.

Epidemics hold up the mirror to human beings, as to who we really are. They lead us to think about life's big questions. Outbreaks raise the whole question of man's relationship with God and one another. Even in India, though our historical tradition isn't very good at recording epidemics, the veneration patterns of epidemic goddesses preserve the folk memory of diseases sweeping the country. As early as the 2nd century, the outbreak of small-pox across the Silk Road led to the worship of goddess Hariiti, believed to have the power to cause and thwart the disease. It resulted in numerous sculptures of the deity in the Gandhara region (present-day Pakistan and Afghanistan). In India, the legends of Shitala Mata, who had the powers to heal fever and small pox and Oladevi, the goddess of cholera, have been painted by folk artists for a long time.

The post-plague European paintings started featuring symbols like an hour glass with the sands of time running out, wilting flowers, heaps of bones and skeletons. In European Catholic countries, the main thrust was to see this as a reminder that life is temporary and provisional. One sees a great attention to themes of suddenness of death, that is, the *danse macabre* (dance of death) where everyone is swept away into the lap of the grim reaper.

In ancient literature and scriptures, right from Homer's *Iliad* to *The Old Testament*, plagues are associated with the idea that man is being punished for his sins. Venetian churches were built to demonstrate repentance. In the 14th and 15th centuries, we see the Flagellants embarking on a "40-day procession of repentance, self-chastisement and prayer," whipping themselves and others.

From the perspective of political instability, the bubonic plague struck India in the late 19th cen-



SINCE WORLD WAR II, HUMANITY HAS BEEN LIVING WITH THE PROMISE OF UNBEATABLE HEALTH AND LONG LIFE WITH PROSPECTS OF REVERSING AGEING AND LIVING FOREVER. THE CURRENT OUTBREAK OF COVID-19 HAS REVEALED TO HUMANITY THAT BEYOND ALL ITS TECHNO-SCIENTIFIC POWERS, THE MODERN HUMAN BEING IS STILL A FRAGILE CREATURE. THIS PANDEMIC PRECIPITATED CHANGES IN OUR PERSPECTIVE ABOUT OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ENVIRONMENT AND WITH ONE ANOTHER

The ruling British Government responded by introducing Renaissance-era anti-plague measures — draconian exercises of power and authority. Such measures by a colonial Government made the natives more fearful than the plague itself and they resisted.

The anti-plague activities of the health department involved police searches, isolation of the sick, detention of travellers in camps and forced evacuation of residents in parts of the city. These measures were widely regarded as offensive and alarming. The outrage against this led to the murder of WC Rand, the British chairman of the Special Plague Committee, by the Chapekar brothers, two Indian revolutionaries.

Diseases do not afflict societies in random and chaotic ways because microbes selectively expand and diffuse themselves to explore ecological niches that human beings have created. Those niches show who we are. For example, during the industrial revolution, people actually cared about what happened to workers and the poor and the conditions that the most vulnerable people lived in, which had never been a concern earlier. In today's world, we see that cholera and tuberculosis move along the fault lines created by poverty and inequality and we seem to be prepared to accept this as inevitable.

But it is also true that the way we respond depends on our values, our commitments and our sense of being a part of the human race. Many positive changes are seen arising after epidemics in history, like the end of slavery. That and the success of the Haitian rebellion and Toussaint Louverture were determined, above all, by yellow fever. When Napoleon sent the great armada to restore slavery in

Haiti, the rebellion succeeded because the slaves from Africa had immunity that White Europeans in Napoleon's army didn't have that insurance. It was one of the causes that led to the Haitian independence. Besides, from an American point of view, this was what led to Napoleon's decision to abandon the idea of projecting French power in the New World and, therefore, to agree with Thomas Jefferson in 1803 to the Louisiana Purchase which doubled the size of US territory.

Varied diseases provoke different responses. One of the vaguest societal responses to a disease was to tuberculosis and how it was perceived in the Romantic period, in the early years of the 19th century. Though tuberculosis is one of the most gruesome ways to die, where, in the end, you're cyanosed and asphyxiate to death, yet, in that era, you would have it displayed on stage in a glorified way with beautiful opera heroines enacting plays with a theme around the disease.

People of that era thought that it was a disease of the elite, of the artist, of the beautiful, of the refined, and that it made people much more beautiful. So much so that fashion tried to turn women into tubercular creatures. In Toulouse Lautrec's painting, you see an anorexic-looking woman applying rice powder on her face so that she looks pale like patients with tuberculosis.

Those days, famous French novelist Victor Hugo was told by his friends that he had one great fault as a writer, which was that he wasn't tuberculous, and, therefore, he wouldn't be as great a writer as he would have been otherwise.

The germ theory of disease as put forward by Louis Pasteur brought forth the reality of tuberculosis in the late 19th cen-

tury. The theory insisted that tuberculosis was not a disease of spontaneous generation of the beautiful classes but of the unhygienic and the poor. The whole interpretation changed and the idea of a beautiful disease disappeared.

Over the centuries, disease outbreaks have shaped politics, crushed revolutions and entrenched racial and economic discrimination. Since World War II, humanity has been living with the promise of unbeatable health and long life with prospects of reversing ageing and living forever.

The current outbreak of COVID-19 has revealed to humanity that beyond all its techno-scientific powers, the modern human being is still a fragile creature. This pandemic precipitated changes in our perspective about our relationship with the environment and with one another. While holding up a mirror to society, the virus has also deepened our social fissures. The other significant change is the rise of the Government in people's lives. Being done by many Right-wing governments across the globe, this has fit with the Indian way, too. The Government runs the show.

The current pandemic has touched every person's life in some way or the other, forcing isolation, uncertainty, anger, and hopelessness. This, coupled with the economic meltdown, is causing huge psychological distress and sets the alarm ringing for an impending mental health crisis. The full impact of the pandemic on the socio-political aspects are yet to emerge and so are the responses of the artistic world which will be reflected on canvases and papers in the coming decade.

(The writer is an author and a doctor by profession)

India must begin its groundwork now

If we are aiming to be an alternative manufacturing hub, then we should first reduce our dependency on the Chinese supply chain



SHSHANK SAURAV

The recent Chinese aggression at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) came as a surprise for India at a time when the entire world was facing the Coronavirus crisis. The Modi Government had its hands full, revamping healthcare facilities to meet the challenges posed by the pandemic and reviving economic activity brought to a grinding halt by the extended lockdowns. But now the national discourse has shifted from COVID-19 to the Chinese misadventure at the LAC and though a dialogue is on to resolve tension along the 3,488 km border, there are no guarantees how long this uneasy peace would hold. In fact, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's recent call to the Indian Air Force to stay on alert

came at a time when a pullback of troops from key friction points along the LAC seemed to have come to a halt with no change in the situation for a week.

Military and economic might are important factors for claiming the status of a global power. As far as China is concerned, its economic strength and not military might is making a difference. China has established itself as the world's factory while India can at best claim the status of the world's back office. This situation is not going to change in a short span of time and apart from policy interventions by the Government, India should use diplomatic channels to convince multinational corporations to minimise the risk of geographical concentration.

It is no secret that Chinese goods are of substandard quality. However, it is quite surprising that despite running a trade deficit amounting to billions of dollars for years, the Indian Government has not yet come out with technical specifications for curbing import of such cheap-quality goods. If we want to make our-

selves self-reliant, then we simply cannot go by the rulebook of international trade because China has engaged in various sorts of manipulation.

If we really want to tame the dragon and improve our economic strength, then the Modi Government should go beyond the sensation which is created out of nationalistic fervour. The social media in India is abuzz with "boycott China" messages but at the same time we continue to award big contracts to our troublesome neighbour. Some imports are unavoidable because of a lack of our self-sufficiencies. Chinese companies are executing various Government contracts and it may be highlighted here that India is not a signatory to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) agreement on Government Procurement (GPA) and, therefore, we must safeguard our national as well as economic interests while awarding contracts to nations hostile to us. We can learn from developed nations like the US on how to deal with the dragon. Trade malpractices

adopted by China should be highlighted at international fora. The US Trade Representative Report issued in March highlights such issues which are against WTO rules. Various concerns have been raised in this report which range from Government subsidy against WTO rules to investment restrictions. The Commerce Ministry should also publish such reports to highlight the foul practices China indulges in. The Information Technology (IT) sector makes immense contribution towards economic development and Indian IT companies have a global presence, except in China. Our IT companies are not getting a level playing field in the Chinese market and this is primarily due to the "Made in China 2025" plan, which has a specific thrust on IT.

In fact, the Chinese Government has identified ten strategic sectors for increasing its worldwide market share and is aggressively pursuing this. Hence, there should be a tit-for-tat policy. In fact, the Indian Government's recent decisions to ban Chinese apps and cancel the

use of Chinese equipment for BSNL and MTNL's 4G upgrades are moves in the right direction because it impacts their investment. China has taken all sorts of tariff and non-tariff measures to increase its exports and protect its domestic market. It has smartly used its currency exchange rate to grab a large share in global markets. The Chinese yuan has depreciated more than 15 per cent against the US dollar since July 2015 when it was traded at \$1 equivalent to 6.2 yuan.

Among various factors, the depreciation in the yuan is not in line with the interest rate and inflation in China. The People's Bank of China has deliberately allowed the yuan to fall and this to the "Made in China 2025" plan, which has a specific thrust on IT. In fact, the Chinese Government has identified ten strategic sectors for increasing its worldwide market share and is aggressively pursuing this. Hence, there should be a tit-for-tat policy. In fact, the Indian Government's recent decisions to ban Chinese apps and cancel the

refrain from competitive devaluation.

India has to begin with curbing non-essential imports if it wants to get a hold of this trade battle. If we are trying to convince the world to look at us as an alternative manufacturing destination, then we should first reduce our dependency on the Chinese supply chain and start creating the requisite infrastructure now with graded tax breaks.

Of course, there will be teething issues in terms of a small price rise and production cost if we start sourcing material from other countries, while incentivising local manufacturers to scale up, but this will help us in the long run. From the investment perspective, we are not dependent on China and the cumulative Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from our neighbour is hardly 0.51 per cent of the overall FDI. It is high time we go for a policy change along with strict implementation and continuous monitoring. Let not our soldiers' deaths go in vain.

(The writer is an economic policy analyst)



FOREIGN EYE



ENCOURAGE ENTERPRISE

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a crisis for business in Bangladesh, but this crisis can also be turned into an opportunity. There are, for example, emerging opportunities in the industrial supply chain. The truth is, for too long, our entrepreneurial spirits have been kept in check through various cumbersome Government mechanisms, which make business harder, not easier. These roadblocks must be removed. In this regard, there is much that can be learned from countries like Singapore, where setting up a business is not bogged down by unnecessary bureaucracy. With the right policies in place, there is no doubt that entrepreneurship in Bangladesh can flourish.

(Dhaka Tribune editorial)

UK to open citizenship path to Hong Kongers from Jan

London: Britain's Government announced on Wednesday that it will open a new special pathway to obtaining British citizenship for eligible Hong Kongers from January 2021.

In a statement, the Home Office said holders of the British National Overseas passport and their immediate family members can move to the UK to work and study. The change to immigration rules was introduced after China imposed a new, sweeping national security law on Hong Kong.

Those eligible can access the British job market at any skill level and without a salary threshold, but will not have access to public funds.

"The UK has a strong historic relationship with the people of Hong Kong and we are keeping our promise to them to uphold their freedoms," Home Secretary Priti Patel said.

Those who come to the UK



through the new pathway will be able to apply to settle in Britain permanently once they have lived in the UK for five years. Then after a further 12 months, they can apply for British citizenship.

Britain handed over Hong Kong, its former colony, to Chinese rule in 1997 under a "One Country, Two Systems" framework that was supposed

Taiwan says China sending planes near island almost daily

Taipei: China is sending military planes near Taiwan with increasing frequency in what appears to be a stepping up of its threat to use force to take control of the island, Taiwan's foreign minister said Wednesday.

Such flights are more frequent than reported in the media and have become "virtually a daily occurrence," Joseph Wu told reporters.

Along with Chinese military exercises simulating an attack on Taiwan, the flights by China are causing major concern for Taiwan's government, Wu said.

"What it is doing now is unceasingly preparing to use force to resolve the Taiwan problem," Wu said.

China claims the self-ruling island democracy as its own territory and threatens to use the People's Liberation Army to bring it under its control. The sides split in a civil war in 1949

when Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists fled to the former Japanese colony as the Communist Party took control in mainland China.

Beijing has cut ties with the island's government since Taiwan elected independence-leaning President Tsai Ing-wen in 2016 and has sought to isolate it diplomatically while raising the military threat. Despite that, Tsai was reelected this year by a wide margin.

Wu said China appeared to have grown in confidence following its crackdown on opposition voices in the Hong Kong, facilitated by the national legislature's passage of a sweeping security law. "If international society does not give China a sufficiently clear signal, I believe China will take it that international society will not impede it in doing other things," Wu said.

Sri Lanka Easter Sunday attacker's wife may have fled to India: report

Colombo: The wife of one of the suicide bombers belonging to a local extremist group that carried out the Easter Sunday bombings in Sri Lanka killing nearly 260 people may have fled to India to avoid arrest, according to a media report.

On April 21, 2019, nine suicide bombers belonging to the local Islamist extremist group National Thawheed Jamaat (NTJ) linked to ISIS carried out a series of blasts that tore through three churches and as many luxury hotels in Sri Lanka, killing 258 people, including 11 Indians, and injuring over 500 on the Easter Sunday.

Sri Lankan police have arrested over 200 suspects in connection with the bombings.

According to the English language daily 'The Island', a probe panel has been told that Pulasthini Rajendran alias Sarah, the wife of Achchi Mohamdu Mohamadu Hasthun, the suicide bomber who blew himself up at St.

Sebastian's Church in the western coastal town of Negombo, most likely had fled to India by the sea in September 2019.

Chief Inspector Arjuna Maheenkanda told the Presidential Commission of Inquiry (PCI) that the person who assisted her to flee had been arrested, the report said.

The police officer said that in October 2019, he was assigned to investigate the attacks carried out by the NTJ.

Maheenkanda told the PCI that on July 6, 2020, he received a tip-off from an informant that Sarah, who was in the NTJ hideout in the immediate aftermath of the attacks, had escaped and was hiding in Mankadu in the eastern town of Batticaloa, the report said on Tuesday.

"When we were in Batticaloa, we met another person who had seen a woman, whom he believed was Sarah. This informant said he had seen a cab parked along

Batticaloa-Kalmunai main road, near Beach Road, Mankadu area around 3 AM in September 2019.

"He felt suspicious and slowed down. Then he saw Sarah and two other men walking towards the main road. There was a street light there and that's how the informant saw them. This informant had lived near Sarah's house for a long time. He also saw that she got into the back seat of the cab parked near the road," the report quoted Maheenkanda as having told the PCI.

The officer said that there was information that Sarah had fled to India by boat from the Mannar area. Two persons, Sarah's brother and husband of her aunt, had helped her escape, the report said. "One of the suspects is currently in custody. The other person has gone abroad. Investigations have also revealed that a person in the Mannar area helped her flee," the officer said.

Powerful quake jolts Alaska towns, produces small tsunami

Anchorage: A powerful earthquake off Alaska's southern coast jolted coastal communities late Tuesday, and some residents briefly scrambled for higher ground over fears of a tsunami.

There were no immediate reports of damage in the sparsely populated area of the state, and the tsunami warning was canceled after the magnitude 7.8 quake off the Alaska Peninsula produced a wave of a less than a foot.

According to the US Geological Survey, the earthquake struck Tuesday at 10:12 pm local time and was centered in waters 65 miles (105 kilometers) south-southeast of the tiny community of Perryville, at a depth of 17 miles (28 km).

Because of the tremor's

location, nearby communities along the Alaska Peninsula did not experience shaking that would normally be associated with that magnitude of a quake, said Michael West, Alaska State Seismologist. That doesn't mean they slept through it, West said residents in small towns within a hundred miles (160 kilometers) of the quake reported very strong shaking. Some shaking was also felt more than 500 miles (805 kilometers) away in the Anchorage area, West said.

"No reports of any damage," Kodiak Police Sgt. Mike Sorter said early Wednesday morning.

"No injuries were reported. Everything is nominal," Kodiak is about 200 miles (320 kilometers) northeast of where the earthquake was centered.

Israelis block entrance to Parl amid intense protests

Jerusalem: After a night of intense protests against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his government, dozens of Israeli demonstrators chained themselves together and briefly blocked the entrance to parliament on Wednesday morning.

Police arrested four and broke up the gathering, which was called to protest an upcoming vote to grant the government sweeping authority to bypass parliament in enacting measures to combat the rapid spread of the coronavirus. But it came amid a fresh outpouring of discontent with Netanyahu.

Protests outside Netanyahu's residence have become a weekly occurrence, with police increasingly taking harsher measures against demonstrators. Last month,



Police use a water cannon to disperse demonstrators during a protest against Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu outside his residence in Jerusalem on Wednesday

they arrested a retired Israeli air force general, setting off an uproar.

The protests have since drawn a younger crowd and have grown more defiant. In the past week, thousands of Israelis have participated in some of the

largest demonstrations in nearly a decade against the long-time prime minister, as public discontent bubbled over.

Netanyahu has come under growing criticism for holding office while on trial for corruption, pushing for seemingly

anti-democratic measures under the guise of combating the virus and mismanaging the country's deepening economic crisis.

On Tuesday night, a large coalition of protest groups combined to march through the streets of Jerusalem from Netanyahu's official residence to the Knesset, Israel's parliament.

They beat drums, banged on pots and blared on trumpets while calling for the prime minister's resignation and holding banners reading, "The Israeli spring is here." Toward the end, a young woman climbed atop a mounted candelabra, the national symbol, and stripped off her shirt in protest. Police said they arrested 34 people who were involved in the disturbances, deploying a heavy hand in the arrests.

UK's Labour party to pay damages to ex-workers in anti-Semitism probe

London: Britain's opposition Labour Party has agreed to pay substantial damages to seven whistleblowers who sued for defamation after they voiced concerns of anti-Semitism within the party.

The seven former employees appeared on a BBC investigative program last year looking into whether the Labour Party was anti-Semitic.

They criticised Labour's handling of anti-Semitism complaints and sued after the party issued a statement describing the group as having "personal and political axes to grind."

The former employees, who worked in the party's governance and legal unit, were also accused of trying to undermine Jeremy Corbyn, who was

Labour's leader at the time.

Mark Henderson, a lawyer for the party, told the High Court on Wednesday that the party acknowledged that "the claims about the claimants are untrue" and apologized to the group.

The settlement and the apology underlined how much the party's new leader, Keir Starmer, is seeking to tackle the anti-Semitism claims that have plagued Labour for years.

Starmer hopes to steer the party back toward the center after the divisive tenure of left-wing predecessor Corbyn.

Corbyn, a longtime supporter of Palestinians and a critic of Israel, has faced allegations that he allowed anti-Semitism to fester in the party.

BOLSONARO STILL TESTS POSITIVE FOR VIRUS

Brasilia: Brazil's Government says President Jair Bolsonaro is still testing positive for the coronavirus following his July 7 announcement.

The positive test Tuesday came after a follow-up check on July 15. The government says he remains in good health.

The World Health Organisation says the median time from onset to clinical recovery for mild cases is approximately two weeks.

The government say Bolsonaro will keep holding videoconferences instead of face-to-face meetings. He had to cancel a trip to northeastern Brazil. At least four members of Bolsonaro's Cabinet have been diagnosed with coronavirus.

Bolsonaro repeatedly dismissed the disease as a "little flu" and often mingled in crowds, sometimes without wearing a mask.

US signs contract with Pfizer for Covid-19 vaccine doses

Washington: The Trump administration will pay Pfizer nearly \$2 billion for a December delivery of 100 million doses of a COVID-19 vaccine the pharmaceutical company is developing, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar announced on Wednesday.

The US could buy another 500 million doses under the

agreement, Azar said.

"Now those would, of course, have to be safe and effective" and approved by the Food and Drug Administration, Azar said during an appearance on Fox News.

Pfizer Inc and BioNTech SE announced separately that the agreement is with HHS and the Defence Department for a vac-

cine candidate the companies are developing jointly. It is the latest in a series of similar agreements with other vaccine companies.

The agreement is part of President Donald Trump's Operation Warp Speed vaccine programme, under which multiple COVID-19 vaccines are being developed simultaneously. The programme aims to deliver 300 million doses of a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine by January 2021.

Hundreds of historians protest UK's 'misleading' citizenship test

PTI ■ LONDON

Bestselling author William Dalrymple is among over 180 historians who have issued an open letter to the UK Home Office calling for a review of the history segment of the citizenship and settlement test for being "fundamentally misleading" on issues related to slavery and the British Empire.

The "Life in the UK Test" is a compulsory requirement

for any applicant for citizenship or "indefinite leave to remain" residency rights in the UK and the official Home Office handbook issued for its preparation covers different sections of British life, including its history.

Dalrymple, the author of 'The White Mughals' and 'The Anarchy: The Relentless Rise of the East India Company', and other historians including Indian-origin academics from leading British universities,

believe that people from Commonwealth countries like India and other former British colonies are not given a fair representation in the handbook.

"We are historians of Britain and the British Empire and writing in protest at the on-going misrepresentation of slavery and Empire in the 'Life in the UK Test'," notes the open letter issued in the official journal of the Historical Association on Tuesday.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Notice inviting Application for Empanelment / Registration of Siding Consultants for Providing Consultancy Services of Railway Sidings Development Projects
 Applications are invited for and on behalf of the President of India by Asst. Executive Engineer / General, Northern Railway, Headquarters office, Baroda House, New Delhi to be submitted latest by 07.09.2020 upto 15.00hrs. from interested Parties / consultants / consulting firms for empanelment / registration in connection with Survey, Construction & maintenance of private sidings on prescribed document i.e. Form for empanelment (FFE) documents No. CEG/IFE-1 of 2020 which can be had from office of AXENIG, Room No. 441-A, Engineering Branch Baroda House, New Delhi-110001 w.e.f. 22.07.2020 at a cost of Rs. 1000/- (Rs. One Thousand). The document fees to be deposited in the form of Demand Draft in favour of F&B/CAO/Northern Railway, Baroda House New Delhi from any Nationalized bank, which will be non-refundable, and documents non-transferable. These documents can also be downloaded from Northern Railway website www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in subject to deposition of cost of documents as per relevant clause.
 No. 7-W/0/Consultants/20-21/WA Dated: 22.07.2020
 (N. K. Deswal)
 Asstt. Executive Engineer / General
 For General Manager / Engineering
 1596/20
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
INVITATION OF TENDERS THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT SYSTEM
 Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items.

Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date
09202437	BOLSTER SPRING OUTER FOR BLC WAGON	5501 Nos.	21.08.2020

Note: 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details. 2. No Manual offer will be entertained.
Tender Notice: 10/2020-2021 Dated: 21.07.2020 1597/20
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

UNITED LEASING AND INDUSTRIES LIMITED
 Regd. Office: Plot No.66, Sector-34, EHTP, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001.
 CIN: L17100HR1983PLC033460, Phone: 011-26258237, 49075251
 Email: investorrelations@ullilt.com, website: www.ullilt.com.

BOARD MEETING NOTICE
 In pursuance of Regulation 29 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, Notice is hereby given that 2nd/2020-21 Meeting of the Board of Directors of the United Leasing and Industries Limited will be held on Wednesday, the 29th day of July, 2020 at 12:30 P.M. at B-10, 12, Pushpanjali Farm House, Bijwasan, New Delhi 110061 through Video Conferencing to consider, approve and take on record inter alia, the Audited Financial Results for the quarter and financial year ended on 31st March, 2020 and any other business with the permission of the Board.
For United Leasing and Industries Limited
Sd/- Chandni Arora
Place: New Delhi
Date: 22nd July 2020
Company Secretary & Compliance officer

SEARCH FOR MISSING

 General public is hereby informed that a Boy namely Himanshu S/o Chander Bhan, R/o H.No. 1099, D-Block, Gali No. 9-10, Nathupura, Delhi, Age : 17 yrs., Height : 5 ft., Complexion : Yellowish, Face : Long, Hair : Short Black, Wearing : Orange Colour T-Shirt, Blue Colour Half Pant and Chappal in Feet, has been missing / kidnapped since 03.07.2020 from the area of PS. Swaroop Nagar. In this regard a case FIR No. 319/2020 dated 05.07.2020 u/s 363 IPC has been registered at PS. Swaroop Nagar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local Police to trace out the missing / kidnapped Boy but no clue has come to light so far. if anyone have any information about this missing / kidnapped Boy please inform to undersigned.
 Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in, Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641, Fax: 011-24368639
SHO DP/360/ON/2020. PS. Swaroop Nagar, Delhi Ph.: 011-27811415, 7065036327

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

 General public is hereby informed that one girl namely Sangeeta, D/o Ganga Ram, R/o: H.No. 549/48 in front of Mata Pathwari, Azadpur Village, Delhi, Age: 18 years, Height: 5', Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Build: Thin, wearing White Top, Blue Jeans and Pink Plastic Chappal in feet, has been missing/kidnapped from the jurisdiction of P.S. Adarsh Nagar since 07.07.2020. In this regard a DD No. 5A, dated 09.07.2020 has been registered at P.S. Adarsh Nagar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about her please inform undersigned.
 Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
 E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
 Fax: 011-24368639
 Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641
SHO P.S. Adarsh Nagar, Delhi DP/266/NW/2020 Ph. No.: 011-27672452, 27674452

SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED

 General public is hereby informed that one girl namely Nandini, D/o Jaiprakash, R/o: Pappu Ka Garage, Near Haiderpur Chowk, Haiderpur, Delhi, Age: 15 years, Height: 4'5", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Build: Medium, ID Mark: Her upper front teeth is broken, Wearing: Green Salwar and Blue T-Shirt, has been kidnapped from her house since 27.06.2020 at around 12:00 PM. In this regard a case vides FIR No. 0443/2020 U/S 363 IPC, dated 02.07.2020 has been registered at P.S. Shalimar Bagh, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about her please inform undersigned.
 Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
 E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
 Fax: 011-24368639
 Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641
SHO P.S. Shalimar Bagh, Delhi DP/262/NW/20 Ph.: 011-27495198, 8750870227

Sensex snaps 5-day winning run

AS BULLS TAKE A BREATHER; IT, CONSUMPTION STOCKS SKID

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Market benchmarks snapped their five-session rising streak to close modestly lower on Wednesday as investors booked profits in IT, FMCG and finance counters amid weak global cues.

After swinging 599 points in a volatile session, the 30-share BSE Sensex finished 58.81 points, or 0.16 per cent, lower at 37,871.52.

Similarly, the NSE Nifty slipped 29.65 points, or 0.27 per cent, to close at 11,132.60.

HUL was the top loser in the Sensex pack, shedding 3.06 per cent, a day after the FMCG major posted a 5.68 per cent rise in consolidated net profit to ₹1,897 crore for the June quarter. The company also said it expects a couple of turbulent quarters going forward amid the COVID-19 crisis.

Tata Steel, Maruti, IndusInd Bank, Infosys, L&T, TCS and Asian Paints were the other laggards, dropping up to 2.51 per cent. On the other hand, Axis Bank, Titan, PowerGrid, NTPC, ITC and Reliance Industries were among the gainers, surging as much as 7.36 per cent.

According to traders, besides stock-specific action, market succumbed to profit-taking at higher levels. Weak cues from global markets also kept investors cautious.

Global equities faltered following a spike in US-China tensions after Washington abruptly asked Beijing to close the Chinese consulate in Houston.

Bourses in Hong Kong, Seoul and Tokyo ended in the red, while Shanghai settled on a positive note. Stock exchanges Europe were trading with significant losses in early deals as investor focus shifted to mounting COVID-19 cases.

"Indian indices exhibited volatility and closed in the negative, in sync with negative global cues. The spike in US-China tensions hit the global markets while a surge in virus



indices fell up to 1.41 per cent. Consumer durables, utilities, power, energy and bank rose as much as 2.25 per cent.

Broader BSE mid-cap index rose 0.19 per cent, while the small-cap gauge tumbled 0.23 per cent.

Meanwhile, international oil benchmark Brent crude futures slipped 0.74 per cent to USD 43.99 per barrel.

In the forex market, the rupee pared settled on a flat note at 74.75 against the US dollar. India added 37,724 fresh cases of COVID-19 on Wednesday, taking the country's tally to 11,92,915, while the death count neared the 29,000-mark.

Globally, coronavirus cases have crossed 1.5 crore, with more than 6.16 lakh fatalities.

Foreign cos among 16 entities in pre-bid for running pvt trains

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

Even as the Indian Railways plans to introduce the first set of 12 private trains in 2023, followed by 45 more in the next fiscal, according to an initial timeline drawn by the Railways, the national transporter held a pre-bid conference and several international companies showed interest in the project.

According to railway ministry sources, Spanish coach and component maker CAF, Bombardier India, GMR group which owns and operates two airports in the country were among the prominent players which participated in the pre-bid meeting.

Sources also said that public sector units (PSUs) like RITES, Railways' tourism and catering arm IRCTC and Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) also participated in the meeting along with the Hyderabad-based Medha Group, which had bid for the Train 18 project, RK Associates, Sterlite Power, Bharat Forge and JKB Infrastructure. The sources said that Gateway Rail, Jason Infra, Hind Rectifier also participated in the meeting.

The 16 firms attended a pre-application conference on the private train project held on Tuesday. However, the railways remained tightlipped on the companies that participated in the meeting. The Railways in a formal kickstart to its plans to allow private entities to operate passenger trains

As part its privatisation plan, the Railways has planned to introduce 12 trains in 2022-23, 45 in 2023-2024, 50 in 2025-26 and 44 in 2026-27, taking the total number to 151

on its network has invited proposals from companies to run 151 modern passenger trains on 109 pairs of routes across the country. The project would entail private sector investment of about Rs 30,000 crore.

On Monday, a Railways spokesperson said that the issues and concerns raised by the prospective private players were discussed and clarifications were provided by the officials of the Ministry of Railways and NITI Aayog for improved clarity on the provisions of RFQ and bidding framework.

He said the queries were mainly related to eligibility criteria, bidding process, procurement of rakes, operations of trains and composition of clusters. The official further said that there were queries on haulage charges to which the Railways replied that haulage charges will be specified upfront and will be suitably indexed for the entire concession period, thereby bringing certainty in the haulage charges.

"The Railways will also provide the details of passenger traffic being handled on the routes under bidding. This will

enable the bidders to do due diligence for the project," he said. The official also said that Railways has clarified that trains to be operated under the project can be either purchased or taken on lease by the private entities. The national transporter clarified that risks with regard to operation of trains shall be allocated to the parties in an equitable manner.

The Ministry of Railways will be providing written replies to the queries received from the prospective applicants by July 31 and the second pre-application conference is scheduled on August 12.

As part its privatisation plan, the Railways has planned to introduce 12 trains in 2022-23, 45 in 2023-2024, 50 in 2025-26 and 44 in 2026-27, taking the total number to 151.

The request for qualification (RFQ), which was floated on July 8, is likely to be finalised by November, while the financial bids will be opened by March, 2021.

The selection of bidders is planned to be done by April 31, 2021, according to a timeline for introduction of private passenger trains prepared by the Railways.

infections globally also impacted sentiment.

"Domestically, the private banking space gained on the back of earnings numbers from Axis Bank.

However, Auto, IT and PSU Banks led the losses. Volatility is expected to continue due to expiry day tomorrow," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

BSE IT, auto, capital goods,

teck, realty, industrials, oil and gas, FMCG and metal

RIL's bull run continues, hits ₹2,000/share for first time

FIANS ■ MUMBAI

Shares of Reliance Industries (RIL) surged to a new high on Wednesday, as they crossed the ₹2,000-mark for the first time. RIL shares touched an all-time high of ₹2,010 per share. They are currently trading on the BSE at ₹1,996, higher by ₹24.15 or 1.22 per cent from its previous close.

In the past three months RIL's stock price has grown around 48 per cent. The surge has been largely on the back of the investments coming in from global marquee investors

into Jio Platforms.

Jio Platforms has received a total investment of ₹1,52,056 crore in the past three months from financial and strategic investors, with Google being the latest investor to pitch in with ₹33,737 crore.

On Wednesday, the company in a regulatory filing said that the meeting of its Board to consider and approve the standalone and consolidated financial results for the quarter ended June 30 will be held on Thursday, July 30, 2020 instead of July 24.

Telcos should provide location grid of bulk subscribers: DoT

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Telecom operators will now have to provide the location grid of the premises of bulk subscribers during physical verification for issuing new connections, according to a DoT order.

Telecom companies will have to provide a point of sale code through a portal to law enforcement agencies, the order said.

The Department of Telecom (DoT) in an order issued on July 20 asked telecom operators to remove or correct gibberish text in consumer application form of all existing connections that were given to customers using electronic know your customer (e-KYC) and Digital KYC processes.

"In case of issuing new mobile connections to the bulk subscriber, during the physical verification of the

premises of bulk subscribers, the latitude/longitude of the premises of the bulk subscriber and data and time of the inspection shall be captured and the same shall be inserted in the CAF and database," the order said.

The move will ensure that physical verification of the bulk connections is done by telecom companies.

DoT has mandated telecom companies to conduct inspection of premises of bulk connection users every six month and capture the location grid.

DoT has found gibberish entries in the consumer application form (CAF) submitted by telecom operators and they have been asked to remove or correct such anomalies in the existing CAFs collected through e-KYC and D-KYC processes.

The Department had

allowed telecom operators to use Aadhaar based e-KYC process from August 2016 but discontinued it following the Supreme Court judgement in Aadhaar related matter in September 2018.

Thereafter, DoT started D-KYC whereby telcos were allowed to submit scanned copy of customer's photo ID and address proof and digitally filled basic details of the subscriber in CAF.

All the phone connections at present are issued through D-KYC process.

Under the new rules, telecom operators will have to verify details of the company from the Ministry of Corporate Affairs before activating the SIM cards.

DoT has ordered the implementation of the new process "within three months from the date of issue of these instructions".

VIL completes postpaid consolidation exercise

Moves all Idea postpaid users to Vodafone RED

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Telecom operator Vodafone Idea Ltd NSE 3.01 per cent on Wednesday announced the completion of its postpaid consolidation exercise, by bringing all Idea postpaid subscribers under a single umbrella of 'Vodafone RED'. All Vodafone Idea postpaid subscribers can now avail benefits of the Vodafone RED plan, a uniform customer service, and an enhanced digital experience, the company said in a statement.

The consolidation is a significant step towards its synergy realisations and has led to process standardisation for both the retail and enterprise customers, the statement added.

Electronic toll collection on highways rebounds to Mar levels in June: Crisil

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Electronic toll collection on highways rebounded to March levels in June, and touched 75 per cent of February levels as economic activities across the country have started to pick up since the implementation of 'unlock', Crisil Research said.

According to the agency, construction across national highways is also picking up, however, it is likely to see a 10-13 per cent decline this fiscal year. "Electronic toll collection in June has rebounded to March levels and touched 75 per cent of February levels. For an idea of how hard the pandemic had slammed the brakes, toll collection had dropped off the cliff from ₹11 crore in February 2020 to just ₹1 crore in April," the agency said.

The COVID-19 pandemic-induced lockdowns had virtually halted movement of people and goods in April and May, but curbs are being lifted slowly and the economy is beginning to crawl back. The agency noted that national highway construction activities rebounded to 637 km in May from just 210 km in April. "But key construction months were lost in the lockdown and labour migration continues to pinch. Normalcy might return only after the monsoon. Overall, we are bracing for a 10-13 per cent decline in highway construction on-year this fiscal," it said.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways spent ₹18,700 crore in April-May, a 46x jump from ₹400 crore in the same period last fiscal, it said. "While this was mainly because milestone payments were made and to ease the cash flows of developers, it will have a trade-off - constrained future spending by MoRTH," Crisil NSE 0.77 per cent said.

Retailers expect 64 pc decline in biz in July 1st half

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Retailers estimate 64 per cent de-growth in their business in the first half of July 2020 as compared to the same period last year as Indian retail industry continues to face hurdles at state and local levels making recovery all the more distant, RAI said on Wednesday.

According to the fourth edition of business survey conducted by Retailers Association of India (RAI), a few categories such as food and grocery and consumer durables have started showing some signs of improvement with overall de-growth now at 45 per cent and 30 per cent, respectively, compared to the same period last year.

Within the consumer durables category, large-sized retailers (over ₹300 crore sales) indicated de-growth of 21 per cent, whereas within food and grocery, small and medium-sized retailers (less than ₹300 crore sales) reported de-growth of 35 per cent, it added. In terms of categories, apparel and clothing declined 74 per cent, footwear was down 74 per

cent, jewellery, watches and personal accessories were down 78 per cent, while furniture and furnishing witnessed a drop of 63 per cent.

Similarly, the RAI survey said sports goods sales dropped 68 per cent, beauty, wellness and personal care decreased by 71 per cent, and quick service restaurants declined by 73 per cent, it added.

Regionwise, RAI said all regions are equally beaten for sales growth with east at 62 per cent decline, while west dropped 69 per cent, north declined 68 per cent and south also saw a dip of 58 per cent in the first half of July 2020 as compared to the same period last year, RAI added.

"It has been a grim start to the second quarter of FY21 with retailers facing huge operational setbacks due to ad-hoc local lockdowns creating confusion and leading to supply chain and staffing issues," RAI CEO Kumar Rajagopalan said.

Supply chain and operations need to smoothen up to ensure the upcoming festive season brings back the much-needed impetus to sales recovery, he added.

Indian job seekers slowly losing interest in opportunities in US: Report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

While the US remains the favourite destination for Indians looking for jobs overseas, there has been a substantial fall in the number of searches looking for employment opportunities in America, a report by global job portal Indeed has said.

According to the Indeed data, job searches for the USA fell to 42 per cent in June 2020 from a high of 58 per cent in January 2019. However, the US remained the favourite destination for Indians looking at jobs abroad, the report noted. A downward trend that predates impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and corresponds instead with uncertainty around and tightening of the US immigration policy, it added. The data for this report is compiled and analysed from job searches on the Indeed platform.

Indian job seekers remained keen to explore work opportunities across the globe, making up a significant fraction of those employed in various sectors such as technology, administration and management, sales and consumer marketing, among others internationally, the report said.

WhatsApp to work with partners in India to enhance access to financial products

New Delhi: WhatsApp will work with partners like banks and financial institutions in India to make it easier for people to access products such as insurance, microcredit and pension, its India Head Abhijit Bose said on Wednesday. The company will also support multiple pilots to test potential solutions to solve problems related to distribution of financial products, Bose said at the Global Fintech Fest.

The Facebook-owned company has been working for more than a year with banking partners to see how it can supplement their digital presence and accelerate the pace of financial access across

segments and geographies in the country, Bose said.

"We now want to open up with more banks...Over this coming year to help simplify and expand banking services, especially to the rural and lower income segments...We also aim to expand our experiments with partners for other products that RBI highlighted as basic financial services, starting with micro pensions and insurance," he added. Bose said the collective aim over the next 2-3 years is to be able to help low wage workers in the unorganised informal economy to easily access three products - insurance, microcredit and pension. PTI

Digital platforms must be responsive, accountable to concerns of sovereign nations: Prasad

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Digital platforms anywhere in the world need to be responsive, accountable and sensitive to concerns of sovereign nations regarding issues like data privacy and security of citizens, Minister for Electronics and IT Ravi Shankar Prasad said on Wednesday.

Speaking at the G20 Digital Economy Ministers meet, Prasad emphasised on data-related issues and sovereign rights of countries to protect data privacy and security of citizens, according to an official release.

He noted that India will soon put in place a robust personal data protection law that will not only address the data pri-

Unified tariff on gas pipelines from September

FIANS ■ MUMBAI

In yet another reform initiative in the oil and gas sector, pipeline operators in the country may shift to a unified or pooled tariff regime for interconnected cross-country gas pipelines from September 1.

A unified tariff may do away with levy of multiple tariffs on customers, ensuring equitable distribution of gas and uniform gas-based economic development across the country. The current system of tariff determination leads to multiple pipeline tariffs on customers who have contracted for gas which flows from multiple pipeline operators. According to official sources, downstream oil and gas regulator, the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board has finalised the draft regulation on unified tariff and would fix the tariff by August-end and implement it

from the first day of Sept. With this, one nation, one gas grid, one pricing would be implemented across the country, bringing relief to customers in far-flung areas who were being charged extra for gas transmission but raising charges for other existing customers to bring about price equalisation. According to a report by ICICI Securities, unified tariff mechanism would utilisation on GAIL's Jagdishpur-Haldia-Bokaro-Dhamra pipeline by virtue of lowering of tariff under pooling of transmission prices.

When the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the JHBDPL, GAIL had proposed unified tariff to ensure viability of this pipeline, and had estimated unified tariff on the JHBDPL and other inter-connected pipelines at ₹57/mmbtu vs ₹173/mmbtu, if fixed separately for the JHBDPL.

vacy-related concerns of citizens but also ensure availability of data for innovation and economic development. The minister asserted that digital platforms having presence across multiple countries must become trustworthy, safe and secure. "The Digital platforms need to be responsive, accountable, and sensitive to the concerns of sovereign nations as far as safety, defence and data privacy is concerned," the minister said.

NOTIFICATION

ENGAGEMENT OF JR. TECHNICAL ASSOCIATE (WORKS/ELECTRICAL/S&T/Tele) ON CONTRACT BASIS. SURVEY & CONSTRUCTION

Notification No. E/890/1/Contract/JE/S&C Date: 21/07/2020

Online applications are invited from eligible Indian Nationals for Engagement of Technical Associate (Works / Electrical / S&T / Tele) on Contract Basis.

The engagement will be offered purely on contract basis up to 19/11/2020 which can be renewed as a fresh contract on year to year basis or till such time availability of a regularly selected candidate, whichever is earlier.

Post	No. of Vacancies	UR	SC	ST	OBC	EWS
Jr. Tech Assoc (Works)	19	10	03	01	04	01
Jr. Tech Assoc (Elect.)	12	07	01	00	03	01
Jr. Tech Assoc (S&T/Tele)	10	06	01	00	02	01

Opening Date and Time for Online Applications: 24/07/2020 at 10.00 hrs. Closing Date and Time for Online Applications: 22/08/2020 at 21.00 hrs. Website Address: <https://www.rrc-wr.com>
www.indianrailways.gov.in -> News & Recruitment -> Contractual JE (cons) engagement

Online Application: Candidates are required to apply Online by visiting on website: <https://www.rrc-wr.com> While filling Online application for above posts on engagement on contract basis, candidates may fill up personal details/Bio data etc. with utmost care.

For full details, please see website www.indianrailways.gov.in -> News & Recruitment -> Contractual JE (cons) engagement. Candidates may e-mail for any assistance help in regards to filling up online application form, on e-mail - wr_jecontract@rrc-wr.com

Western Railway
www.indianrailways.gov.in

Like us on: [Facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly) Follow us on: [Twitter.com/WesternRly](https://twitter.com/WesternRly)

RLF LIMITED

Regd. Office: 14 Kms. Gurgaon Pataudi Road, Village Jhund Sarai Veeran, Distt. Gurgaon (Haryana). CIN: L74999HR1979PLC032747
 Tel: 011-26258237, 26253522 E-mail: investorrelations@rlflltd.com, web: www.rllflltd.com.

BOARD MEETING NOTICE

In pursuance of Regulation 29 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, Notice is hereby given that 02nd/2020-21 Meeting of the Board of Directors of the RLF Limited will be held on Wednesday, the 29th day of July, 2020 at 03:00 PM at B-10, 12, Puspunjli Farm House, Bijwasan, New Delhi 110061 through Video Conferencing to consider, approve and take on record inter alia, the Audited Financial Results for the Quarter and Financial Year ended 31st March, 2020 and any other business with the permission of the Board.

For RLF Limited
Sd/-
Ginni Chhabra
Company Secretary & Compliance Officer

Place: New Delhi
Date: 22nd July, 2020

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FASHION TECHNOLOGY

(A Statutory Institute governed by the NIFT Act 2006)
 (Ministry of Textiles, Government of India)
 NIFT Campus, Mawpat, Umsawli Shillong - 793012, Meghalaya

RECRUITMENT NOTICE

ADVT NO. NIFT/RECT/02/2020-21

The National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Shillong Campus, invites applications for the below mentioned post to be filled in long term contract basis on Pay-Scale

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	No. of Post
1	Machine Mechanic	01
2	Lab Assistant - AD Department	02
3	Stenographer Gr-III	01

For further details login to <http://www.nift.ac.in/shillong/careers>

-Sd-
Joint Director (I/c)

The Rajendra's Co-Op G/H Society Ltd.

212C, 2nd Floor, Plot No. 3, Pocket 6, Sec-12, Dwarka, New Delhi.

Public Notice

In pursuance of rule 19(2) of DCS Rules, 2007, applications are invited from General Public of Delhi who fulfill the conditions laid down in rule 19 & 20 of DCS Rules, 2007 for filling up Nineteen (19) vacancies in The Rajendra's Co-operative Group Housing Society Limited (Regn.No.1395/GH), which has risen against the expulsion order of Addl.Registrar vide letter No.F.1/Reader/ADDL.RCS/Sec-86/2018/1583-1606 dated 25.06.2020 and further corrigendum no.F.1/Reader/ADDL.RCS/Sec-86/2018/1612-1630 dated 20.07.2020. Interested persons can collect the application forms from the society office at 212, 2nd floor, Plot no.3, Pocket No-6, Sector-12, Dwarka, New Delhi on dated 23.07.2020 from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm free of cost and same has to be deposited along with the amount of Rs.8,12,538/- only which includes admission fees, share money & Land Money through Cheque/Demand Draft within 15 days of issue of this notice i.e. by dated 07.08.2020 upto 04.00 pm in favour of " The Rajendra's Cooperative G/H Society Ltd" at the Society office.

Note: - The provisions of Rule 19 & 20 of DCS Rules, 2007 which relate to eligibility of members are printed on application form.

For The Rajendra's Co-Op G/H Society Ltd.
President

Trend Slazer

Taapsee relives her school days

Actor **TAAPSEE PANNU** took to Instagram and went down the memory lane, reliving her school days. She has posted a picture of herself posing in her school uniform with friends.

"School! This is my 12th standard. Braces (for the second time), embarrassing hair (because I was combing my curly hair) that fence (which could take those spare Extra kilos of mine for the entire years!), the batch on my coat (the only goal in my life that I set for myself n ended up achieving it) and the friends who made memories worth discussing for years after," she captioned.

Filmmaker Taira Kashyap commented, "Lovely picture."



'I think as a creative person, a certain dose of restlessness is healthy. I look for growth and new genres. With them come uncharted territory that forces me to work out of my comfort zone. Luckily, it's a great time to be doing this. The audience accepts and celebrates fresh stories and actors who can bring them alive.'

—Tahir Raj Bhasin

As per the TAM AdEx report on Celebrity Endorsement, cricketer **VIRAT KOHLI** and actor **ANUSHKA SHARMA** make the country's biggest power couple, which has bagged 26 per cent share of ad endorsement between April to June 2020.



The couple is a brand favourite across categories, age segments and appeal in every state of the country.

The duo, aka Virushka, had ad volumes with 16 brands, followed by Akshay Kumar and Twinkle Khanna and then, Kareena Kapoor Khan and Saif Ali Khan who had 19 per cent share of Ad Volumes.

'No sequel for The Old Guard for now'

Actor **CHARLIZE THERON** does not rule out a sequel to her recently-released digital film, *The Old Guard*.

At the moment, though, she is excited by the big numbers coming the film's way.

"It's pretty nutty, right? It's pretty crazy," said Theron, who stars as the leader of a group of immortal mercenaries in the action drama.

She insists that she wasn't thinking about the success rate of the project while making the film.

"I'm not that brave. I don't want to hear predictions. No, thank you," she said.

The Oscar winner shared that the sequel hasn't been given a green signal yet.



Lal Masjid's or Masjid Mubarak Begum's middle dome collapsed due to heavy rains on Sunday, early in the morning. Zahid, the imam of the mosque, said that he heard thunder and when he rushed out of his room, he saw the ruptured dome.

"I was sleeping in my room inside the mosque when I heard thunder. We have locked the mosque since the day but we continue offering Namaz in the open courtyard," said 45-year-old Zahid.

He revealed that the mosque was last repaired in 2016 and since then, there hasn't been any repairing. It was not just the lightning and rainfall that led to the damage but also the age. The dome and the roof had started developing cracks over the past few years. Zahid applied at the Delhi Waqf Board (DWB), asking for the restoration of the damaged structure. He said that officers from the Board had visited the site to assess the damage on Monday.

I would often visit the mosque for prayers and noticed the cracks. These could have been the outcome of a number of constructions carried out by the Delhi Metro station, which is hardly 100 metres away from the mosque. When the underground metro runs through under the building, it causes vibrations in the nearby structures.

The 200-year old mosque, built of red sandstone, measures 29'0" north and south by 14'0" east and west, as quoted in *Monuments of Delhi* by Maulvi Zafar Hasan. It's a two-storeyed mosque. The first storey, which forms the floor of the mosque, consists of arched rooms used as shops. The upper storey consists of a courtyard and prayer hall of three compartments roofed by onion-shaped domes, and has three arch-shaped entrances. The central arch bears the inscription on a piece of white marble.

The mosque, built in 1822-23 by Mubarak Begum, is just 15 steps from the road. She was one of the 13 wives of Sir David Ochterlony (Akhtar Loony, nicknamed by locals). It is said that Mubarak Begum built this mosque superior to the arched sky. Its dignity is much more than that of Jerusalem, rather this should be called a second Jerusalem.

Begum came from Pune as part of a dance troupe and presented to Ochterlony, stated William Dalrymple (in a note from the Delhi Residency Archives, published in 1861). She became a courtesan and found her way to Delhi where she converted to Islam and married Ochterlony. She was tactful and desirous, although she was much younger than Ochterlony, Mubarak Begum, who was referred to as 'Beebe Mahrutun Moobaruck ul Nissa Begum', always had an upper hand in their relationship.

In *White Mughals*, Dalrymple quoted an observer at the time who remarked that making Ochterlony as the 'Commissioner' of Delhi was the same as giving the position to her, who also came to be known as the 'Generalle Begum'. After marriage, she possessed Ochterlony's property, through which she built the mosque, Lal Masjid or Masjid Mubarak Begum. She also built a neighbouring house, where the last *mushaira* (poetry symposium) of Delhi, organised by Mughal prince Mirza Farhatullah Baig, was held. Stalwarts like Ghalib, Zauq and Momin also attended the event. The structure now houses the Hauz Qazi police station.

It was for the first time that a



The dome's doom

Masjid Mubarak Begum in Shahjahanabad has been ignored for the longest time due to the many prejudices against it. After the recent collapse of its dome, it now needs to be restored and with it, gain its much-deserved attention, says **ABU SUFIYAN**

nautch girl, not royalty, had commissioned a mosque and hence, it offended the Britishers and the Nawabs, which is why they started calling it *Randi Ki Masjid*.

In early 19th-century, *randis* (strumpet) were city's divas not only skilled in dance but also singing, conversation and poetry. And the elites and Nawabs lined up to seek their company. Their manner of presenting themselves was so refined that the young Nawabs were sent to them to learn the art of conversation. They were always surrounded by the powerful men of the court, the Nawabs and the British residence. These women knew the city's secrets. Therefore, even the rich reached out to them to be well-informed about particular situations. Their large *kothis* or multi-storeyed homes with courtyards marked their stature. They were not condemned rather flaunted by the city's elite men who had long-term relationships with them.

However, in the modern times, this name of the mosque has only acted as a symbol of prejudice against it. "For the longest time, the stigma of being '*Randi Ki Masjid*' has aggravated the ignorance towards the mosque," stated Alishah, walk leader, Purani Dilli Walo Ki Baatein.

An old adage goes that too many cooks spoil the broth. And it can be witnessed in true spirit in Shahjahanabad. For the preservation of heritage of the special conservation zone of Master Plan 2021, multiple governing bodies are responsible — mosque committee, mohalla committee, DWB, Delhi Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), and Shahjahanabad Re-development Corporation (SRDC). However, none has emerged successful to rectify these malpractices. Although at the local level, members from these departments can be witnessed chatting over a cup of tea with local builder lobby, reported a *Namazi* at the mosque.



Changezi painting of Akhri Shama (the last mushaira) in Delhi

"Two more days the news will be doing rounds on the internet. Heritage enthusiasts will be making posts on history, importance of the mosque and then the mosque will be summoned to cheap restoration, killing the authenticity of the structure. Numerous mosques like Masjid Mubarak Begum, Masjid Rukn-ud-daulah, Masjid Badal Beg etc., in Shahjahanabad have met this ill fate," rued Alishah.

Engineers of the Delhi Waqf Board, which maintains the mosque, said it is "beyond repair" in terms of its heritage. "It is tough to reach the roof, which has become vulnerable and collect the bricks. They have not been cleared as we are

waiting for them to be inspected by experts, with whom we are trying to get in touch. We will preserve the *malba* (rubble) for research and see if it or some other material could be used for its restoration," said Mohammad Mehfooz, section officer, Delhi Waqf Board.

The official also said that the DWB has contacted the ASI to seek its expertise and help in restoration as they do not have any experts or architects within the board and would like to reach out to other conservation agencies if they would like to come forward and help in the task.

(The writer is the founder of Purani Dilli Walo Ki Baatein.)

Rhythms of monsoon

Curated by **CHHAVI JAIN**, the exhibition series titled, *Mann ka Malhar: A lyrical exposition*, is inspired by the many moods and ragas of rain. By **TEAM VIVA**

Rain inspires creativity. The term 'brainstorm' is enough to hint at how great ideas often come during a down-pour! Curated by Chhavi Jain, the online exhibition *Mann Ka Malhar: A lyrical exposition*, aptly coincided by with monsoon season, depicts how a group of contemporary artists interpret the *Malhar* (rainfall) through their state of being.

The show captures the many moods that ones goes through while witnessing the rain — from an uncontrollable storm of emotions to a sense of longing, wonderment and tranquillity.

Presented by Anant Art, the show features nine artists from across India and is a culmination of dialogues between them and their artworks. At the backdrop of this is a shared, yet unique experience of the pandemic that has impacted realities and intensified complexities around us.

Within the realm of Indian mythology and legend, *Malhar* is one of the most ancient ragas in Hindustani classical music that, when sung, is believed to induce torrential rainfall. The story is famously traced to Tansen, a prominent figure in Hindustani classical music, in the court of the Mughal emperor, Akbar. The Indian lore manifests magic realism in its peculiar power of invocation. The raga has over ten variants, the more prominent ones being *Megh Malhar* and *Mian ki Malhar*.

"A journey into *Malhar* attempts to interlace the classical with contemporary visual forms. The curation seeks to bring to light the artists' interpretation of *Mann ka Malhar*, or the *Malhar* within, a state of being (of mind and emotions), with a range of internal or external escapes to experiment with," said Chhavi.

In the raga's nature lies positivity, fragrance, creation and a power to cleanse. Plausibly, the rainfall alludes to a state of mind brought about by the recital of the raga.



Silence Drops Down

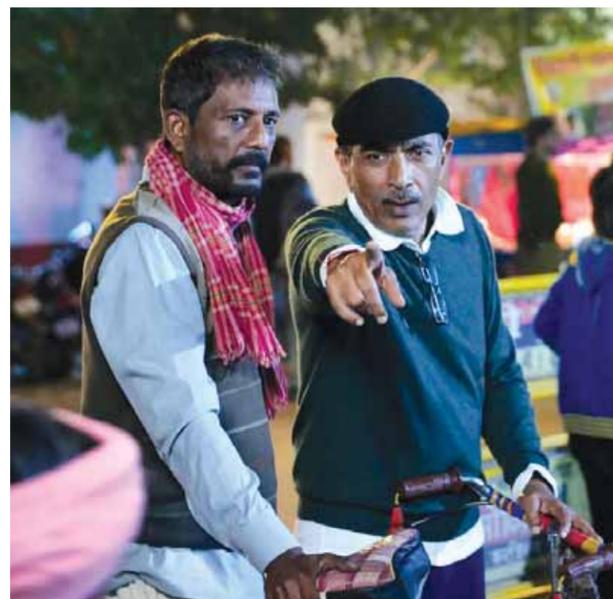


Garden of Bloom

Malhar, a raga of night time, is usually depicted in its intense form and visualised in hues of blue and deep purple. Despite its association with rain or monsoon, the depiction of this raga in forms of *bandish* (musical compositions) and other forms of representation, has been variable.

Artist Tanaya Sharma's *Garden of Bloom* uses the symbol of floating crowns to suggest alleviation of oppressive, hierarchical systems as a method of cleansing brought about by rains. Artist Abhijit Saikia conceives an image of displacement and longing, inspired from his surrounding realities as though

PAREEKSHA GETS GLOBAL PREMIERE



After making its India premiere at the 50th International Film Festival of India held in Goa, National Award-winning filmmaker Prakash Jha's next, *Pareeksha-The Final Test*, will make its international premiere at the 23rd Shanghai International Film Festival (SIFF).

Originally scheduled to take place in June, the SIFF was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and will now be held from July 25 to August 2, 2020. The film will have three screenings, July 26, July 28, and August 1.

Starring Priyanka Bose, Adil Hussain, Sanjay Suri and child actor Shubham Jha, the film will also have its UK premiere at the London Indian Film Festival (LIFF).

The film, inspired by real events,

makes a sharp comment on the Indian education system. Good quality education, which has become the monopoly of the rich, remains inaccessible to the masses, further dividing our society. Resonating from the real experience of an IPS officer, Shri Abhayanand, who is the former DGP of Bihar, this story gives us a glimpse of hope for the poor who deserve more opportunities.

Talking about the premiere at SIFF, Jha says, "It's a great honour for our film, *Pareeksha*, to have its international premiere at one of the biggest and most prestigious film festivals in South Asia. We are delighted that the festival is taking place physically and our film will actually be screened in theatres."

(The film releases on ZEE5 on August 6.)

TRIPLE TALAQ — BIG REFORM, BETTER RESULT

Union Minister of Minority Affairs MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI says that triple *talaq* was neither Islamic nor legal. The cases have dropped by 82 per cent since the law against it came into force

The month of August is recognised as a month of revolution, rights and reforms in the Indian history: August 20 — *Sadbhavana Diwas*, August 19 — World Humanitarian Day, August 15 — Independence Day, August 8 — Quit India Movement, August 5 — abolition of Article 370 and August 1 — Muslim Women Rights Day.

August 1, 2019, is a historic day in Indian parliamentary history when the bill against triple *talaq* was made a law despite the obstacle by so-called 'champions of secularism', including the Congress, Communist Party, Samajwadi Party, Bahujan Samaj Party and Trinamool Congress.

It became the day which ensured gender equality and strengthened constitutional, fundamental and democratic rights of the Muslim women. Triple *talaq* or *Talaq-a-Biddat* was neither Islamic nor legal. Despite the fact, the social evil of triple *talaq* was given "political patronage" by "Merchants of Votes".

The law against social evil of triple *talaq* could have been passed in 1986 when the Supreme Court had given historic judgement in the *Shabano* case. The Congress had absolute majority in Parliament with more than 400 out of 545 Lok Sabha members and more than 159 out of 245 members in the Rajya Sabha. But the then Rajiv Gandhi-Government used its strength in the Parliament to make the Supreme Court judgement ineffective and deprived the Muslim women of their constitutional and fundamental rights.



The Congress "Mistake of the Moment" became "Punishment of the Decades" for the Muslim women. The Congress was worried for "Vote Ka Udhhaar", while our government was worried for "Samajik Sudhaar" (social reform).

India runs on a Constitution and not on any religious textbook. Earlier, various legislations had been brought in the country to abolish social evils such as *sati pratha* and child marriage. Triple *talaq* law has nothing to do with religion, the law has been made purely to ensure gender equality by ending a social evil, inhuman, cruel and unconstitutional practice. Instant

divorce by verbally saying *talaq* thrice is illegal. There were several incidents coming where women had been given *talaq* through letter, phone or even through text messages. Such incidents are unacceptable to a sensitive country and to a government committed to inclusive development.

Several Muslim-majority nations of the world had declared triple *talaq* illegal and un-Islamic much earlier. Egypt was the first Muslim nation, which abolished this social evil in 1929.

Sudan in 1929, Pakistan in 1956, Bangladesh in 1972, Iraq in 1959, Syria in 1953, Malaysia in 1969 had

abolished the practice of triple *talaq*. Besides, countries such as Cyprus, Jordan, Algeria, Iran, Brunei, Morocco, Qatar, UAE also ended this social evil many years ago. But it took 70 years for India to get rid of this inhuman and cruel practice.

The Supreme Court on May 18, 2017 had declared it unconstitutional. One year has passed since the law against it was passed and there is a decline of about 82 per cent in triple *talaq* cases thereafter. If any such case was reported, the law has taken action.

Modi's Government is committed to empowerment of all sections and social reforms. Some political parties give illogical statements that why the Modi-Government is worried about *talaq* in Muslim women? Why the Government don't do anything for their socio-economic-educational empowerment? I want to make it clear to those people who ask such questions that during the last six years, the Government has worked with inclusive empowerment for every section including Muslim women.

Approximately, three crore 87 lakh minority students have been given various scholarships which include about 60 per cent of the girl child. A large number of Muslim women have been provided employment opportunities through *Hunar Haat*. More than 10 lakh minority youths have been provided employment through skill development schemes such as *Seekho aur Kamao*, *Garib Nawaz Swarojgar Yojna*, *Ustad*, *Nai Manzil*, *Nai Roushni* and more. A

total of 3,040 women have performed Haj after the Modi Government ensured Muslim women can perform Haj without *Mehram* (male companion) in 2018. This year too, more than 2,300 women had applied to perform Haj without *Mehram*. These women will be allowed to go to Haj 2021 on the basis of their application for Haj 2020 only. Besides, women who file new application, will also be allowed to go next year.

Even the opposition cannot raise question that there has been any discrimination with any community in welfare schemes. Our efforts for inclusive empowerment have shown results on the ground. Our Government has provided electricity to a large number of villages of the country which were deprived of electricity for decades. These villages include large number of minority community dominated villages. We have provided benefit to 22 crore farmers under *Kisan Samman Nidhi* which include more than 33 per cent farmers belonging to minority communities. About 37 per cent of more than eight crore beneficiaries of *Ujjwala Yojna* providing free gas connection belong to minority communities. We have also provided easy loans to about 24 crore people under *Mudra Yojna* for small and medium business and other employment oriented economic activities and more than 36 per cent beneficiaries are from minority communities. Muslim women have significantly been benefited from these welfare schemes, they have become an equal partner of mainstream development.

IN SHORT



The total installed capacity of NTPC Ltd has increased to 62910 MW. Now 800 MW, Unit-2 of Lara Super Thermal Power Project has been added to installed capacity on successful completion of trial operation. With this, the total installed capacity of the group has become 51155 MW and 62910 MW respectively. The group has 70 power stations comprising of 24 coal, seven combined cycle gas/liquid fuel, one hydro, 13 renewables along with 25 subsidiary & JV power stations.



In the wake of COVID-19 pandemic, Kolkata Metro authorities have undertaken a massive sanitisation drive of the premises. All the floors of Metro Rail Bhavan, Tapan Sinha Memorial Hospital, Carsheds, Metro Quarters' Complexes and other offices are being sanitised regularly to contain the spread of the pandemic. All the protocols are being followed during this sanitisation drive. All the staff associated with this drive are using masks, face shields, gloves and PPE Kits during the sanitisation. This drive will continue in the coming days too.

Celebrating moments of pride

In a colourful passing out parade, 100 trainees consisting of 11 Assistant Commandant (Probationer), 79 Sub-Inspector and 10 Assistant Sub-Inspector passed out from CISF NISA Hyderabad, while observing all preventive measures and social distancing norms. Union Minister of State (MoS) for Home Affairs, G Kishan Reddy graced the occasion as chief guest who reviewed the E-Passing out Parade through webinar alongwith Rajesh Ranjan, DG, CISF & other senior officers of CISF.



The POP of the newly inducted officers and personnel is a grand affair for the force, a moment of pride for the officer, personnel and their family. But in times of COVID-19, this year for the first time in a new historical experiment, E-Passing Out Parade was organised by CISF. It was witnessed electronically by the families, friends and general public through the web link.

In her welcome address, Anjana Sinha, IPS, Director, NISA Hyderabad presented a report on the training activities. She complimented the trainees for their sincerity and dedication and hoped that the rigorous training imparted at the training centre would make them stand in good stead in their professional career. She also elaborated the expanding roles of CISF and correspondingly the wide spectrum of specialised training imparted at NISA Hyderabad.

Ranjan welcomed Reddy on the occasion. While addressing through webinar, he emphasised the role of CISF in protecting the vital installations. He said that the endeavour of CISF is to nurture the core underlying qualities like discipline, turnout, physical fitness and

professionalism of all the officers and personnel. He said that our forte has been our ability to keep pace with technological advances, our amiable human interface with the general public and above all our robust core competence.

During the occasion, message of Home Minister, Amit Shah was also read by the DG, CISF. Shah praised the officers & personnel of CISF for their uncompromising determination and immaculate professionalism in securing the citizens and national assets during the epidemic. He also congratulated the trainees and staff and wished them a bright future.

Reddy congratulated the trainees for making the history by participating in the first E-Passing out Parade. He applauded the growing role of CISF in the changing security scenario and said that CISF creditably securing airports, critical and very sensitive establishments of the country. He said that as a part of CISF, the role of the new officers will be vital in our journey towards a new India and 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat'. He also praised the women personnel. He further acknowledged that the women personnel have made many noteworthy contributions to the force and, have

proven to be a force multiplier. MoS for Home, has appreciated the role of NISA as the 'Centre of Excellence'. He congratulated DG, CISF for his leadership of the force, which is attaining new milestones with each passing day.

During the occasion, CISF annual publication *Sentinel-2020* & Coffee Table Book *Women Power-CISF* were released by the MoS for Home. The CTB on women in CISF, showcased the journey of the women from their induction in the late 80s in CISF, to reaching the highest percentage among any CAPE.

The officers who passed out today, during the course of their training, have acquired skills in a wide array of subjects. They have also been imparted strenuous training on handling of sophisticated weapons & sensitive electronic security based gadgetry, drill movements apart from physical training. To meet and overcome the challenges of internal security duties and those arising from naxal and terror groups, the trainees were subjected to jungle camp training, raids, ambush & counter ambush, night navigation and QRT type practical training as well.

Baghel inaugurates hospital in Bastar

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel inaugurated newly-completed works worth nearly ₹7 crore 27 lakh in Maharani Hospital of Jagdalpur headquarters in Bastar district via video conferencing from his Raipur-based residence. He said that people of Bastar have emotional connection to Maharani Hospital. New Government is working consistently towards developing it as a well-equipped hospital of this region. It is no way less than any district hospital across the country. Currently, people of Bastar have to travel out of the area for treatment. The State



Government is making efforts to provide the best possible health facilities in Bastar.

The CM said that special care should be taken to ensure availability of doctors in health facilities of Bastar. He inaugurated the renovation works done in Kadambini Maternal Health Institution at the cost of ₹1 crore. Likewise, he performed *bhumi-pujan* of the renovation work in eye ward worth ₹50 lakh, the second floor addition work worth ₹49 lakh and the construction work of the current OPD-MCH worth ₹50 lakh.

Alok Kumar takes charge as AGM, Western Railway

Alok Kumar took the charge of Additional General Manager of Western Railway on Monday. He is a senior officer of Indian Railways Service of Mechanical Engineering (IRSME) who joined railways through the SCRA (1981) exam of UPSC.

He did his mechanical engineering from Engineering Council (London) and has a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and is an MBA too. He started his career in 1986 at Western Railway and over the last 34 years has worked at a number of important posts in railways including the DRM of Bhopal Division. During his tenure at Container Corporation of India, he was instrumental in getting state of the art port cranes at dry ports across India.

As Chief Project Manager at Modern Coach Factory, Rae Bareilly, he led the team that set up the most modern plant in India to manufacture high speed railway coaches and subsequently as Chief Administrative Officer at modern coach factory, he headed the team that pioneered implementation of Industry 4.0 in Indian Railway workshops.

He has been trained in various facets of advanced management at CMU, Pittsburgh; SDA Bocconi, Milan; APEC, Antwerp; IIM, Ahmedabad and ISB, Hyderabad. He even won the Minister of Railways award for Best Project and GM's efficiency medal and also received the Institute's Medal during engineering. Prior to his posting as AGM/WR, he was working as Chief Administrative Officer of modern coach factory at Raebareilly.



Two Union Ministers to address SRM-FICCI conference

SRM Institute of Science & Technology (SRMIST) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) are organising an Industry-Academia Global Virtual Conference on Emerging Economic Scenario — Identify and Create Competencies.

The event will be held in two sessions. The first part — the new world work order — will be inaugurated by Minister for Commerce and Industry and Minister for Railways, Piyush Goyal. The second session — collaborative framework for new-age learning — is likely to have a keynote address by Minister for Human



Resource Development, Ramesh Pokhriyal. A large number of participants consisting of CEOs, CXOs, top corporate officials, regulators, academicians, faculty members from all over

the globe are expected to be part of the event. The conference aims to deliberate upon the impact of ongoing changes on the economy, the swift transition towards digital interface

and its impact on new-age competencies, the need for effective synchronisation between industry and academia, and identifying new grounds for international collaborations.

GAIL to invest in CBG start-ups

In a bid to support start-ups operating in the area of Compressed Bio Gas (CBG), GAIL (India) Limited announced plans to invest in such companies through its start-up initiative Pankh.

It has opened a fresh fifth round for solicitation of investment proposals from start-ups operating specifically in the area of CBG. Start-ups that provide technology or are planning to expand their existing CBG plants or setting-up new CBG plants can submit their investment proposal on GAIL web portal <https://gailbank.gail.co.in/GSUCBG/index.aspx>. The solicitation round is open till July 24.

India has vast biomass resources and the government is giving special emphasis on its utilisation by encouraging setting-up of CBG plants. Further, oil and gas companies are ready to give commitment for offtake of CBG through issue of Letter Of Intent (LOI). Thus, it provides good business opportunity to start-ups operating in this area.

The initiative was launched in July 2017 to invest in promising start-ups. So far, GAIL has made investments in 24 start-ups operating in various areas through four solicitation rounds.

A GREENER WORLD

GAIL has been creating awareness for bringing a positive change to ensure a greener and cleaner environment through its *Hawa Badlo* movement. In this move #Wake Up And Smell The Change initiative has been started by the *Hawa Badlo* platform to spread the idea of appreciating and preserving the positive environmental changes occurred due to the lockdown. In this initiative, the netizens were asked to take a pledge and sustain this change in future as well as with befitting lifestyle changes such as:

- ♦ Staying home more on weekends.
- ♦ Walking or riding the bicycle whenever one can.
- ♦ Using one car per family.
- ♦ Using cleaner fuels in vehicles and home like natural gas, CNG, PNG, renewables etc.

An online engagement activity was also organised under this initiative earlier where in people were requested to click pictures of scenic beauties from their balconies, windows or roofs and post them on *Hawa Badlo* handles in the comments section with hashtags.

This is an attempt to mobilise collective societal efforts to improve the deteriorating air quality, by encouraging sustainable and environment friendly steps in works as well as inculcating lifestyle habits such as planting trees, cycling & walking, carpooling, using public transport, conserving energy and using cleaner energy



sources like natural gas for industries, CNG for automobiles, PNG for commercial uses.

By engaging people for actions through events, social messaging through endorsement and web media series, short films and contests, the purpose of the platform is to motivate people to take pledge for actions against air pollution and problems caused due to it. The initiative has been able to reach more than eight million people across all digital platforms.

THE GREAT ESCAPE

Villa climb out of relegation zone with 1-0 win over Arsenal; Sterling finds brace in Watford rout

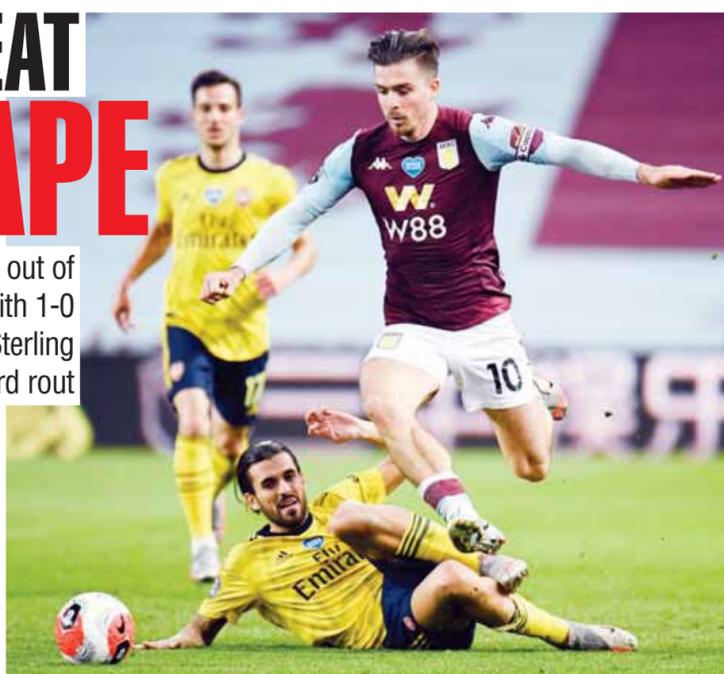
AFP ■ BIRMINGHAM

Dean Smith urged Aston Villa to finish the job after they climbed out of the Premier League relegation zone as Trezeguet clinched a priceless 1-0 win against Arsenal on Tuesday. Smith's side have their survival fate in their own hands after the Egypt winger's first-half strike at Villa Park.

Watford's 4-0 thrashing against Manchester City earlier on Tuesday had opened the door for Villa to escape the bottom three.

And Villa seized their chance with a first home Premier League win over Arsenal in 18 attempts dating back to 1998. Villa are now fourth bottom and have moved ahead of third-bottom Watford on goal difference, with Smith's men on -26 compared to the Hornets' -27.

They head to West Ham for their final game of the season on Sunday, while Watford visit



Aston Villa's Jack Grealish (10) and Arsenal's Dani Ceballos battle for possession during Premier League match PL/Twitter

Arsenal and second-bottom Bournemouth, three points from safety, travel to Everton. There are a multitude of permutations that could decide relegation, but Villa will be safe if they can better Watford's result on what is certain to be a dramatic finale. If Villa and Watford both win, goal difference or goals scored will decide who goes down.

"It is a big boost, that's for sure. We knew we had to get that win to catch Watford and now we have got the season in

our own hands," Smith said. "That's all you can ask going into the last game. It was a great performance and an even better result against a good team who just beat two of the best teams in Europe."

"We have taken the season to the last day. Watford can go and win at Arsenal so we have to make sure we win at West Ham."

Having secured an FA Cup final place by beating Manchester City on Saturday, Gunners boss Mikel Arteta made six changes and Arsenal looked a shadow of the team who impressed at Wembley.

Arsenal cannot finish higher than eighth and must win the FA Cup final against Chelsea to qualify for next season's Europa League.



Manchester City's Raheem Sterling, centre, celebrates with teammates after scoring his side's second goal against Watford at the Vicarage Road Stadium AP

'CRAZY LOW' ON CONFIDENCE
Watford goalkeeper Ben Foster admitted the Hornets' confidence is "crazy low" as they slipped into the relegation zone with one game of the Premier League season to go after being thrashed 4-0 at home by Manchester City.

A change of management did little good after Watford became the first Premier League team to sack three managers in a season when Nigel Pearson departed on Sunday, as City bounced back from their weekend disappointment of losing an FA Cup semi-final to Arsenal.

Raheem Sterling scored twice in the first half before

Phil Foden and Aymeric Laporte rounded off a comprehensive City win as Pep Guardiola's men won a fourth straight league game for the first time this season. The margin of defeat could send Watford down come the final day of the season on Sunday as they dropped into the bottom three on goal difference after Aston Villa's win.

"I don't think we helped ourselves, I don't think we did enough to do anything but what the result suggested to be honest," said Foster, who helped keep the score down with a string of saves. "The confidence is so crazy, crazy low."

Ibra's double lifts Milan



Zlatan Ibrahimovic scores AC Milan's opening goal against Sassuolo Milan/Twitter

AFP ■ REGGIO EMILIA

Zlatan Ibrahimovic rolled back the years with two impressive goals to help AC Milan beat Sassuolo 2-1 in Serie A clash.

The 38-year-old netted twice in the first half, either side of Francesco Caputo's penalty for Sassuolo on Tuesday.

Sassuolo had to play the entire second half with 10 men after midfielder Mehdi Bourabia was sent off on the stroke of half-time following a second yellow card.

It was Milan's seventh victory in the nine games since Serie A resumed following the pandemic-enforced shutdown and moved the team up to fifth. Ibrahimovic rejoined Milan in December on a six-month contract with an option for next season.

"Will I stay? There are still three matches, 10 days and no one has said anything else," the Swedish forward said. "But I'm working, we are doing good things and if we take the table since I arrived I think we would be second or third."

Milan has lost just two matches since Ibrahimovic's arrival.

"We will talk with him immediately after the end of the season, he is also completely focused on these matches and he is doing so in an excellent manner, as always," Milan sporting director Frederic Massara said.

Ibrahimovic gave Milan the lead in the 19th minute with a diving header at the back post following a cross from Hakan Calhanoglu.

There was a dramatic end to the half as Caputo leveled from the spot three minutes from

the break. The referee had awarded the penalty after reviewing the incident on the pitchside monitor and judging that the ball had hit Calhanoglu's arm.

Calhanoglu redeemed himself moments later with a second assist — a through-ball for Ibrahimovic to run onto, round the goalkeeper and place into the back of the net.

It was the first time since 1999 that Milan has scored at least two goals in nine successive matches.

Mane dreams to win Ballon d'Or

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

It was high praise for Sadio Mane when Lionel Messi summed up the Liverpool star winger's fourth-place finish in the 2019 Ballon d'Or vote as "shameful".

Boosted by the Argentine genius' admiration for him as well as his own stellar form, Mane continues to harbour hopes of winning the prestigious award sooner than later. "Will see what's going to happen for the Ballon d'Or but my dream is to win the Ballon d'Or and would love to do it one day," Mane told *Star Sports* show *Football United*.

The 2020 Ballon d'Or awards night was cancelled recently owing to the Covid-19 pandemic.

He played a massive role in Liverpool winning their first Premier League title in 30 years. Last year, Mane spearheaded the Reds' charge to their first UEFA Champions League title since 2005.

This time around, he scored goals and made assists to keep the opposition defend-

ers on their guard all the time. "I always say that in life, you always have to be a challenger and for sure, football is all about being hungry in a good way — to like to win. We won the Premier League and we would like to win it again and for sure, Champions League as well," he said.

Mane missed out last time despite a remarkable run for both his club and country Senegal. Expressing his delight on winning the Premier League, he said, "Well, it's a big pleasure and a big honour for me and my teammates for sure. All the good support from around the world, specially from India as well. I think the wait has been

so long, 30 years and finally, we did it, so yeah, really happy."

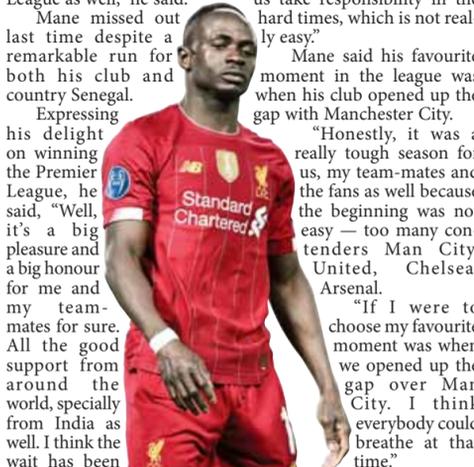
He gave credit to manager Jurgen Klopp for Liverpool's triumph.

"He gives us a lot of advice all the time which is always important for you and all the players in our career. He helped us take responsibility in the hard times, which is not really easy."

Mane said his favourite moment in the league was when his club opened up the gap with Manchester City.

"Honestly, it was a really tough season for us, my team-mates and the fans as well because the beginning was not easy — too many contenders Man City, United, Chelsea, Arsenal.

"If I were to choose my favourite moment was when we opened up the gap over Man City. I think everybody could breathe at that time."



Wrestling national camp likely from Aug 1st week

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

August first week has been earmarked as a potential time for wrestlers to assemble for their national camps after the Covid-19 hiatus. The Sports Authority of India (SAI) is working in tandem with the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) to plan a date for the resumption of training. The camp will initially be held for Olympic weight categories and would also begin only after necessary quarantine protocols are fulfilled.

Mbappe will stay at PSG

AFP ■ PARIS

Kylian Mbappe said on Tuesday he would remain with French champions Paris Saint-Germain next season "whatever happens" despite constant speculation over his future.

"I'm here. I'm part of the project for a fourth year," Mbappe, 21, told *Beln Sport* during half-time of PSG's 4-0 win over Celtic in a friendly played in front of around 5,000 fans at the Parc des Princes. "The club's 50-

year anniversary is an important one in the eyes of the club, the supporters, of everyone, so I will be here whatever happens."

"I'm going to try and bring back trophies with the team and give the best of myself," added Mbappe, who arrived at PSG from Monaco in 2017 in a deal worth \$208 million.

Real Madrid have regularly been linked with a move for Mbappe, but club president Florentino Perez said last week the Spanish champions would not make any big signings this summer.



'Poms will consider rotating Stokes'

PTI ■ MANCHESTER

England will "consider rotating" star all-rounder Ben Stokes even though his presence makes it a better team, said coach Chris Silverwood ahead of the third and final Test against the West Indies beginning on Friday. Stokes scored 176 and 78 not out in the two innings and also took three wickets as England beat Windies by 113 runs in the second Test to tie three-match series 1-1.

His performance also earned Stokes the numero uno position in the ICC all-rounder rankings, displacing West Indies skipper Jason Holder.

"We want him out there as much as we can; everyone can see how good he is," Silverwood said.

"But you know what, we're going to consider rotating him. He's been at the centre of the last couple of games and we've got to make sure he's okay. But if he is fit and healthy, he'll play."

The 29-year-old had pulled himself out of the attack midway through his 15th over in West Indies' second innings but later insisted that there was "absolutely nothing to worry about."

Silverwood said Stokes will have to "rein" him in during training as he is always looking push himself.

"He'll keep pushing himself, which is why he is as good as he is," said Silverwood.

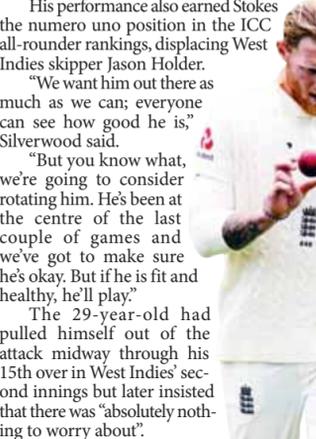
"But from a training perspective we try and rein him in where possible and keep him as fit as a fiddle because I know we're a better team with him out there... We've got to look after him the best we can."

Following the third Test against the West Indies, England will play another three-Test series against Pakistan starting August 5.

England had picked James Anderson, Jofra Archer and Mark Wood for the opening Test, while including Stuart Broad, Chris Woakes and Sam Curran in the second match.

With six to seven seamers at his disposal, Silverwood will face a selection headache but he said he is determined to pick the "strongest attack" to win the third Test.

"We've got to put out the strongest attack out that's available to us. It's very difficult to keep everybody happy all the time. But if you do things for the right reason, I think there's an understanding there," the 45-year-old said.



Williamson excited to play IPL in UAE

PTI ■ MOUNT MAUNGANUI

New Zealand captain Kane Williamson said he is excited about playing the Indian Premier League (IPL) in the UAE but a lot of "planning and organising still needs to be done" amid the raging Covid-19 pandemic.

Speaking to the media on the sidelines of the national team's training camp, for SunRisers Hyderabad captain said, "Considering what it actually looks like where it is and all the details that come with it, to play in the IPL is always an amazing thing so, absolutely, it will be great to play in it and be a part of it," Williamson said but also wanted to know more about security arrangements.

"But there's a lot of details to come through before any final decisions will be made. It will be nice to know more." "By all accounts the IPL, they're looking to host that tournament which is a fantastic tournament to be a part of and attracts such an incredible audience," he added.



Williamson said he foresees good viewership for the IPL when it happens as people are starved of Live sports right now.

"...There's been a natural lack of content so there is a real drive to see that happen and see it happen safely, which is first and foremost.

"It's a shame to see the World Cup be postponed but I suppose it's the nature of what we're faced with in the current climate but exciting at the potential opportunity individually to see some cricket come on to the horizon," he said.

Williamson also welcomed the move to have an

IPL at a safe place like the UAE as India's case load is above 11 lakh.

"...In terms of the IPL as an isolated event, they're looking at the best options to host it in a safe place where people can be quarantined much like you're seeing with other sports around the world.

"Like I said, there's a lot of planning still to be done to make sure that happens and we only know what we know and that's no different from what you're hearing," Williamson added.

Have no reason not to go for IPL: Maxwell

MELBOURNE: Big-hitting Aussie batsman Glenn Maxwell has said he has no reason not to travel for the 13th edition of the Indian Premier League if everything gets ticked off. The postponement of the men's T20 World Cup has paved the way for IPL to take place this year. The BCCI is planning to stage the tourney from Sept 26

to November 8 in UAE.

"Any time you have a home World Cup, you are certainly looking forward to it. We felt like we had been building towards it as a T20 side," Maxwell told *Fox Sports*. "You wait and see (with the IPL), waiting on the judgments of other people, what you can and can't do with travel and quarantine times and all that, if

everything gets ticked off there, I have no real reason not to go.

"The overseas guys get a hell of a kick playing in it, some of the best players in the world rubbing shoulders, similar to a World Cup, but on a smaller scale. If everything gets ticked off I would love to be available for it," said Maxwell who will play for Kings XI Punjab in the tournament. IANS

Labuschagne picks Smith over Kohli in Tests

New Delhi: Australia batsman Marnus Labuschagne has picked teammate Steve Smith ahead of Virat Kohli in the longest format but accepted that the India skipper's numbers in white-ball cricket is second to none. Labuschagne feels Smith ability to bat consistently in different conditions sets him apart.

"I think Steve (Smith) in Test cricket has just shown in any condition, he can find away. I think that's what you know really makes him the best, number one Test player in the world," Labuschagne was quoted as saying by *India Today*.

"He has found a way in India, he has found a way to score in England, he is obviously very consistent in Australia, so it seems that it doesn't matter where you are playing and in what conditions, he is finding a way. Now, Virat has probably done a similar thing. I will probably go with Steve in Test cricket."

"Virat's white-ball cricket is phenomenal. The way he finishes innings, the way he finishes matches off, the way he chases. I think for me personally, I have learned a lot from him," he added. IANS



Parkinson out of Ireland ODIs

London: England leg-spinner Matt Parkinson has been ruled out of the three-match ODI series against Ireland after suffering an ankle injury during training.

The 23-year-old Lancashire bowler, who made his international debut against South Africa in February, suffered the injury during fielding practice on Monday.

The three ODIs, which will take place behind closed doors in a bio-secure bubble at the Aegon Bowl in Southampton, begins with the first match on July 30.

England will decide their squad for the series after the end of the two intra-squad matches and a warm-up game between England Lions and Ireland on Sunday. PTI

SAI extend contracts of 32 foreign coaches

New Delhi: The Sports Authority of India (SAI) on Wednesday extended the contract of 32 foreign coaches in 11 disciplines till September end next year to ensure continuity in the training of athletes till Tokyo Olympics.

Top coaches among the 32 included Santiago Nieva and Raffaele Bergamasco in boxing, Graham Reid (men's hockey) and Pavel Smirnov (shooting) among others. The contracts of many of these coaches were to end in September this year.

National football coach Igor Stimac's contract was also extended although it has nothing to do with the Olympics. He was appointed in May last year for a two year tenure.

The SAI said the decision was taken to ensure that athletes bound for Tokyo Games, postponed by a year, have continuity in their training.

"The postponement of Tokyo Olympics by a year makes it imperative that the same coaches be retained so that athletes are not disadvantaged," Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju said. "A new coach takes time to understand an athlete and the athlete needs time to understand the training process of a coach. We don't have that kind of time now."

A SAI source said that the terms and conditions of the contracts, including the remuneration, remain the same as earlier. PTI

Olympics not possible under current conditions: Tokyo head

AP ■ TOKYO

The delayed Tokyo Olympics could not be held next year if conditions surrounding the coronavirus pandemic continue as they are, the president of the organizing committee said on Wednesday.

In an interview with Japanese broadcaster NHK, Yoshiro Mori said he was hopeful the situation would improve and suggested a vaccine was the key.

"If this kind of situation (with Covid-19) continues, is it possible to hold the games?" Mori was asked by NHK.

"If current situation continues, we couldn't," Mori replied, speaking in Japanese.

The Tokyo Olympics are scheduled to open on July 23, 2021 — a year from Thursday. A small, 15-minute ceremony without fans is scheduled for Thursday at the new national stadium to mark the date.

The International Olympic Committee and Japanese organizers have repeatedly expressed confidence the games will take place, though they have offered few details on how they can happen in the middle of a pandemic.

The IOC and organizers have also said the Olympics will not be postponed again and would be canceled.

"It would be too much for us to answer each of these



Tokyo 2020 Organizing Committee President Yoshiro Mori speaks during a press conference in Tokyo AP/File Picture

hypothetical questions," Mori said. "I don't think this situation will last for another year."

Researchers have said a

vaccine could be six-to-nine months away, which Mori said was the key. Some, however, question if young athletes should be a priority,

and if all would agree to be vaccinated.

"Whether the Olympics can be done or not is about whether humanity can beat the coronavirus," Mori said.

"Specifically, to develop a vaccine or drug is the first point."

Organizers and the IOC say they want to simplify the games to help reduce the soaring costs. But officials cannot say now if fans will be permitted next year, or if athletes will face quarantines. They say few details will be available until the fall.

Plans call for the full contingent of 11,000 Olympic athletes and 4,400 Paralympic athletes to be competing at 42 venues.