

**OPINION 6**  
THE FORGOTTEN  
THREAT

**WORLD 8**  
US ACCUSES RUSSIA OF TEST-FIRING  
ANTI-SATELLITE WEAPON IN SPACE

**SPORT 12**  
'I DON'T MIND GETTING HURT,  
JUST DON'T WANT TO GET OUT'

NEW DELHI, SATURDAY JULY 25, 2020; PAGES 12 ₹3

# the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

Published From  
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR  
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH  
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

\*Late City Vol. 30 Issue 205  
\*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

OKAY TO DOUBT  
YOURSELF:  
VIDYA BALAN  
10 VIVACITY



## No justification for session at short notice: Raj Guv

Earlier, Cong MLAs ended dharna after Guv said he will go by Constitution to call session

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**  
An ugly political drama unfolded in Jaipur on Friday when Congress MLAs in the Ashok Gehlot camp sat on a five-hour dharna at the Raj Bhawan, insisting they will stay put till the Governor summons a session of the State Assembly.

While the MLAs went to the Hotel Fairmont where they have been camping for last several days, the CM headed to his residence, where he held a meeting of his Cabinet meeting to pass a proposal to hold an emergency session of the Assembly.

Later, The Governor secretary said the Governor had consulted legal experts on the paper presented by the State Government on the night of July 23, to convene the session of the Assembly at very short notice.

"There is no justification provided for holding of the session at short notice nor any agenda has been proposed for the same. 21-day notice is required for the session to be called according to normal procedures," said Rajasthan Governor's Secretariat.

It went on to say that the State Government should ensure freedom and free movement of all the MLAs. There was no mention of the MLAs kept at Manesar in Haryana by Sachin Pilot. It also pointed out that the Cabinet note didn't mention any specific date for convening the Assembly.

Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said the Rajasthan Governor must call an Assembly session to let the Congress Government prove its majority. He alleged that the BJP's conspiracy to topple the Gehlot Government was clear.

"The country is ruled in accordance with the law and constitution. Governments are formed and run based on people's mandate. BJP's conspiracy to topple the Rajasthan Government is clear. This is an insult to 8 crore people of Rajasthan. The Governor must call Assembly session so that the truth comes before the country," he said.

The MLAs, led by Gehlot, arrived at Raj Bhawan in four buses from a hotel on the city outskirts around 4pm where they have been camping for the past few days. Before heading for the Raj Bhawan, Gehlot said he had requested the Governor on Thursday night to call a session of the Assembly on Monday, but the Governor had not heeded his request.

Gehlot said the Governor is the constitutional head and he could not have stopped the Assembly session from taking place "without some pressure from the top".

"Why did he not decide on Thursday? We've requested him again to make a decision soon. People are waiting," Gehlot said, adding, "I am sure that the Governor will not come under any pressure, he will make a decision. We hope the Assembly session begins soon. So we are sitting here in protest. After he gives us a letter we will decide the further course of action."

Continued on Page 2



Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, along with senior Congress leaders and MLAs, arrives to address the media outside Raj Bhawan in Jaipur on Friday

## Cong slams HC, Guv for forcing Speaker's hand

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The Congress on Friday launched an unprecedented attack on judiciary for allegedly tying the hand of the Rajasthan Assembly Speaker for acting against the rebel MLAs with senior party leader and noted lawyer Kapil Sibal going to the extent of saying what was the point in arguing before the court if precedents are brazenly ignored.

The Congress also slammed Rajasthan Governor Kalraj Mishra for not calling an Assembly session by accusing him of abdicating his constitutional obligation and acting at the behest of the Central Government.

The party questioned the Rajasthan High Court's order maintaining status quo on the disqualification notice issued by the State Assembly Speaker to 19 dissident Congress MLAs,

including Sachin Pilot. Sibal said the Rajasthan High Court passes status quo orders against the Constitution bench judgment of the Supreme Court on the power of the Assembly Speaker.

He also said may be lawyers should take their robes off since High Courts are no longer bound by even the Constitution bench judgments of the Supreme Court.

Continued on Page 2

## HC orders status quo, bars action against Pilot camp till Mon

**PTI ■ JAIPUR**

The Rajasthan High Court on Friday ordered maintaining status quo on disqualification notice issued by the State Assembly Speaker to 19 dissident Congress MLAs, including Sachin Pilot.

The bench, in its order, said the writ petition is maintainable and is admitted on the ground of three pleas of the petitioners.

"After completion of filing of pleadings of the parties and the intervenors, Counsel for the parties shall be at liberty to file an application for early hearing

of the writ petition. Till then, the status quo, as exists today viz-a-viz impugned notices dated 14.07.2020, shall be maintained," the order stated.

"The writ petition has been admitted and the court has ordered for status quo on the notices dated July 14. The matter will be heard in due course now," a counsel for the Speaker said.

The Speaker issued the notice to the MLAs on July 14 after the Congress complained to him that the MLAs had defied a whip to attend two legislature party meetings.

Continued on Page 2

## BJP urges Centre to deploy CRPF in Raj for law & order

**Jaipur:** The Rajasthan BJP on Friday demanded the Centre to deploy the CRPF to maintain law and order, reacting sharply to Congress MLAs staging a "dharna" at Raj Bhawan. Incidentally, on December 4, 1993, BJP MLAs had sat on dharna on the lawns of the Raj Bhawan. Baliram Bhagat of Congress was Governor.

## Sachin should be made CM: BJP

**Jaipur:** For the first time since Rajasthan plunged into a political crisis almost fortnight ago, the state BJP has said rebel Congress leader Sachin Pilot could be the Chief Minister if the situation allowed. Backing Pilot, BJP State president Satish Poonia, said, "If the situation allows, Sachin Pilot can become the Chief Minister. In fact, he has taken a big step with this goal in mind."

## With over 30K deaths, India at 6th highest rank

Starting first phase of human trial of desi vaccine, first dose of Covaxin given to man in his 30s

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

India on Friday saw yet another massive spike in coronavirus cases taking the total well past 13 lakh mark. In the past four days alone, the country has added over 1.82 lakh cases. The country also overtook France on Friday as the number of deaths linked to virus crossed 30,961. The number of deaths in India is now the sixth-biggest behind the US, Brazil, Britain, Mexico and Italy.

followed by Tamil Nadu with 1,99,749 and Delhi with 1,28,389 cases.

The number of coronavirus cases in India have doubled in nearly three weeks since July 2 when the country crossed the six lakh-mark. The country's Covid tally touched the 10 lakh-mark last Friday. Since then, around three lakh new infections have been reported.

The first phase of human clinical trial of India's home-made vaccine against coronavirus, Covaxin, began at AIIMS in Delhi on Friday,



with the first dose of the injection given to a man in his 30s. Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba on Friday reviewed the management of Covid-19 in

nine States with high active caseload and advised Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal and Assam to urgently ramp up testing, strictly implement containment plan, augment health infrastructure and ensure effective clinical management.

The Union Health Ministry said that in keeping with the "Test Track Treat" strategy, the States were advised to ramp up testing, with special focus on containment zones.

Maharashtra reported 9615 fresh cases and 278 deaths in the last 24 hours, taking the total number of cases to 3,57,117 including 1,99,967 recovered patients and 13,132 deaths. Currently, there are 1,44,018 active cases in the State.

Continued on Page 2

## Affordable ₹59/tablet Faviton gets nod for moderate Covid cases

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Those suffering with mild-to-moderate Covid-19 symptoms can now look forward to a comparatively cheaper drug with the country's top drug regulator approving Brinton Pharmaceuticals proposal to sell antiviral drug Favipiravir under the brand name 'Faviton' at a maximum retail price of ₹59 per tablet.

"To be available in 200 mg tablets, the drug will be sold at a maximum retail price of ₹59 per tablet," Brinton Pharmaceuticals said in a statement after getting the nod from the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI).

Emerging favourable global clinical evidence suggests, Favipiravir is an effective treatment option in the management of mild-to-moderate Covid-19, it added. Favipiravir



is given orally and thus is more convenient than medicines given through veins

In India, Favipiravir was first approved by the regulatory authorities in June 2020 under emergency use authorisation to treat Covid-19 patients, said the pharma firm. The medicine will be available in strips of 10 tablets and boxes of 50 tablets, which is a rational pack for the treatment. It has a shelf life of 90 days.

Continued on Page 2

**Covid-19 IN INDIA**

**TOTAL**

**CASES: 13,37,022**

**DEATHS: 31,406**

**RECOVERED: 8,50,048**

**ACTIVE: 4,55,148**

STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	3,57,117	13,132	1,99,967
Tamil Nadu	1,99,749	3,320	1,43,297
Delhi	1,28,389	3,777	1,10,931
Karnataka	85,870	1,726	31,347
Andhra Pradesh	80,858	933	39,935
Uttar Pradesh	60,771	1,348	37,712
West Bengal	53,973	1,290	33,529
Gujarat	53,631	2,282	38,931
Telangana	52,466	455	40,334
Rajasthan	34,178	602	24,547
Bihar	33,511	221	22,832
Assam	29,922	76	20,700
Haryana	29,755	382	22,953
Madhya Pradesh	26,210	791	17,866
Odisha	22,693	153	15,201
Kerala	16,996	55	7,562

## India's corona strain same as globe, good for vaccine: Scientist

**New Delhi:** The strain of the novel coronavirus in a majority of cases in India is the predominant "subtype" found in other parts of the globe, a uniformity that bodes well for the efficacy of a vaccine or drug developed anywhere in the world, says a top scientist. Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology Director Rakesh Mishra added that detailed gene mapping of the coronavirus also indicated that it is unlikely that it will mutate into a more dangerous strain.

## Home-made masks need two layers to stop virus spread

**Melbourne:** Home-made cloth face masks may need a minimum of two layers, and preferably three, to prevent the dispersal of viral droplets associated with Covid-19, according to a study. Researchers, including those from the University of New South Wales in Australia, noted that viral droplets are generated by those infected with the novel coronavirus when they cough, sneeze, or speak.

## Modi to hoist flag at Red Fort on I-Day; no big public gathering

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Despite Covid-19 pandemic, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the nation from Red Fort on Independence Day with Army-police parade, guard of honour and 21 gun salute functions without social distancing norms without large people gathering.

The Union Home Ministry on Friday in an advisory clarified that all functions in relation to Independence Day celebrations will be conducted across the country, including Chief Ministers' address from the State Capitals, Ministers from district HQs and panchayat-level celebrations with usual Army-police parades and Guard of Honours and At-Home functions in Rashtrapati Bhavan and Raj Bhavans.

In a detailed five-page advisory, Union Home Ministry directed to keep social



distancing, wearing masks and avoiding large crowd gathering on Independence Day celebrations across the country in the wake of Covid-19.

"The Ceremony at Red Fort consisting of the presentation of a Guard of Honour by the Armed Forces and the Delhi Police to the Prime Minister, unfurling of the national flag accompanied by the playing of the National Anthem and firing of 21-gun salute, speech by the Prime Minister, singing of the National Anthem immediately after the PM's speech, and release of tri-coloured balloons at the end," said the advisory.

Continued on Page 2

## Full disengagement vital to restore ties, affirm India, China

## Corps Commanders of two Armies will soon meet to review pace of withdrawal

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Notwithstanding the prevailing stalemate at the volatile Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh, India and China on Friday reiterated their commitment to continue dialogue to defuse tension. They also agreed that Corps Commanders of the two Armies will meet soon to ensure disengagement and de-escalation expeditiously. These talks on the LAC may take place next week.

These affirmations in the 17th meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation & Coordination on India-China

Border Affairs (WMCC) came against the backdrop of China dilly-dallying in withdrawing its more than 40,000 troops from the front and depth areas.

Incidentally, the two Corps Commanders in their last round of talks on July 14 had agreed to thin out additional troops as soon as possible as a major confidence-building measure.

Giving details of the diplomatic level talks on Friday, the Ministry of External Affairs said the Indian delegation was led by joint secretary (East Asia) while the Director General of the Boundary & Oceanic Department of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs led the Chinese delegation.

They agreed that early and complete disengagement of the troops along the LAC and de-escalation from LAC.

Continued on Page 2

## Hit by Covid, broke migrant sells infant, police rescue baby

**PTI ■ KOKRAJHAR**

Driven by extreme poverty and lack of work during the Covid-19 crisis, a migrant labourer in Assam sold his 15-day-old daughter for ₹45,000 but police rescued the baby, officials said on Friday.

The man and two women have been arrested on the charge of human trafficking. Dipak Brahma, a resident of Dhanota Mandaria, a forest village in Kokrajhar district, had recently returned from Gujarat, where he worked as a labourer. He was jobless and finding it hard to support his

family, according to an official of an NGO working against human trafficking.

After his return, the family started living at the house of his in-laws in Kochugaon Patakata village in the same district. The family still lived a hand-to-mouth existence.

During these tough times, Brahma's wife gave birth to the girl, their second daughter, Nedan Foundation chairman Digambar Narzary said.

"With almost all doors to earn a living closed, Brahma decided to sell the newborn," he added.

Continued on Page 2

## Advani terms charge of conspiracy to raze Babri mosque 'fabricated'

**PNS ■ LUCKNOW**

Former Deputy Prime Minister Lal Krishna Advani recorded his statement before a special CBI court in the Babri mosque demolition case and refuted all charges of conspiracy to demolish as politically motivated.

"My name was unnecessarily dragged in this case. The investigation was conducted under political pressure and the chargesheet was forwarded on the basis of fabricated evidence," Advani told the special CBI judge SK Yadav when he recorded his statement

through video conferencing from New Delhi before the special CBI court.

Advani during his around 4-hour-long cross examination by the prosecution denied all the charges made against him on the conspiracy to demolish the Babri mosque structure.

While the special Judge asked 1,050 questions already framed for the purpose, Advani answered them very cautiously. He denied every allegation of conspiracy and pressed that there was no occasion to make him stand on trial.

Continued on Page 2

# US lawmaker seeks CAA-like provisions for persecuted minorities

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

An influential American congressman has praised India for giving refugee status to Sikhs and Hindus from Afghanistan and urged the Trump administration to do the same for the persecuted religious minorities from the war-torn country.

The Ministry of External Affairs said on Thursday that there has been a recent spurt of attacks on Hindus and Sikhs in Afghanistan by terror-

ists at the behest of their "external supporters" and India has been providing necessary visas to members of these communities who want to come.

"We have been receiving requests from the members of these communities. They want to move to India, they want to settle down here, and despite the ongoing COVID situation, we are facilitating these requests," MEA spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said.

## Full disengagement ...

**From Page 1**  
They also agreed to follow bilateral agreement and protocols and full restoration of peace and tranquility was essential for smooth overall development of bilateral relations.

During the talks, the fifth since the stand-offs started more than eight weeks back, the Ministry said the two sides reviewed the situation in the India-China border areas and the ongoing disengagement process along the LAC in the western sector.

The two sides noted that this was in accordance with the agreement reached between the two Special Representatives

(SRs) during their telephonic conversation on July 5. They agreed in this regard that it was necessary for both sides to sincerely implement the understandings reached between Senior Commanders in their meetings till date.

It was also decided that another meeting of the Senior Commanders may be held soon so as to work out further steps to ensure expeditious complete disengagement and de-escalation and restoration of peace in the border areas.

The Corps Commanders have so far met four times since the face-offs started on the LAC. The next round is likely next week wherein the two sides will review the pace of withdrawal by both the Armies from "friction

## Pak bans over 100 textbooks over POK 'blasphemous content'

**Lahore:** Pakistan's Punjab Government has banned over 100 textbooks taught at schools after finding in them "blasphemous and objectionable content" such as not showing Pakistan-occupied Kashmir as part of the country.

Some books had not even printed the correct date of the birth of Pakistan's founder 'Quaid-e-Azam' Muhammad Ali Jinnah and national poet Allama Muhammad Iqbal, and some had the content against the two-nation theory, Punjab Curriculum and Textbook Board (PCTB) Managing Director Rai Manzoor Nasir said.

Nasir said that some 10,000 books taught at public and private schools have been reviewed by 30 committees. **PTI**

## No justification for session...

**From Page 1**  
Congress spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said the BJP is trying to block CM Gehlot and his government from proving their majority in the State Assembly.

"We have a majority Government in the State and we want to call an Assembly session for coronavirus outbreak and public welfare.

This is why the MLAs took a proposal for convening the Assembly to the governor today," Surjewala said.

Earlier, in major relief for the Pilot camp, the Rajasthan High Court ordered "status quo" to be maintained in the disqualification case against the now-sacked deputy Chief Minister and 18 other dissidents, putting off the decision till Monday when the Supreme Court hears the case.

The order came after the court allowed the application moved by

team Pilot seeking implementation of the Union of India as a party to the proceedings in the disqualification matter.

A Bench of Chief Justice Indrajit Mahanty and Justice Prakash Gupta allowed the application that was moved by the petitioners on Thursday.

The court then adjourned for 20 minutes. The application for implementation was moved on the grounds that the constitutional amendment is under challenge and, therefore, the Union of India is a necessary party now.

The dissident Congress MLAs led by Pilot have challenged their disqualification notices through the writ petition which was taken up by the bench on Friday last week and arguments were held.

Soon after the High Court ordered "status quo", Gehlot sought an appointment with Governor Kalraj Mishra, whom he met last evening.

## Cheaper ₹59/tablet gets regulator nod for...

**From Page 1**  
"Our strategic intent will be to improve the access through our strong distribution network that will help make Faviton available across all Covid treatment centres and our MRP is Rs 59 per tablet," Brinton Pharma CMD Rahul Kumar Darda said.

The company will be marketing this drug in India and will also export it.

Faviton is a generic version of Avigan of Fujifilm Toyama Chemical Co Ltd, a subsidiary of Fujifilm Corporation.

Office of the Executive Engineer, PHED, Distt. Rural Dn., Udaipur  
No. EE/Dist/Ar.../2020-21/ 5100-5150  
Date: 22.7.2020  
**NOTICE INVITING BID (No.26/2020-21)**  
Bid for Annual Rate Contract for Providing, Laying and Jointing of pipe line for various WSS under jurisdiction of this division (Rs. 250 lacs) are invited from interested bidders upto 18.00 hrs, 13.8.2020. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.raj.nic.in> of the state website.  
NIB Code: PHE2021A2183  
UBN No. PHE2021WSCR03899  
Sd/ (B.L. Paliwal)  
Executive Engineer, PHED, Distt. Rural Dn., Udaipur  
DIPRC/5/654/2020

**SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
Follow us on [www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in](https://www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in)  
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C. Railway can be seen on our website: [www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in)  
**TENDER NOTICE No. 57/2020 dt. 24.07.2020**

**SUPPLY OF STORES ITEMS, e-Procurement Tender Notice**  
The following Tenders have been floated online, Tenderers are requested to visit the website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) and submit their offers online. The Tender Description, Qty, EMD, SD may be seen in website. Offers submitted manually will not be accepted. Offers by post will not be entertained. Tender Closing time is 14.30 hrs. of the Due date of the Tender. For all indigenous offers, EMD will be accepted only via online system as available on [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in).

Tender No.	Brief Description
45191027B	Retirement type5W
82205116	Liquid Medical Oxygen
56205024	Electric point operating machine
62201197	Stainless steel pipe 20 mm
62201275	Stainless steel pipe 25 mm
25203046	Contact pipe
25204613	Overhauling kit
75201152	Cloth Juice Hessian
56201184	Track feed battery chargers
56205022	Supply, Installation & commissioning
29201413	Secondary Vertical Damper
29201412	Primary Axle Damper
29201087	Aluminium Impeller
26205001A	Set of spares for M/S Siemens make

**Note :- Due date of Tender Opening: S.No. 01 on 29.07.2020; S.No. 02 on 10.08.2020; S.No. 03 on 19.08.2020; S.No. 04 & 05 on 20.08.2020; S.No. 06 on 21.08.2020; S.No. 07 & 08 on 24.08.2020; S.No. 09 & 10 on 25.08.2020; S.No. 11 to 14 on 01.09.2020;**

**CORRIGENDUM**  
Tender No. 81.20.1332 due on 06.08.2020 is postponed to 18.08.2020. Beside above mentioned tenders there are other tenders having value below Rs. 25 lakhs. For details, please visit Railway website above.

Principal Chief Materials Manager, Secunderabad

**NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER (through https://ireps.gov.in)**

CAO (Construction), S.C. Railway, Secunderabad invites e-tender on behalf of the President of India for the following works:

**S/N: 1, NIT No: 53-CAO-C-SC-2020**  
Dated 23/07/2020, **Name of work:** Guntur-Guntakal section - Proposed Double line work between Nallapadu - Donakonda stations - Proposed Laying and linking of BG track, Assembling and insertion of Points and crossings, Leading and dumping of stone ballast and execution of other miscellaneous works from Ch. 105000.00m to 119000.00m - 4 Km between Kurichedu - Donakonda stations (including Kurichedu, Potlapadu yards and excluding Donakonda yard). **Details: Estimated Cost: Rs. 10,85,90,850.19, EMD: Rs.6,93,000.00, Completion Period: 06 months (Six months), Date of opening: 18/08/2020 at 15:00 hrs.**

**S/N: 2, NIT No: 54-CAO-C-SC-2020**  
Dated 24/07/2020, **Name of work:** Guntur Division - Guntur - Guntakal section - Proposed Double line work between Nallapadu - Donakonda stations: Maintenance of newly laid 2nd line BG track from Km. 5.00 to Km.35.250 (30.50 Km) between Nallapadu (incl.) and Satulur (incl.) Stations. **Details: Estimated Cost: Rs. 3,77,02,978.00, EMD: Rs.3,38,500.00, Completion Period: 12 months (Twelve months), Date of opening: 18/08/2020 at 15:00 hrs.**

**S/N: 3, NIT No: 55-CAO-C-SC-2020**  
Dated 24/07/2020, **Name of work:** Final location survey for Proposed Doubling between Guntur - Bibinagar stations - Fixing of alignment, pegging out centre line, taking levels, finalization of land requirement survey number wise Soil investigations, Geological investigations for Bridges by drilling bore holes, collecting samples, Calculation of water-way requirement for all the proposed bridges and preparation of GAD's for bridges, station yards, project sheets, and preparation of detailed project report etc. **Details: Estimated Cost: Rs.2,35,54,585.80, EMD: Rs.2,67,800.00, Completion Period: 04 months (Four months), Date of opening: 18/08/2020 at 15:00 hrs.**

**S/N: 4, NIT No: 56-CAO-C-SC-2020**  
Dated 24/07/2020, **Name of work:** The "brazen attempt" to topple an elected Government with a popular mandate and majority is a shameful assault on democracy, he said. "We are witness to both Constitutional immorality in Rajasthan. Judiciary is the custodian of Constitution and must uphold it in letter and spirit," Sharma said.

party which they represent in the House. The Pilot camp, however, argued that a party whip applies only when the assembly is in session. The disqualification notice was challenged by the dissident MLAs through the writ petition which was taken up by the bench on Friday last week and arguments were held. The arguments continued on Monday and concluded on Tuesday. The court had on Tuesday said it would give appropriate order on the writ petition on Friday. Meanwhile, the assembly speaker moved the Supreme Court and filed a special leave petition (SLP) on Wednesday. Pilot was sacked as the deputy chief minister and the president of the Congress state unit after he rebelled against Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot. **PTI**

responded to the Cabinet's decision to convene the Assembly session, he said, adding that Governor Kalraj Mishra has no discretion in the matter. Congress leader Anand Sharma on Twitter said, "Supreme Court is the last hope to save Constitutional democracy. India is watching whether Constitutional bench judgements and Supreme Court settled laws on floor tests will be honoured or not?"

The "brazen attempt" to topple an elected Government with a popular mandate and majority is a shameful assault on democracy, he said. "We are witness to both Constitutional immorality in Rajasthan. Judiciary is the custodian of Constitution and must uphold it in letter and spirit," Sharma said.

responded to the Cabinet's decision to convene the Assembly session, he said, adding that Governor Kalraj Mishra has no discretion in the matter. Congress leader Anand Sharma on Twitter said, "Supreme Court is the last hope to save Constitutional democracy. India is watching whether Constitutional bench judgements and Supreme Court settled laws on floor tests will be honoured or not?"

The "brazen attempt" to topple an elected Government with a popular mandate and majority is a shameful assault on democracy, he said. "We are witness to both Constitutional immorality in Rajasthan. Judiciary is the custodian of Constitution and must uphold it in letter and spirit," Sharma said.

responded to the Cabinet's decision to convene the Assembly session, he said, adding that Governor Kalraj Mishra has no discretion in the matter. Congress leader Anand Sharma on Twitter said, "Supreme Court is the last hope to save Constitutional democracy. India is watching whether Constitutional bench judgements and Supreme Court settled laws on floor tests will be honoured or not?"

The "brazen attempt" to topple an elected Government with a popular mandate and majority is a shameful assault on democracy, he said. "We are witness to both Constitutional immorality in Rajasthan. Judiciary is the custodian of Constitution and must uphold it in letter and spirit," Sharma said.

responded to the Cabinet's decision to convene the Assembly session, he said, adding that Governor Kalraj Mishra has no discretion in the matter. Congress leader Anand Sharma on Twitter said, "Supreme Court is the last hope to save Constitutional democracy. India is watching whether Constitutional bench judgements and Supreme Court settled laws on floor tests will be honoured or not?"

The "brazen attempt" to topple an elected Government with a popular mandate and majority is a shameful assault on democracy, he said. "We are witness to both Constitutional immorality in Rajasthan. Judiciary is the custodian of Constitution and must uphold it in letter and spirit," Sharma said.

responded to the Cabinet's decision to convene the Assembly session, he said, adding that Governor Kalraj Mishra has no discretion in the matter. Congress leader Anand Sharma on Twitter said, "Supreme Court is the last hope to save Constitutional democracy. India is watching whether Constitutional bench judgements and Supreme Court settled laws on floor tests will be honoured or not?"

The "brazen attempt" to topple an elected Government with a popular mandate and majority is a shameful assault on democracy, he said. "We are witness to both Constitutional immorality in Rajasthan. Judiciary is the custodian of Constitution and must uphold it in letter and spirit," Sharma said.

responded to the Cabinet's decision to convene the Assembly session, he said, adding that Governor Kalraj Mishra has no discretion in the matter. Congress leader Anand Sharma on Twitter said, "Supreme Court is the last hope to save Constitutional democracy. India is watching whether Constitutional bench judgements and Supreme Court settled laws on floor tests will be honoured or not?"

The "brazen attempt" to topple an elected Government with a popular mandate and majority is a shameful assault on democracy, he said. "We are witness to both Constitutional immorality in Rajasthan. Judiciary is the custodian of Constitution and must uphold it in letter and spirit," Sharma said.

responded to the Cabinet's decision to convene the Assembly session, he said, adding that Governor Kalraj Mishra has no discretion in the matter. Congress leader Anand Sharma on Twitter said, "Supreme Court is the last hope to save Constitutional democracy. India is watching whether Constitutional bench judgements and Supreme Court settled laws on floor tests will be honoured or not?"

The "brazen attempt" to topple an elected Government with a popular mandate and majority is a shameful assault on democracy, he said. "We are witness to both Constitutional immorality in Rajasthan. Judiciary is the custodian of Constitution and must uphold it in letter and spirit," Sharma said.

responded to the Cabinet's decision to convene the Assembly session, he said, adding that Governor Kalraj Mishra has no discretion in the matter. Congress leader Anand Sharma on Twitter said, "Supreme Court is the last hope to save Constitutional democracy. India is watching whether Constitutional bench judgements and Supreme Court settled laws on floor tests will be honoured or not?"

The "brazen attempt" to topple an elected Government with a popular mandate and majority is a shameful assault on democracy, he said. "We are witness to both Constitutional immorality in Rajasthan. Judiciary is the custodian of Constitution and must uphold it in letter and spirit," Sharma said.

responded to the Cabinet's decision to convene the Assembly session, he said, adding that Governor Kalraj Mishra has no discretion in the matter. Congress leader Anand Sharma on Twitter said, "Supreme Court is the last hope to save Constitutional democracy. India is watching whether Constitutional bench judgements and Supreme Court settled laws on floor tests will be honoured or not?"

## Modi to hoist flag at ...

**From Page 1**  
The officials clarified that presence of school children from selected schools will be decided later.

The circular on the celebrations on August 15 from Red Fort to State, District and Panchayat level, directed the authorities to adhere to the Home and Health Ministry directions and also suggested for digital transmission of events to reach out to public, who are not able to participate. The advisory also asked the States to invite Covid-19 warriors like doctors, health and sanitation workers and persons cured from Covid-19 at State, district and Panchayat level celebrations.

"However, in view of spread of Covid-19 pandemic, while organising various programmes activities for the Independence Day celebrations, it is imperative to follow certain preventive measures such as maintaining social distancing, wearing of masks, proper sanitization, avoiding large congregations, protecting vulnerable persons, etc and follow all guidelines related to Covid-19 issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

"Therefore, all programmes should be organised in a way that large congregation of people is avoided and technology is used in a best possible manner for celebration befitting the occasion. The events organized could be webcast in order to reach out people at large who are not able to participate," said the advisory issued by MHA.

The MHA suggested to States to invite health and sanitation workers and cured persons also for the State, district and panchayat level functions. "It would also be appropriate that Covid-19 warriors like doctors, health workers, sanitation workers etc are invited in the ceremony as recognition of their noble service in fight against Covid-19 pandemic. Some persons cured from Covid-19 infection may also be invited," said MHA, adding that it would be appropriate to invite them at At-Home functions also.

The advisory also suggested that recorded versions of police military band performances may be displayed through large screens. "Performance of police/military bands may be recorded at places of historic importance associated with Independence movement and recorded versions thereof may be displayed through large screen/digital media, during public functions and on social media," said the advisory to States.

The advisory also suggested to conduct other functions conducted on Independence Day celebrations like planting tree, debates-poetry- patriotic song competitions in schools and colleges with all social distancing norms. It also suggested that theme of "Aatmanirbha Bharat" is suitably spread and publicised amongst the masses through various activities/messages in the functions and on social media during the Independence Day celebrations.

## Advani terms charge...

**From Page 1**  
As the judge narrated to him the version of certain video clippings, newspapers and other evidence relating to the incident 1992, Advani denied the charges saying the evidence was totally false and the same were produced in the court due to political influence and ideological inclination.

As the Judge indicated the evidence towards his provocative speeches to Karsewaks, BJP's veteran leader said the evidence was false and the investigators included the video cassettes and newspapers in the probe for political malice and under influence.

The judge described to him the evidence furnished by the CBI witness on the basis of an English newspaper published news on October 24, 1990 about his arrest a days before with title "Advani arrested in Samastipur". The edition carried news relating to calls for Bharat Band by the leaders of Vishwa Hindu Parishad and other organisations in protest to his arrest.

The edition carried Shiv Sena leader Bal Thackeray's statement that "bandh will be peaceful". Even then some Karsewaks succeeded in climbing on the disputed structure and damaged it. Some Karsewaks lost their lives in police firing on October 10, 1990 during "Karsewa". On completion of this description, the judge asked Advani online as to what he had to say about this. "Except the fact of his arrest, other depositions are false and the same

## Hit by Covid...

**From Page 1**  
The man sold his daughter to two women for just Rs 45,000 on July 2 but kept his wife in dark, Narzary said. Brahma's wife and villagers lodged a complaint at Kochugaon police station after they came to know about it later. "On receiving the complaint, police swung into action and rescued the baby from the two sisters. We also arrested the man (Brahma)," police said.

During interrogation, the two women claimed that they had bought the baby for a childless couple related to them.

"We are really thankful to the

## Cong slams HC, Gov for forcing Speaker's...

**From Page 1**  
"Why should lawyers argue? Lawyers are anguished. Why this charade. Maybe, it is time for lawyers to take their robes off," Sibal said at a Press conference.

"If the High Court is going to pass this kind of order, what's the point in arguing before the court. Forget the law, tell the people of the country what is happening in the country," the former Union Minister said.

The Rajasthan High Court passes status quo orders against the Constitution bench judgment of the Supreme Court and constitutional authorities act at the behest of the Government, he said.

"This is the new definition of democ-

racy," Sibal said, adding that the Governor not calling the Assembly session despite the Cabinet's recommendation is against a five-judge order of the Supreme Court in the Nabam Tuki case of Arunachal Pradesh.

Whether the Congress would move the Supreme Court against the Governor, Sibal said, "The Congress will take whatever action it has to take in this regard. What Rajasthan Governor has done is something that is unprecedented."

He said one has seen the conduct of Governors in the past, including that in Arunachal Pradesh, and also of Speakers. "Now, one is seeing the role of the Governor of Rajasthan," Sibal said.

"Governors are no longer protectors of the rule of law, but they are protectors of the party in power," he said.

The Rajasthan Governor has not

**B-168**  
**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"-PROCUREMENT**  
**NOTICE WORKS DEPARTMENT**  
E - mail id: [ceroads.fabrs@grmailS.com](mailto:ceroads.fabrs@grmailS.com)  
**Bid Identification No. CE-DPI & R-02/2020-21**

- The Chief Engineer (DPI & Roads), Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites per centum rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE form eligible contractors for Road work as mentioned below:
- Nature of work : Road work
- No. of work : 2 No
- Tender Paper cost : Rs. 10,000.00
- Class of Contractor : Super Class
- Available of bid document : From 10.00 A.M. of 10.08.2020 to 5.00 PM of 03.09.2020
- Date of opening of Bia : Dt.04.09.2020at 11.30 AM
- The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from <https://tenderodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender c also be seen in the said website.

**OIPR : 32069/11/0001/2021** **Engineer (DPI & Roads) Odisha**

# Shastri Park flyover to open by August



Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal and Health Minister Satyendra Jain during their visit to inspect ongoing renovation work of Shastri Park Flyover Delhi on Friday. Ranjanj Dimri | Pioneer

**SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI**

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday inspected Shastri Park flyover project. While completed portion of the flyover will be inaugurated in August, the project is scheduled to be completed by October 2020.

The 700 metres long flyover will be a two-way flyover while each of the carriageways would be around 10.5 metres wide.

According to the designed architecture - the flyover will have two loops; one for the commuters coming from Khajuri Chowk towards Kashmiri Gate and the second for the commuters coming from Gandhi Nagar and turning towards Shahdara.

The project is being constructed to reduce travel time between Kashmiri Gate inter-

state bus terminus and Shahdara by five to seven minutes.

Kashmiri Gate and Shahdara are busy traffic points as inter-state operations execute from the ISBT connecting northern states with the national Capital.

Kejriwal discussed plan with engineers and PWD officials during site visit. "Construction of both Seelampur and Shastri Park flyovers will ease the difficulties of the commuters," said Kejriwal. The project is nearing completion and straight portion of the flyover will be inaugurated first.

"The construction of both the Shastri flyover and the Seelampur flyover has nearly completed, Kejriwal said. "The straight portion will be inaugurated in August and the loops will take around 1.5

months more to be completed."

The sanctioned cost of the project was Rs 303 crores however the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Government is completing the project in Rs 250 crore. "The project got a little delayed because of COVID, or it would have been completed by now. The project was supposed to be completed by August, but it will get delayed by 1.5 months due to COVID. I hope that the construction of flyovers will ease out the difficulties of the commuters in the area," Kejriwal added.

The PWD began the construction of Shastri Park flyover in April-2019. The six lane flyover with top loops as explained above will cut the travel time from Kashmiri Gate to Dilshad Garden.

# City Govt should pay June-July pension on hiked rates: BJP

**STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI**

Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta has demanded from Delhi Government to pay the pension of June-July of all social security pension beneficiaries as per the increased rates. Gupta said due to non-release of social security pension for two months in Delhi, lakhs of old age, widow and differently able pension holders are going through financial crisis.

"The Delhi Government announced a double pension to all social security pension holders in Delhi due to the situation of Covid-19 lock down in March 2020. The increased pension was paid in March-

April and the May 2020 pension was distributed in the last week of June. Now two months from June to July pension holders are in extreme financial difficulty without pension," he said.

According to the social welfare department, the Delhi government had given one month advance pension in April-May, but now the pension given in advance will be adjusted by not giving June-July pension, Gupta said, adding after the lockdown, the income of lakhs of poor families come down drastically and the increased pension is their biggest support.

Gupta said just as the Central Government has announced free ration for poor

welfare till November 2020, similarly Delhi Government should make provision to pay social pension of increased rates by November 2020 for the interests of the beneficiaries of all pensions.

He said that the portal was opened for filling pension forms for a few days in 2019-20 on which pension forms were filled, but the process of their pension has not started yet. "Due to irregular, indefinite and opaque process of disbursement of pension of the old aged differently able and widows, pension amount has not been sent to the account of thousands of beneficiaries of this scheme even in times of crisis," he said.

# Rape of 14-year-old in Covid care centre Rape of patient: CM vows action against accused

**STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI**

Following the sexual assault on a 14-year-old girl, who was undergoing treatment at the Sardar Patel Covid-19 care centre in south Delhi's Chhatrapur by another coronavirus patient in the washroom, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said stringent action will be taken against the accused. The incident occurred on July 15.

The CM said the incident is unfortunate and matter is being investigated. "A case has been registered and stringent action will be taken against the accused," Kejriwal said on Friday.

According to police, the incident took place on the night of July 15, when the girl had gone to the washroom and a complaint was registered under Section 376 (punishment for sexual assault) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the relevant provisions of the Protection Of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. "The 19-year-old man, who

allegedly sexually assaulted her, was arrested along with one of his associates. Both have been sent to judicial custody," said a senior police official.

"The girl and the accused, who lived in a slum cluster here, were admitted at the centre along with their relatives. The girl narrated her ordeal to one of her relatives, who is also undergoing treatment at the centre. The matter was then reported to an ITBP official, who informed the police," said an official at the Covid centre.

The 10,000-bed Covid care centre at the Radha Soami Satsang Beas, which was inaugurated earlier this month by Delhi Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal, has been set up in Chhatrapur for treating mild and asymptomatic coronavirus patients.

The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) is the nodal agency operating the centre, which also serves as a treatment centre for those who are asymptomatic but cannot afford home isolation.

# Govt never took waterlogging seriously, alleges SDMC Mayor

**STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI**

Accusing the Delhi Government of being "apathetic" towards solving the "perennial" problem of waterlogging issue in the national Capital, the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) Mayor said the AAP Government never took the matter seriously resulted in heavy traffic jams all around the city and loss of property and lives.

SDMC Mayor Anamika said keeping in view the expected rainfall in this monsoon season all agencies should have worked in tandem to tackle the problem.

While talking about the

financial condition of SDMC, she said that the corporation has exploited all possible revenue generation sources to deal with the situation and trying to make the south corporation self sustainable rather expecting financial assistance from the Delhi Government.

North Mayor Jai Prakash said before the monsoon North DMC held a meeting with the officials of the PWD, DSIIDC and flood control and irrigation department to check the preparedness and they "falsely" claimed that work of removing silt from the drains had been completed by them.

While North Corporation has already desilted 166 kilometers of and extracted 11,000

metric tonnes of silt, he said, adding that 154 additional pumps have also been deployed by the corporation at vulnerable points.

East Corporation has also desilted 58,000 metric tonnes of silt from 223 drains under the corporation.

# Gurugram Covid recovery up at 85%, says admin

**PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM**

Around 7,110 coronavirus patients in Gurugram have been cured till Friday. With this the district recovery rate from Covid-19 has increased from 77 per cent to 85 per cent according to data shared by the district administration on Friday.

The total number of coronavirus cases in the city on Friday rose to 8,393 including 127 new cases. The Covid-19 toll has reached 120 in the district including one death on Friday.

Gurugram now has 1,163 active cases and 960 of them are in home isolation, officials added. The health department said out of 120 deaths 82 died due to comorbidities and the remaining 38 without comorbidities.

"Covid testing has been increased in the district to prevent the spread of corona infection. The department is sampling 3,000 tests a day. Which includes both types-Rapid Antigen Test and RTPCR Test. Those patients have been done on propriety. Patients are being treated based on their symptoms," said Amit Khatri deputy commissioner Gurugram.

Dr Virender Yadav, Civil Surgeon of Gurugram, said, since June 24, around 55,000 rapid antigen tests have been conducted to identify corona

patients in the district.

"The most tests have been done in 9 large outbreak regions which have high Covid-19 cases. The area including Rajiv Nagar (east), Om Nagar, Nathupur, Laxman Vihar, Chauma, Patel Nagar, Firoz Gandhi colony, Manesar and Sohna, where the number of patients is much higher," Yadav said.

Meanwhile police said that 13 thousand challans have been made so far for those who do not wear face masks in the district, from which a sum of Rs 64 lakhs has been recovered as fine from the offenders.

"Contact tracing has been done for around 2,500 people whose mobiles were switched off. Also, at present 30 policemen in the district are corona infected and 110 policemen have been discharged," said Nitika Gahlaut Deputy Commissioner of Police (headquarters).

Apart from this, Gurugram police on Friday registered a case of negligence against a Sector-37 based Signature hospital for allegedly not providing oxygen support, which led to the death of a 44-year-old Covid positive woman.

A case was registered under Section 304 A (causing death by negligence) of the IPC at Sector-10A police station after CMO Dr Virender Yadav forwarded a negligence report.

# Registry scam in G'gram, 1,200 papers sans NOC

**Gurugram:** Around 1,200 properties have been registered in Gurugram without the mandatory 'no-objection certificate' from the department of town and country planning (DTP) and MCG during the lockdown period. This was revealed after a complaint filed by RTI activist Ramesh Yadav at district revenue office (DRO) on June 10, 2020.

According to Yadav, in April and May this year, around 1,200 properties were registered at seven tehsil offices across Gurugram. These unauthorised registries were done in several illegal colonies in the city, including Chauma village. Chauma village falls within the radius of 900 meters, where the registry is closed due

to the Supreme Court order.

Besides this, 74 illegal registries were registered in Sohna tehsil, 2 in wazirabad, 20 in Kadipur and Harsuru tehsil and 30 in Badshahpur tehsil.

These colonies fall under seven tehsils of the district — Gurugram including Kadipur, Wazirabad, Gurugram, Harsuru, Badshahpur and Sohna. And these were all carved out on agricultural land and violation of section 7-A of the Haryana Development and Regulation Areas act. Sources said by exploiting the loopholes in the system, property dealers carve out illegal colonies on agricultural land and then sell the same. They also get these properties registered through the nexus in tehsil offices. **SR**

# 2,500 challaned for not wearing masks

**NEW DELHI:** The Delhi Police on Friday issued over 2,500 challans for not wearing face masks and violating social distancing norms amid the coronavirus outbreak. According to police, around 2,322 challans were issued on Friday for mask violation while 473 challans were issued for social distance violation. Meanwhile, 1,279 challans were issued for spitting.

A total of 62,272 challans have been issued so far for mask violation since June 15 while 73,884 challans have been issued for social distancing violation. Police said that a total of 1,42,025 masks have been distributed among the needy people across the city.

Meanwhile, Delhi Traffic Police has also issued 23 challans to people for consuming of Pan, Gutka, Tobacco in Public Place in last 24 hours. **SR**

# 16-year-old youth sodomised by fellow juvenile

**NEW DELHI:** A 16-year-old youth was allegedly sodomised by fellow juvenile in a correction home in north Delhi's Mukherjee Nagar area. The incident occurred on Wednesday. According to a senior police official, police received information from Welfare Officer OHB-II, Sewa Kutir, Kingsway Camp regarding allegation of sexual assault by one inmate.

"During enquiry, the victim stated that on Wednesday around 12:30 am, he woke up and went to the washroom. Meanwhile, one 17-year-old inmate came there and forcefully sodomised him in the washroom," said the senior police official. **SR**

# Supply of illegal arms, ammunition: Inter-State syndicate busted

**NEW DELHI:** With the arrest of two criminals, the Delhi Police on Friday claimed to have busted an inter-State syndicate involved in supplying illegal arms and ammunition to criminals in Delhi, NCR and Uttar Pradesh. The accused have been identified as Raja Gautam (24) and Rajesh (25), both residents of district Aligarh in Uttar Pradesh (UP). Police said that they have also recovered 10 firearms and 100 cartridges from the possession of the duo.

According to Pramod Singh Kushwah, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Special Cell, specific inputs were received on July 21 that Raja Gautam @ Sonu along with his associate Rajesh would come near bus stand Indraprastha Park, Ring Road in Delhi to deliver the supply of firearms and ammunition to

one of his contacts in Delhi.

"Acting on the specific inputs, a trap was laid and duo was nabbed. During cursory checking four semi automatic pistols and six single shot pistols with 100 live cartridges of different bore were recovered from arrested duo. A case under section 25 (sub section 8) of Arms (Amendment) Act 2019 has been registered in Special Cell police station for arms trafficking," said the DCP.

"During interrogation, the accused disclosed that they had received this supply of recovered firearms and cartridges from an arms manufacturer of Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh. Both accused persons have also disclosed that they have been indulging in the supply of arms in Delhi NCR and adjoining States for the last 3-4 years," said the DCP. **SR**

# 234 kg opium seized, 2 held from Rajasthan

**Largest haul of year so far**

**STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI**

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has arrested two persons from Chittorgarh in Rajasthan and seized around 234 kg of opium, largest haul of the year so far, from the possession of the duo.

The accused have been identified as R Lal, a resident of district Chittorgarh and MK Dhakad, a resident of Bhilwara in Rajasthan. According to KPS Malhotra, the NCB Deputy Director, Operations, on July 19 based on specific inputs, the NCB, Jodhpur unit raided the residential premises of R Lal and seized 233.976 kg of Opium.

"The seizure of the contraband took place in the house of R. Lal. Intelligence and investigation point to the fact that the contraband belongs to Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan based drug traffickers. Another accused M K Dhakad was also arrested for his involvement in the criminal conspiracy to assist these traffickers," said the Deputy Director.

"During preliminary investigation it was revealed that the opium was sourced from licit cultivation area of Chittorgarh and was destined to Jodhpur, Rajasthan," he said.

"Further investigation of the case is underway with a specific focus on the Drug Trafficking Network involved and the linkages they have in

the licit opium production areas," said the Deputy Director.

"During seizure and further investigation it has also been learnt that some of the legal cultivators, especially those in the districts of Mandasaur, Neemuch and Ratlam of Madhya Pradesh and Chittorgarh and Jhalawar of Rajasthan divert it to the illegal channel and sell it to intermediaries for profit," said the deputy director.

"These intermediaries traffic this Opium to other parts of the country for consumption and conversion to Heroin. The seized Opium in this case is also sourced from licit cultivation in Chittorgarh district of Rajasthan," he added.

# GDA to conduct survey before construction of buildings under PM EWS scheme

**Ghaziabad:** In the area where the Ghaziabad Development Authority (GDA) will construct the EWS buildings under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, a demand survey will be done first to see how many buildings are required in the area in question.

In the same link, the GDA has started the survey work before the construction of about 1.25 hundred EWS buildings to be built in Mussoorie Dasna area of the district. In fact, the purpose of the authority behind

this survey is to decide whether the people who want these buildings fall within the ambit of the eligibility of the scheme. In this regard, interested people can provide the information sought in the online survey by depositing only Rs 50 in GDA account. The special thing is that after scrutinizing the applications coming during the survey, it will be decided how many people want the EWS house in the area in question. After that the construction of buildings will start.

## Ensuring Speedy Delivery of your Commercial Goods

*Avail The Service of Parcel Cargo Express Trains of Northern Railway*

To fulfill the commitment towards nation and the people, Northern Railway has been running time-tabled parcel trains to transport essential commodities like medicines and perishable as well as commercial items to various destinations across India during the current situation, Northern Railway also facilitates the service for a specific destination, if a party books the full parcel train. The details of scheduled parcel trains are as under:

Parcel Spl. No.	Station From	Dep. Time	Station to	Arr. Time	Days of Run	Dates of Run
00401	Guwahati	01:30	New Delhi	13:15	Fri, Sun	Up to 31.12.2020
00402	New Delhi	14:30	Guwahati	02:30	Tue, Thu	Up to 31.12.2020
00463	Howrah	17:30	Amritsar	08:45	Mon, Sat	Up to 31.12.2020
00464	Amritsar	18:00	Howrah	08:30	Wed, Fri	Up to 31.12.2020
00465	Guwahati	01:30	Amritsar	19:45	Wednesday	Up to 31.12.2020
00466	Amritsar	07:50	Guwahati	02:30	Friday	Up to 31.12.2020
00467	Howrah	17:30	Amritsar	06:30	Thursday	Up to 31.12.2020
00468	Amritsar	20:40	Howrah	08:30	Monday	Up to 31.12.2020
00621	KSR Bengaluru	17:00	Hazrat Nizamuddin	14:00	Wed, Fri	Up to 25.12.2020
00622	Hazrat Nizamuddin	21:00	KSR Bengaluru	18:30	Fri, Sun	Up to 27.12.2020
00761	Renigunta	05:45	Hazrat Nizamuddin	15:20	Daily	Up to 31.12.2020
00762	Hazrat Nizamuddin	10:15	Renigunta	20:45	Daily	Up to 31.12.2020
00763	Hyderabad Deccan	19:00	Amritsar	09:10	Friday	Up to 25.12.2020
00764	Amritsar	05:00	Hyderabad Deccan	18:20	Monday	Up to 28.12.2020
00901	Bandra Terminus	20:00	Jammu Tawi	08:00	Tue, Thu, Fri, Sun	Up to 30.07.2020
00902	Jammu Tawi	18:30	Bandra Terminus	06:30	Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat	Up to 01.08.2020

**Commercial Control Contact Nos.**

**Headquarters**  
+91-9717638775

**Delhi Division**  
+91-9717649915

**NOTE** For more information about the Time Table and running status of PCETs, please visit the website [www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in](http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in) or App of National Train Enquiry System (NTES)

**Security Helpline No.**  
**182**

**Integrated Helpline No.**  
**139**

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
Visit us at : [www.n.railways.gov.in](http://www.n.railways.gov.in)

Follow us on

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

# Covid: Clinical trials of desi Covaxin begins at AIIMS

**No immediate side-effects have been observed**



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Clinical trials of indigenously-prepared Covaxin vaccine began on Friday at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) with a Delhi resident being administered the first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine. Doctors said no immediate side-effects have been observed so far.

He will be monitored for the next seven days. Over 2,000 volunteers have enrolled for the first phase of human clinical trial of Covaxin, said Dr Sanjay Rai, Professor at the Centre for Community Medicine at the AIIMS.

The vaccine has been developed by the Hyderabad-based pharmaceutical company Bharat Biotech in collaboration with National Institute of Virology (NIV) and Indian

## Bihar cadre IAS officer Rajesh appointed Health Secretary

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Senior bureaucrat Rajesh Bhushan has been appointed as the new Health Secretary as part of a minor top-level bureaucratic reshuffle on Friday, according to a Personnel Ministry order. He will succeed Preeti Sudan, who was given a three-month extension in April and demits office on July 31, it said.

Bhushan, a 1987 batch Bihar cadre IAS officer, is the Officer on Special Duty in the Department of Health and Family Welfare under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. He was named OSD in April this year. The Health Ministry is at the forefront of the fight against the novel coronavirus pandemic.

In another move, Mines Secretary Sushil Kumar has been appointed secretary of

Council of Medical Research (ICMR). AIIMS-Delhi is among the 12 sites selected by

the National Commission for Scheduled Castes under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. Kumar, a 1987 batch IAS officer of Tripura cadre, has been appointed in place of Ram Kumar Mishra, named Women and Child Development secretary.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has also approved the assignment of additional charge of the post of secretary, Ministry of Mines, to Anil Kumar Jain, the order said. Jain, a 1986 batch IAS officer of Madhya Pradesh cadre, is secretary, Ministry of Coal. Mishra succeeds Ajay Tirkey who has been appointed secretary, Department of Land Resources.

Tirkey, a 1987 batch IAS officer of Madhya Pradesh cadre, will replace Ruolkhumlien Buhrlil, who superannuates on July 31.

the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) for conducting phase I and II trials.

## Dengue outbreak during Covid to compound docs' problems

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Similarities in symptoms of Covid-19 and vector-borne disease dengue, which is a threat now in the monsoon season, could compound problems for the health care professionals, especially, in the outpatient settings.

Nabaneeta Dash from the pediatric infectious disease Unit, Department of Pediatrics, Christian Medical College, Vellore, explained that rainy and post-rainy periods between July and October in India report the bulk of seasonal infections such as dengue, scrub typhus, malaria and other tropical fevers.

"Dengue is widely prevalent among all ages and known to present with a short history of undifferentiated fever. When both dengue and Covid-19



reach epidemic proportions at the same time, it may be difficult to distinguish these two illnesses particularly in outpatient settings....The implications of potential temporal overlap of these two outbreaks can be fourfold," she pointed out in an article published in Pediatrics Research.

However, she said that while the initial clinical symptoms such as fever, headache and myalgia are common to both illnesses, the presence of respiratory symptoms such as cough, sore throat and new loss of taste or smell may favour the



diagnosis of Covid-19.

Nevertheless, she said, "The laboratory diagnosis of individual infections would become a challenging task. Being a systemic viral infection, diagnosis of dengue largely relies on serological tests. ELISA-based methods are recommended; nevertheless, point-of-care card tests are increasingly being used due to ease of performance and rapidity of results."

Winsley Rose also from pediatric infectious disease unit, Department of Pediatrics, CMC and Karthi Nallasamy,

pediatric intensive care unit, Department of Pediatrics, Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, co-authors of the article cited recent a report from Singapore of false-positive card tests for dengue in two patients with SARS-CoV-2 infection which they said, raises serious concern in the reliability of these commercially available tests during Covid-19 pandemic.

Also, the effect of possible co-infection with dengue and SARS-CoV-2 or the clinical course of dengue in a recently recovered Covid-19 patient is unknown.

Much remains to be understood about the immune-pathogenesis of severe disease in dengue, they added.

The authors have also

called for studies in infection with dengue virus in the context of recent or concurrent SARS-CoV-2-induced immunological changes.

As if this is not enough, burden of both diseases being borne by crowded urban areas could make the matters worse. "While we exit from the lockdown, we should have a multi-pronged approach to early case detection, isolation and management of not only Covid-19 case, but also various febrile illnesses that visit us during these pre-monsoon and monsoon times.

"As physical and social distancing becomes a norm in this changed world, so should vector control and effective management of urban and household waters," said the health experts.

The first volunteer was screened two days ago, said the doctor.

The clinical trials registry for the phase 1 and 2 studies

will have 1,125 participants. Around 375 volunteers will be needed in the phase 1 study across 12 sites, and 750 in phase 2.

According to the ethical guidelines for conducting human trials, volunteers should participate in the clinical study only after giving

informed consent, with no financial benefit from the sponsor.

If there was a need for travel, the participant will be reim-

bursed for the commute, and any cost for controlling the side effects will also be borne by the sponsor, one of the investigators said.

## Rajnath urges Israel to forge closer defence ties with India



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the backdrop of ongoing tension at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday urged Israel to forge closer defence ties in manufacturing weapons here.

This message to his Israeli counterpart Bajnamin Gantz came as India needs modern rifles for its soldiers guarding the LAC and the Line of Control (LOC) facing Pakistan. The Indian Army recently purchased more than 10,000 light machine guns from Israel and may go in for more sniper rifles for its Special Forces.

In his telephonic conversation with Gantz, Rajnath also invited greater participation of Israeli defence companies under the new liberalised foreign direct investment (FDI) regime in defence manufacturing.

These talks took place as the Indian armed forces are also going in for emergency defence purchases including from Israel amid ongoing tensions with China on the

**The two Ministers also expressed satisfaction at the ongoing collaboration in research and development in fighting pandemic Covid-19**

border. In May, the Government increased the limit for FDI in defence through the automatic route from 49% to 74%.

Giving details of the talks, defence ministry officials said here both the Ministers expressed satisfaction at the progress of strategic cooperation between the two countries and discussed possibilities of further strengthening the defence engagements.

The two Ministers also expressed satisfaction at the

## IAF conference discuss ways to tackle LAC threat

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Responding fast to the situation developing on the hostile Line of Actual Control (LAC) by deploying frontline fighter jets at forward bases, the IAF in the three-day commanders' meet here discussed better ways to recognise the emerging threats and take action accordingly.

In fact, the IAF deployment in the last eight weeks or so earned laurels from Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who while inaugurating the meet on Tuesday, said it sent a message to the "adversaries." He also appreciated the IAF aerial strikes carried out in Balakot.

Concluding the conference here, IAF chief R K S Bhadauria on Friday articulated Vision 2030 laying down

the milestones for transformation of IAF in the coming decade. He said it was important to recognise the nature of emerging threats in a rapidly changing world, officials said.

He also emphasised on the need for rapid capacity building, increase in serviceability of all assets and dedicated work towards effective integration of new technologies in the shortest timeframes. The IAF chief reiterated that the IAF's long term goals for sustainable capability mandate the acquisition and employment of niche technologies and development of indigenous platforms and weapons.

The Chief stated that since human resource was the most valuable asset of the IAF recruitment, training and

motivation strategies should keep pace with the changing times.

The commanders reviewed the situation on the LAC and the Line of Control (LOC) with Pakistan, took stock of operational preparedness and strategies for countering security threats envisaged across the entire spectrum.

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), General Bipin Rawat, Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS), Admiral Karambir Singh and Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), General MM Naravane addressed the Conference and interacted with the Commanders as well as the Principal Staff Officers (PSOs) at Air HQ on matters of jointness and integrated warfighting.

ongoing collaboration in research and development in fighting pandemic COVID-19. Defence Minister of Israel responded positively to an invitation from Rajnath to visit India at the earliest opportunity, an official statement added.

Sources said Rajnath also briefed his Israeli counterpart about the current situation on the LAC, the ongoing stalemate and efforts by India and China to defuse tension through military and diplomatic level parleys, sources said.

Exercising discretion to buy weapons in the backdrop of the LAC situation, the Army has already taken a decision to

order another batch of 12 launchers and around 250 missiles of Spike Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGM) and additional Heron unmanned Aerial vehicles (UAV) among others from Israel through the emergency procurement route.

The three armed forces are likely to go procure weapon systems in the coming weeks to meet any operational requirements.

To enable them do so, the defence ministry some days back granted emergency powers to the armed forces to procure weapons systems up to ₹300 crore on an urgent basis without

similar powers were given to them after the Balakot air strike in February 2019 during which the first batch of Spike ATGMs were procured.

Israel has emerged as one of the biggest arms exporters to India in the last three decades since diplomatic relations were established between the two countries in early 1990s.

The Israeli defence industry, at present, is actively involved in various research and development projects with India besides selling them state of the art weapons, electronic and information technology based systems.

## Shah distributes 100 electric potter wheels to 100 trained artisans

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Seeking to empower and associate the marginalised potters' community with India's quest to become "Aatmanirbhar", Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday distributed 100 electric potter wheels to 100 trained artisans under the Kumbhar Sashaktikaran Yojana of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).

Addressing the beneficiaries at his constituency Gandhinagar through video conferencing, Shah said proper marketing arrangements including tie-up with Railways will be made for the potters' community to sell their products.

KVIC Chairman VK Saxena was also present in the function.

Shah said the initiative would go a long way in strengthening the marginalised potters' community by incorporating technology to improve productivity while also reviving the traditional art of pottery.

He also interacted with five potters trained by KVIC in pottery making and provided with electric potter wheels and other equipment for their future endeavours.

In Gandhinagar district, KVIC has trained 100 potters from 14 villages and distributed 100 electric potter wheels and 10 blunger machines.

The average income of potters under the Kumbhar Sashaktikaran Yojana has gone up from nearly ₹ 3,000 per month to nearly ₹12,000 per month.

## EC to announce schedule of bypolls at 'appropriate time'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission on Friday said it will announce the schedule for holding by-elections to Assembly and Lok Sabha seats at an "appropriate time". A total of 57 bypolls—56 Assembly seats and one Lok Sabha constituency—are due.

But the Commission did not specify whether the decision has been taken for all pending by-elections. The announcement came after the poll panel decided to defer eight bypolls—seven assembly and one Lok Sabha seat—citing floods and the COVID-19 pandemic. The six-month deadline to hold these eight bypolls was ending on September 7.

The remaining 49 bypolls are due after September. An EC spokesperson tweeted that "a decision to hold by-elections in assembly and parliamentary constituencies was taken by the Commission after a review today (on Friday)."

"The schedule etc. shall be announced at an appropriate time," the spokesperson said without specifying whether the decision pertained to all 57 bypolls or the eight deferred due to pandemic and floods.

Considering the ongoing pandemic situation and floods, ECI had earlier deferred by-elections of eight constituencies up to September 7 this year.

"The situation of COVID-19 has not improved in several parts of the country and conducting elections in this situation would pose a grave risk to the health and safety of the citizen," a source from ECI had stated.

## CSC to work with MATLAB enabled Centres to boost skill development on doorstep

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

To promote skill development at doorsteps in rural India, the Common Services Centres (CSC) will work with MATLAB Enabled Centres at CSC Academies that are specifically designed to promote Artificial intelligence and Machine Learning in all corners of life. CSC is an SPV under Ministry of Electronics and IT.

MATLAB is used in automobile active safety systems, interplanetary spacecraft,

health monitoring devices, smart power grids, and LTE cellular networks etc.

Artificial Intelligence is the process of making machines intelligent with human-like characteristics.

It has the ability to contribute to all the sectors of the industry. It offers many possibilities for rural India to grow. We are seeing that implementation of Artificial Intelligence in fields like healthcare, education, financial inclusion, digital economy and agriculture.

health monitoring devices, smart power grids, and LTE cellular networks etc.

Artificial Intelligence is the process of making machines intelligent with human-like characteristics.

It has the ability to contribute to all the sectors of the industry. It offers many possibilities for rural India to grow. We are seeing that implementation of Artificial Intelligence in fields like healthcare, education, financial inclusion, digital economy and agriculture.

WESTERN RAILWAY				
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE No. S/13/2020 Dated 23/07/2020				
S.N.	Short Description of Item	Quantity	T.O.D.	
316	Medical Oxygen Refilling	21000 Nos.	10/08/2020	
317	Lock Bolt	10812 Nos.	11/08/2020	
318	UGAC with heat resisting insulation 2x150 sq mm Aluminium standard conductor, ISI marked.	13 K.Mtr.	12/08/2020	
319	Lever outer left & right for MRVC	141 Pairs	14/08/2020	
320	Microprocessor based control and fault diagnostic system	800 Sets	17/08/2020	
321	Knuckle Pivot Pin with Washer for Upgraded High Tensile CSC	10366 Nos.	17/08/2020	
322	2D Echo Machine with Doppler	1 No.	17/08/2020	
323	Coupler Body with Shank Wear Plate (Welded)	787 Nos.	18/08/2020	
324	Modified Flap Door Arrangement	620 Nos.	18/08/2020	
325	Clean silica sand	862 MT	19/08/2020	
326	18W (4 Feet Length) LED	3227 Nos.	19/08/2020	
327	Amplifier for sensor oil circuit	18 Nos.	19/08/2020	
328	Rubber sheet size : 800 mm wide X 3 mm thick	5400 Mtrs.	19/08/2020	
329	Supply, Installation & Commissioning of IRDRDO Bio-toilet Tank DD AC Coaches	30 Sets	20/08/2020	
330	Pressure Sensor for Oil Circuit Transformer	27 Nos.	20/08/2020	
331	ENT Treatment Unit	1 No.	20/08/2020	
332	Natural and artificial Fiber Thermoset	876 Nos.	21/08/2020	
333	Cash Remittance G 22 B	150 Nos.	21/08/2020	
334	Line Clear Reply Message Book, T/B 1425	400 Nos.	21/08/2020	
335	Amalgamated Transformer (Battery Charger)	30 Nos.	21/08/2020	
336	Bal Joint Traction Lever	2150 Nos.	21/08/2020	
337	Cylindrical Roller Axle Box Bearing Unit	31 Nos.	21/08/2020	
338	Distributor Valve	787 Nos.	21/08/2020	
339	Set of Air Brake Pipes with flanges & Sockets (Welded Assy.)	400 Sets	21/08/2020	
340	Laminated Bearing Spring (9 plated)	30 Nos.	21/08/2020	
341	Snack Table with Bottle Holder	80 Nos.	22/08/2020	
342	Step Sheet	500 Nos.	22/08/2020	
343	Repair kit for Magnet frame	8 Sets	22/08/2020	
344	Brushless Alternator of 4.5 KW Cap.	159 Nos.	24/08/2020	
345	Brushless Alternator of 25KW Cap.	40 Nos.	24/08/2020	
346	LED Signal Roller Indicator	1705 Nos.	24/08/2020	
347	Filter element	316 Nos.	24/08/2020	
348	Bal Bearing SKF No.6305-2RS1	5935 Nos.	24/08/2020	

## Despite flood, Kharif crops' plantation grows by 18%

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Despite floods in 11 States that displaced over 70 lakh population and damaged lakhs of hectare of crops during this monsoon year, the Ministry of Agriculture's data on Friday showed that there is an increase of over 18 percent in kharif crops' plantation on 800 lakh hectares as compared to 675 lakh hectares last year till date. The sowing of pulses has been recorded 24 percent more while it is 18 percent

more for rice cultivation so far. Officials of the agriculture ministry said that the higher acreage coverage also reflected that there is no impact of coronavirus infections and nationwide lockdown for kharif crops plantation.

According to agriculture ministry's data, 220.24 lakh hectare area is covered under rice plantation as compared to 187.70 lakh hectare, which is an increase of 32.54 lakh hectare areas during the corresponding period of last year.

The maximum sowing is

reported from Uttar Pradesh (6.50 lakh hectare), Jharkhand (6.10 lakh hectare), Madhya Pradesh (5.98 lakh hectare), Bihar (5.66 lakh hectare), Chhattisgarh (3.57 lakh hectare), West Bengal (2.80 lakh hectare), Telangana (2.50 lakh hectare), Assam (1.63 lakh hectare) and Gujarat (1.33 lakh hectare). This despite Assam, Bihar and West Bengal are reeling under severe floods this monsoon. Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Tripura have reported less rice plantation so far.

As per the ministry's data, about 137.13 lakh hectare area coverage under coarse cereals as compared to 120.30 lakh hectare while about 166.36 lakh hectare area coverage under oilseeds as compared to 133.56 lakh hectare during the corresponding period of last year.

According to the Ministry of Home Affairs data, heavy rains in Assam, Bihar, West Bengal and some other states have led to a severe flood situation resulting in deaths and displacement of people. In Assam, the CWC data says 12 stations reported Severe Flood Situation and nine reported Above Normal Flood Situation. River Brahmaputra is in a Severe Flood Situation all along its course from Dibrugarh to Dhubri except in Guwahati where it is flowing in Above Normal Flood situation with a rising trend. According to CWC data, Bihar is the worst-affected state due to the flood situation. It said of 33 stations reporting Severe Flood Situation in the country, 14 are in Bihar.

As per the ministry's data, about 137.13 lakh hectare area coverage under coarse cereals as compared to 120.30 lakh hectare while about 166.36 lakh hectare area coverage under oilseeds as compared to 133.56 lakh hectare during the corresponding period of last year.

According to the Ministry of Home Affairs data, heavy rains in Assam, Bihar, West Bengal and some other states have led to a severe flood situation resulting in deaths and displacement of people. In Assam, the CWC data says 12 stations reported Severe Flood Situation and nine reported Above Normal Flood Situation. River Brahmaputra is in a Severe Flood Situation all along its course from Dibrugarh to Dhubri except in Guwahati where it is flowing in Above Normal Flood situation with a rising trend. According to CWC data, Bihar is the worst-affected state due to the flood situation. It said of 33 stations reporting Severe Flood Situation in the country, 14 are in Bihar.

As per the ministry's data, about 137.13 lakh hectare area coverage under coarse cereals as compared to 120.30 lakh hectare while about 166.36 lakh hectare area coverage under oilseeds as compared to 133.56 lakh hectare during the corresponding period of last year.

According to the Ministry of Home Affairs data, heavy rains in Assam, Bihar, West Bengal and some other states have led to a severe flood situation resulting in deaths and displacement of people. In Assam, the CWC data says 12 stations reported Severe Flood Situation and nine reported Above Normal Flood Situation. River Brahmaputra is in a Severe Flood Situation all along its course from Dibrugarh to Dhubri except in Guwahati where it is flowing in Above Normal Flood situation with a rising trend. According to CWC data, Bihar is the worst-affected state due to the flood situation. It said of 33 stations reporting Severe Flood Situation in the country, 14 are in Bihar.

WESTERN RAILWAY					
STORES DEPARTMENT					
e-AUCTION SALE DURING AUGUST, 2020 FOR P-WAY AND OTHER VARIOUS SCRAP					
SPECIAL ATTENTION : ALL STEEL PURCHASERS and RE-ROLLERS					
Public e-Auction for disposal of P-way Scrap, Rail Scrap & Other Various Scrap material will be held in August, 2020 as per program given below:-					
1st Round	2nd Round	Depot/Division	Depot / Divisional Officer In-Charge	Contact No.	
05/08/2020	19/08/2020	Ahmedabad	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager - Ahmedabad	07922205888 / 09724093750	
06/08/2020	20/08/2020	Vadodara Jn	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager - Vadodara Jn	02652641592 / 9724091750	
10/08/2020	24/08/2020	Ratlam	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager - Ratlam	07412230080 / 09752492750	
10/08/2020	25/08/2020	Sabarmati Jn	Deputy Chief Materials Manager - Sabarmati Jn	07927500080 / 09724093774	
13/08/2020	31/08/2020	Mumbai Central	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager - Mumbai Central	022-23094142 / 09004499006	
14/08/2020	28/08/2020	Bhavnagar Para	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager - Bhavnagar Para	02782444360 / 09724097750	
14/08/2020	29/08/2020	Mahalakshmi	Deputy Chief Materials Manager - Mahalakshmi	022-24929571 / 09004495750	
17/08/2020	31/08/2020	Dahod	Deputy Chief Materials Manager - Dahod	02673241295 / 09724090455	
18/08/2020	-----	Pratapnagar	Deputy Chief Materials Manager - Dahod	02673241295 / 09724090455	
18/08/2020	-----	Rajkot Jn.	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager - Rajkot Jn.	02812476943 / 09724094770	

For detailed information please contact the concerned Depot / Divisional Officers. Note : (1) Railway reserves the right to withdraw any lot from e-Auction. (2) e-Auction will start at as per scheduled time. (3) e-Auction catalogues will be available on site www.reps.gov.in e-Auction portal. (4) In case of any assistance required regarding e-Auction, digital signatures, Registration procedure and participation, please contact above mentioned Depot / Divisional Officer. (5) All payment transactions shall be done through the online payment gateway.

(No. S/III/Auction Programme-1/August-2020 Dated 23/07/2020)

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

**Monnet Industries Limited**

Registered Office: Plot No. 216, Sector-C, Urfa Industrial Complex, Rajpur-493221 (Chhattisgarh), Corp. Office: Monnet House, 11, Masjid Moh, Greater Kailash-II, New Delhi-110048 (INDIA) Phone : +91 11 29218542-46; Fax : +91 11 29218541 Email: [isc.mind@monnetgroup.com](mailto:isc.mind@monnetgroup.com); Website: [www.monnetgroup.com](http://www.monnetgroup.com) CIN: L5103CT1982PLC009717

**NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given Pursuant to Regulation 29 & 47 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulation, 2015, that a meeting of Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2020 at the corporate office of the Company, inter-alia, to consider and approve the Audited Financial Results of the Company for the Quarter and Financial Year ended on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2020.

This information is also available on the website of the Company ([www.monnetgroup.com](http://www.monnetgroup.com)) and on the website of the Stock Exchange. ([www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com))

By order of the Board of Directors  
**MONNET INDUSTRIES LIMITED**  
 Priya  
 Place : New Delhi  
 Company Secretary

Dated : 24.07.2020

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

THAT IT BE KNOWN TO ALL, M/s Sterling Vehicle Sales Pvt Ltd, having their workshop at GP-11 Sector 18, HSIDC Industrial Estate, Gurugram (HR) and carried on vehicle repair and body job work of the vehicles. Under mentioned vehicles are lying as scrap within the premises/workshop as unclaimed & abandoned since long inspite of regular collection notices to owners. Now M/s Sterling Vehicle Sales Pvt Ltd are unable to take care & spend their time and money to look after such unclaimed vehicles/scrap. Hence their time and money to look after the under mentioned vehicles are finally called upon to collect their vehicle from the workshop/premises after showing proof of ownership, job card order form of their respective vehicle and after making full payment of all the outstanding repair bills etc. along with parking charges from the workshop/premises latest within 10 days from date of publication of this notice, and thereafter M/s Sterling Vehicle Sales Pvt Ltd will not be responsible for any liability of any type whatsoever and will be free to dispose the unclaimed vehicles/scrap to recover its dues.

**1. DETAILS OF VEHICLES & OWNERS**

S.No.	REG. NO./CHASIS NO.	MODEL	NAME OF OWNER
1	DL BCAN 1494	TEANA	SHIV KUMAR
2	DL 4 CR 9968	XTRAIL	UJALA BHATTIA CO.
3	DL 1 CM 8962	SUNNY	SARABJEET SINGH
4	MDHRBUK13F7210868	MICRA	

For Sterling Vehicle Sales Pvt Ltd  
 Admin Manager  
 Mobile 9910697060

Dated : 25 July, 2020

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE

In terms of The Securitisation and Reconstruction of the Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(2) & 13(4) thereof, the Bank has taken over the possession of the under mentioned property.

The Bank intends to sell the property DETAILED HEREUNDER on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS", "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS", THROUGH "SALE BY INVITING TENDERS", as per brief particulars given hereunder:  
S.No. 1) Name of Borrower : Sh. Ajay Singh Rana S/o. Sh. Raghubir Singh Rana, R/o. 174-A, Pkt.-M, DDA Janta Flats, Saria Vihar, Delhi-110078. (i) Mortgage/Surety : Smt. Ritu Rana, D/o. Sh. Bhuri Singh Rana, R/o. YC-498, Plot No. 3, NTPC, Sector P-6, Greater Noida, UP. (ii) Surety : Jarnal Singh, S/o. Sh. Kamal Singh, R/o.H-3/95, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, DDA Janta Flats, Sector-16, Rohini-85. Branch: Gopindpur, Amount Recoverable: ₹1,75,39,133.57 together with further interest, penal interest and other charges as are applicable in the Loan account from time to time, from 30-04-2017 till the date of payment. Description of Mortgage Property : YC-498 AT PLOT NO. 3, BUILDING AREA, SECTOR-P-6, GREATER NOIDA, DISTT. GAUTAM BUDDH NAGAR, UP, DEVELOPED BY N.T.P.C. SHAKARI AVAS SAMITILTD., HAVING AREA OF 125 SQ. MTRS. & COVERED AREA- 224.873 SQ. MTRS. Reserve Price : Rupees Eighty Three Lakhs Fifty Thousand Only (₹83,50,000/-). Earnest Money Deposit : 10% of the Reserve price i.e. Rupees Eight Lakhs Thirty Five Thousand Only. (₹8,35,000/-).

S. No. 2) Name of Borrower : Sh. Raj Kumar Singh S/o. Sh. Raj Pal Singh R/o. H.No. B-83/6, Harshvardhan Gali, North Ghonda, Delhi-110053, Mortgage/Surety : Smt. Babita W/o. Sh. Raj Kumar Singh, R/o. H.No. B-83/6, Harshvardhan Gali, North Ghonda, Delhi-110053. Branch: Bhanjapura, Amount Recoverable: ₹17,44,111/-together with further interest, penal interest and other charges as are applicable in the Loan account from time to time, from 31-12-2018 till the date of payment. Description of Mortgage Property : BUILT UP PROPERTY, BUILT ON A PLOT OF LAND AREA MEASURING 83.61 SQ. MTRS., OUT OF KHASRA NO.228/169, BEARING PROPERTY NO.B-83/6, ALONGWITH WHOLE OF STRUCTURE UNOCTURED WHATSOEVER THEREON, WITH THE CONSTRUCTION RIGHTS UP TO THE LAST STOREY, SITUATED AT VILLAGE GHONDA GUJRAN BANGER, IN THE ABADI OF HARSHVARDHAN GALI, NORTH GHONDA, ILLAQASHAHADARA, DELHI-110053, and which is bounded as EAST : PROPERITY OF OTHERS, WEST : GALLI 15 FT. WIDE, NORTH : PROPERTY OF SH. ASHOK KUMAR, SOUTH : PROPERTY OF OTHERS. Reserve Price : Rupees Forty Eight Lakhs Eighty Thousand Only (₹48,80,000/-). Earnest Money Deposit : 10% of the Reserve Price i.e. Rupees Four Lakhs Eighty Eight Thousand Only (₹4,88,000/-).

S. No. 3) Name of Borrower : Sh. Manish Mehra S/o. Sh. Sunil Mehra, R/o. H.No. 179, B-7, Sector-4, Rohini, Delhi-110085, Mortgage/Surety : Sh. Ashish Mehra S/o. Sh. Sunil Mehra R/o. H.No. 179, B-7, Sector-4, Rohini, Delhi-110085. Also at: Sh. Ashish Mehra S/o. Sh. Sunil, BU-242, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Pitampura, Delhi-110034. Branch : Rohini, Amount Recoverable: ₹13,14,188 together with further interest, penal interest and other charges as are applicable in the Loan account from time to time, from 27-08-2015 till the date of payment. Description of Mortgage Property : PVT. BUILT UP SHOP BEARING NO. 44, WITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS, AREA MEASURING 16 SQ. MTRS., APPROXIMATELY, (SIZE AREA 10 X 17) OUT OF KHASRA NO. 215, ABADI KNOWN URBANISED VILLAGE NAHAR PUR, SECTOR-7, ROHINI, DELHI-110085, KHATAUNI SERIAL NO. OF KHATA KHATANI NO.15/14 MIN URBANISED VILLAGE NAHARPUR, DITT. NORTH-WEST, KANJHAWALA DELHI., Reserve Price : Rupees Thirteen Lakhs Fifty Two Thousand Only (₹13,52,000/-). Earnest Money Deposit : 10% of the Reserve price i.e. Rupees One Lakhs Thirty Five Thousand Two Hundred Only (₹1,35,200/-).

S. No. 4) Name of Borrower : Sh. Raghubinder Kumar S/o. Sh. Kail Ram R/o. WZ-197, Basai Darapur, Near Tara Chowk, New Delhi-110015. Branch: Janakpuri, Amount Recoverable: ₹21,83,516/- together with further interest, penal interest and other charges as are applicable in the Loan account from time to time, from 29-04-2017 till the date of payment. Description of Mortgage Property : GROUND FLOOR AND FIRST FLOOR FREEHOLD PROPERTY BEARING NO. WZ-197, MEAS. 55 SQ. YDS. WITH ROOFTERRACE RIGHTS, SITUATED AT BASSAI DARAPUR, DELHI STATE, DELHI. Reserve Price : Rupees Twenty Lakhs Thirty Two Thousand Only (₹20,32,000/-). Earnest Money Deposit : 10% of the Reserve Price i.e. Rupees Two Lakhs Three Thousand Two Hundred Only (₹2,03,200/-).

S. No. 5) Name of Borrower : Sh. Pramod Kumar Sharma S/o. Sh. Shesh Ram Sharma R/o. F-224, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Nagar, Faridabad, Haryana-1221001. Also at: Sh. Pramod Kumar Sharma S/o. Sh. Shesh Ram Sharma, Village Thanikpura, P.O. Bharwan, Tehsil Amb, District Una, Himachal Pradesh-177109. Mortgage/Surety : Smt. Veena Sharma W/o. Sh. Pramod Kumar Sharma R/o. F-224, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Nagar, Faridabad, Haryana-1221001. Also at: Smt. Veena Sharma W/o. Sh. Pramod Kumar Sharma, Village Thanikpura, P.O. Bharwan, Tehsil Amb, District Una, Himachal Pradesh-177109. Head Office Janakpuri. Amount Recoverable: ₹26,15,722/- together with further interest, penal interest and other charges as are applicable in the Loan account from time to time, from 31-01-2019 till the date of payment. Description of Mortgage Property : PLOT NO. 203-204, KHASRA NO.22/1,2,9,12,19,22/2, FIRST FLOOR (FRONT PORTION) CONSISTING OF TWO ROOMS, ONE KITCHEN, ONE TOILET & BATHROOM, WITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS MEASURING COVERED AREA NEAR ABOUT 50 SQ.YDS., SITUATED AT SANJAY GANDHI MEMORIAL NAGAR, TEHSIL & DISTRICT FARIDABAD, WHICH IS BOUNDED AS : EAST: WAY, WEST: HOUSE, NORTH : REMAINING PART, SOUTH : GALLI 15 FEET. Reserve Price : Rupees Fourteen Lakhs Twenty Eight Thousand Only (₹14,28,000/-). Earnest Money Deposit : 10% of the Reserve price i.e. Rupees One Lakh Forty Two Thousand Eight Hundred Only (₹1,42,800/-).

S. No. 6) Name of Borrower/Mortgagor : Sh. Rajesh Soni S/o. Sh. Diwan Singh Soni, R/o. H. No. E-5/1, Rajiv Gali, Dayalpur, Mustafabad, Shahdara, Delhi-110094. Also at: Sh. Rajesh Soni S/o. Sh. Diwan Singh Soni, H. No. 27, Etk.3, Nargoli Niloti, Delhi-110041. And Sh. Rajesh Soni S/o. Sh. Diwan Singh Soni, C/o. M/s. Ramesh Tyre Service, C-107, Mangolpuri Indl. Area, New Delhi-110083. Janakpuri Branch. Amount Recoverable: ₹12,93,450/- together with further interest, penal interest and other charges as are applicable in the Loan account from time to time, from 31-01-2019 till the date of payment. Description of Mortgage Property : BUILT UP GROUND FLOOR, AREA MEASURING 50 SQ. YDS., i.e., 41.80 SQ. MTRS., (9FT X 50 FT), OUT OF KHASRA NO. 317, BEARING PROPERTY NO. E-5/1, CONSISTING WHAT SOEVER THEREON AND WITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS, WITH ADJOINING COMMON STAIRS & ENTRANCE, SITUATED AT VILLAGE MUSTAFABAD, IN THE ABADI OF RAJIV GALI, DAYALPUR, ILLAQASHAHADARA, DELHI-110094, AND WHICH IS BOUNDED AS : EAST : PROPERTY OF SH. KARNAL SINGH, WEST : PROPERTY OF SH. SHYAM SINGH, NORTH : PROPERTY OF OTHERS, SOUTH : GALLI 15 FT. WIDE. Reserve Price : Rupees Eleven Lakhs Fifty Thousand Only (₹11,50,000/-). Earnest Money Deposit : 10% of the Reserve Price i.e. Rupees One Lakh Fifteen Thousand Only (₹1,15,000/-).

S. No. 7) Name of Borrower/Mortgagor : Sh. Raj Kumar Gajwani, S/o. Late Sh. Chetram, R/o. D-138, Gali No.6, Sanjay Mohalla, Bhanjapur, Delhi-110053. Also at: Sh. Raj Kumar Gajwani, S/o. Late Sh. Chetram, 17/17, Gali No.8, K-Block, Best Ghonda, Delhi-110053. Branch : Jagat Puri, Amount Recoverable: ₹12,20,393/-together with further interest, penal interest and other charges as are applicable in the Loan account from time to time, from 30-07-2016 till the date of payment. Description of Mortgage Property : BUILT UP GROUND FLOOR, AREA MEASURING 37 SQ. YDS. (i.e. Area Measuring 30.93 SQ. MTRS.) OUT OF KHASRA NO. 557, BEARING PROPERTY NO.17/17, CONSISTING WHATSOEVER THEREON AND WITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS, ALONGWITH PROPORTIONATE UNDIVIDED, INDIVISIBLE AND IMPARTABLE OWNERSHIP RIGHTS IN THE LAND UNDERNEATH, AND WITH THE RIGHT TO AFFIX THE WATER TANK, T.V. ANTINA (DOMESTIC) ON THE ROOF OF LAST STOREY, SITUATED AT VILLAGE GHONDA GUJRAN KHADAR, IN THE ABADI OF GALLI NO. 8, K-BLOCK, WEST GHONDS, ILLAQASHAHADARA, DELHI-110053, and which is bounded as

East: Property No.17/18, West: Property No.7/8, North: Property No.12/14, South: Gali No.15' wide, Reserve Price : Rupees Seven Lakh Fourteen Thousand (₹7,14,000/-). Earnest Money Deposit : 10% of the Reserve price i.e. Rupees Seventy One Thousand Fourteen Only (₹71,400/-).

S. No. 8) Name of Borrower/Mortgagor : Smt. Reena Sharma w/o. Sh. Raja Sharma, R/o. MB-121A, Master Block, Gali No.5, Shakarpur, Delhi-110092. Also at: Smt. Reena Sharma W/O Sh. Raja Sharma, C/o. Campus World, DA-5A, Vikas Marg, Shakarpur, Delhi-110092. Branch: Jagatpuri, Amount Recoverable: ₹11,82,814/-together with further interest, penal interest and other charges as are applicable in the Loan account from time to time, from 30-06-2015 till the date of payment. Description of Mortgage Property : BUILT UP ONE HALL AT BASEMENT UP TO EXTENT OF CEILING LEVEL, Pvl. HALL NO.1, AREA MEASURING ABOUT 27.87 SQ. METERS (300 SQ. FT.), ALONG WITH CONSTRUCTION CONSTRUCTING WHATSOEVER THEREON AT PRESENT, BEARING PROPERTY NO. S-11/D-20, OUT OF KHASRANO.27/1 AND 28/2, SITUATED IN THE ABADI OF S-BLOCK, PANDAV NAGAR, IN THE AREA OF VILLAGE GHARONDA NEEM KA BANGER, ILLAQASHAHADARA, DELHI-110092, along with proportionate undivided, indivisible and impartable ownership rights in the land underneath. Reserve Price : Rupees Four Lakhs Sixty Thousand Only (₹4,60,000/-). Earnest Money Deposit : 10% of the Reserve Price i.e. Rupees Forty Six Thousand Only (₹46,000/-).

S. No. 9) Name of Borrower : Sh. Rajesh Kumar Verma, S/o. Late Sh. V.P.Verma, R/o. D-2/102, G.F., Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058. Also at: Sh. Rajesh Kumar Verma, S/o. Late Sh. V.P. Verma, C/o. M/s. The Brand Lounge, WZ-5/14, Vashisht Park, New Delhi-110046. And Mortgage/Surety : Smt. Mamta Verma W/o. Sh. Rajesh Kumar Verma R/o. D-2/102, G.F., Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058. Branch: Janakpuri Amount Recoverable: ₹17,61,757/- together with further interest, penal interest and other charges as are applicable in the Loan account from time to time, from 30-01-2016 till the date of payment. Description of Mortgage Property : PROPERTY Shop bearing No.18, Portion of Plot No. S-58 to 61, admeasuring "12.1 X 9.4", (11 Sq. Meters approx.) out of Khasra No. 226/1, situated in the area of Village Dabri, Delhi State, Colony known as VASHISHT PARK, Pankha Road, New Delhi, which is bounded as EAST: Other's Property, West: Other's Property, North: Passage, South: Other's Property. Reserve Price : Rupees Thirteen Lakhs Sixty Four Thousand Only (₹13,64,000/-). Earnest Money Deposit : 10% of the Reserve Price i.e. Rupees One Lakh Thirty Six Thousand Four Hundred Only (₹1,36,400/-).

"The above mentioned property(s) shall be sold on "as is where is basis", "as is what is basis" and "as is whatever there is basis", except, all the costs and expenses relating to pending electricity, water and house tax bills regarding the above mentioned property from the date of its possession by the Bank till the same are being sold by the Bank, shall be borne by the Bank, the afore mentioned cost and expenses before the date of possession shall be borne by the concerned borrower(s)/mortgagor(s).

The aforesaid property(s) shall not be sold below the Reserve Price as mentioned above. The successful bidder/tenderer shall deposit 25% of the amount of sale price, adjusting the Earnest Money Deposit paid already, immediately after the acceptance of Bid/Tender to the Authorised Officer in respect of the sale, failing which the earnest money deposit given/paid already shall be forfeited, and in default of such deposit, the aforesaid property(s) shall forthwith be sold again. The balance 75% of the sale price shall be payable on or before 15<sup>th</sup> day of confirmation of the sale by the Bank or such extended period as may be agreed upon in writing between the parties. In case of failure to deposit this balance amount within the prescribed period, the amount deposited shall be forfeited, and the aforesaid property(s) shall be resold and the defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claim towards the aforesaid property(s) or to any part of the sum for which it may be subsequently sold.

The provisions of Private Treaty as provided in Law may be resorted to in case of need or if warranted so. The Authorised Officer is not bound to accept the highest offer or any or all offers and reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders/bids/offers without assigning any reasons therefor. The successful purchaser would bear the Professional charges/fee payable, such as drafting, documentations, stamp duty, registration fee and any other incidental expenses thereto, as applicable as per Law.

This publication is also 15 day's notice to the above named borrower. Bid/Tenders alongwith Bank Draft/Pay order of the Earnest Money Deposit amount as mentioned in this Sale Notice, are invited in sealed covers by the undersigned from the intending buyer(s) for purchase of the above mentioned property(s), at the Head Office, C-29, Community Centre, Pankha Road, Janak Puri, New Delhi-110058. The last date for submission of the bid/tenders is 11-08-2020 which shall be opened on 12-08-2020 at 4.00 P.M. at the Office of the AGM/Authorised Officer of the Bank i.e. at Head Office, C-29, Community Centre, Pankha Road, JanakPuri, New Delhi-110058.

(1) The intending buyers/purchasers may inspect the property(s) on 30-07-2020 between 11.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m., Bank Draft/Pay Order for EMD should be in favour of "The Kangra Co-operative Bank Ltd., account Sh. Ajay Singh Rana S/o. Sh. Raghubir Singh Rana (GP/15/38)." (2) Sh. Raj Kumar Singh S/o. Sh. Rajpal Singh, BP/1305. (3) Sh. Manish Mehra S/o. Sh. Sunil Mehra, RN/18/619. (4) Sh. Raghubinder Kumar S/o. Sh. Kail Ram (JK/24/88). (5) Sh. Pramod Kumar Sharma S/o. Sh. Shesh Ram Sharma (Ex-Staff). (6) Sh. Rajesh Soni S/o. Sh. Diwan Singh JK23/778. (7) Smt. Reena Sharma W/o. Sh. Raja Sharma JP/17/59. (8) Sh. Raj Kumar Gajwani S/o. Late Sh. Chet Ram JP/17/931. (9) Sh. Rajesh Kumar Verma S/o. Late Sh. V.P. Verma JK/23/323.

The other terms and conditions of the sale can be obtained from the AGM/Authorised Officer or the Manager (Legal) of the Bank, from Head Office at C-29, Community Centre, Pankha Road, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058.

RAMESH CHAND KASANA  
AGM/AUTHORISED OFFICER,  
THE KANGRA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.  
HEAD OFFICE AT C-29, COMMUNITY CENTRE,  
PANKHA ROAD, JANAKPURI, NEW DELHI-110058.

DELHI.  
DATED: 22.07.2020

COVID-19 OUTBREAK

TN: 88 die, 6,785 test +ve

**KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI**  
Last 24 hours saw Covid-19 causing havoc in Tamil Nadu as it claimed 88 lives across the State and a record number of 6,785 new persons getting diagnosed with the pandemic.  
There were 53, 132 Covid-19 patients all over the State as on Friday evening according to the media bulletin issued by Government of Tamil Nadu. The State has 114 laboratories working round the clock and

on Friday, 63,182 persons were tested in these laboratories. 6,504 patients were cured of the disease and they were discharged. While 1,299 persons were tested positive in Chennai, neighbouring Chengalpet (419), Kancheepuram (349) and Thiruvallur (378) continued to have high number of patients.  
Virudhunagar (424) and Thoothukudi (313) did not show any signs of the numbers coming down. Meanwhile Dr C V Krishnaswamy, eminent

physician, said the testing being done in the State needs evaluation.  
"There are 114 laboratories across the State. But most of these laboratories were set up after the pandemic went out of control. Do we have a mechanism to monitor the quality of tests being done in these centres?" asked Dr Krishnaswamy.  
He said he was forced to come out challenging the laboratories because there were many instances when persons tested positive by these labo-

ratories tested negative in other laboratories to authenticate the efficacy of the laboratories.  
He said the unprecedented increase in the number of patients was yet another indication that modern medicine alone cannot take on this pandemic.  
"It is not late even now to launch an integrated system of treatment protocol which we are following. But who is there to listen," asked the octogenarian doctor who still takes care of hundreds of patients approaching him.

128 jail inmates test +ve in UP

**IANS ■ JHANSI (UTTAR PRADESH)**  
Four barracks of the Jhansi district jail have been converted into a level one Covid hospital after a total of 128 inmates tested Corona positive.  
A spokesman of the Director General (Prisons) said "two inmates were symptomatic while 126 were asymptomatic" about the Thursday development.  
So far, 748 inmates in the district jail have been tested and of these, 126 have turned out positive.  
District Magistrate Jhansi, Andhra Vamsi, said: "Four barracks have been converted into a level one Covid hospital and all the 120 are admitted there."

NIA to grill Sivsankar again on Monday

**KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI**  
Sivsankar, the former principal secretary to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, has been asked to be present himself on Monday in the Kochi office of National Investigating Agency (NIA) probing the gold smuggling scam that has rocked Kerala politics.  
Though the sleuths of NIA interrogated Sivsankar for five hours last evening, the officials are not satisfied with some of the replies given by him to their queries. While the NIA officers remained tight-lipped about what happened during the interrogation, news trickling out from sources in the agency is that the IAS officer told them that he was having 'close relations' with Swapna Suresh, the kingpin of the smuggling racket. But he said he was ignorant about the smuggling mis-

sion undertaken by Swapna, Sarith and Sandeep Nair.  
Sivsankar denied that he had undertaken foreign jaunts without informing the Kerala Government. But he broke down when the NIA officials encountered him with details of his passport which had details about his private visits abroad.  
Similarly, he denied the contention of the NIA that he was having close ties with Sarith and Sandeep Nair. But the digital records shown by the agency sleuths about his presence in the alleged meetings held by the three to execute the smuggling mission came as a shock to him.  
Though he was let off by 9.30 pm on Thursday, the officer, who is said to be the conscience keeper of the chief minister has been asked to be ready to face another volley of queries on Monday at the NIA office at Kochi.

TN to distribute free face masks

**KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI**  
Concerned over the hike in the number of patients testing positive for Covid-19, Tamil Nadu Government has decided to distribute free face masks through fair price shops across the State. All ration card holders are being issued two masks per person whose name figures in the card. Nearly 16 small scale units in the State are working overtime to produce quality and safe masks, the distribution of which would begin from Monday.  
A senior Revenue Department official in Fort Saint George said that the first consignment of 6.5 lakh masks have been received by the department. "The masks are being tested for safety and effectiveness before we start distributing them from ration shops," said the official.  
Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswami has made it a habit to persuade people in the State to wear masks. He is in the habit of affectionately chiding media persons who do not wear face masks.

Ballet dancer Amala Shankar dies at 101

**Kolkata:** Amala Shankar the famous ballet dancer, choreographer, actress and writer and wife of legendary Uday Shankar passed away early on Friday morning. She was 101 and is survived by daughter and actor-cum-dancer Mamata Shankar apart from daughter-in-law Tanushree Shankar who is also a noted ballet exponent.  
Uday Shankar, who was the elder brother of the late sitar maestro Pandit Ravi Shankar, married Amala Shankar then a member of his ballet troupe in 1942. The marriage however failed in the subsequent years. **PNS**

Situation continues to be grave in Kerala

**KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI**  
Situation continued to be grievous in Kerala despite a small fall in the number of patients diagnosed with Covid-19 on Friday.  
The State which saw more than 1,000 persons getting afflicted with coronavirus on Wednesday and Thursday saw the number of positive cases coming down to 885 on Friday. This was stated by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan in his daily press briefing on Friday.  
The Chief Minister said the only positive note on Friday is the increase in the number of persons who were cured of the pandemic and were discharged from hospitals.  
For the first time since the pandemic became widespread in Kerala, the State saw 968 persons getting cured fully from Covid-19.

No flights to and from Kolkata on lockdown days in Bengal

**PNS ■ KOLKATA**  
Once again acting on the requests of the Bengal Government the Centre has decided to withdraw flights from Kolkata on the lockdown days in the State.  
No aircraft will fly in or out of the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport on Saturday and on July 29 which has also been scheduled as a lockdown day, Airport authorities said.  
Bengal Government has decided to impose twice-a-week lockdown in the coming days to contain the rising cases of corona infections. Accordingly the State will impose lockdown on Saturday and Wednesday. Subsequent dates will be provided by the Government. About 8-10 municipalities of the State are also following a week-long lockdown.  
During the lockdown that will continue between 5 am and 10 pm when everything will be closed save facilities providing essential commodities. All Government and private offices, commercial establishments, public and private transport will be barred, State Home Secretary earlier said.

Adhir slams BJP's superstitious ideas to combat coronavirus

**SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA**  
Bengal Opposition outfits on Friday slammed the BJP leadership for preaching "obscurantist" and "superstitious" ideas after BJP leaders from Delhi and Madhya Pradesh prescribed "unscientific and magical ways" to fight corona.  
Hours after Union Minister Arjun Meghwal launched a special kind of Papad claiming it will help fight corona and MP Proteem Speaker Rameshwar Sharma said that the laying down of the foundation stone of Ram Temple at Ayodhya will drive away the pandemic virus Congress Lok Sabha leader Adhir

Probe Maha CEO for hiring BJP-linked ad agency during 2019 polls: Chavan

**TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI:**  
Maharashtra's former Chief Minister senior Congress leader Prithviraj Chavan on Friday dropped a bombshell in the State political circles, as he alleged that the Maharashtra Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) had hired an advertising agency owned by a member of BJYM, a youth wing of the BJP, to operate its social media page during the 2019 State Assembly polls.  
In a letter written to the chief Election Commissioner, Chavan said: "It is shocking that a senior of the ECI, the Chief Electoral Officer Maharashtra, chose a company owned by a BJP national office bear-

HRD sets up panel to form guidelines to ensure more students study in India

**New Delhi:** The Union HRD Ministry on Friday set up a committee to form guidelines and suggest measures to ensure that more students study in India and there is a smooth transition for students returning from abroad due to Covid-19 situation.  
The committee, headed by chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC), is also supposed to recommend a mechanism to increase the intake in well-performing uni-

353 afflicted in J&K on Friday

**Jammu:** After a long gap the total number of recoveries surpassed fresh cases of coronavirus detected in the Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir on Friday.  
In order to contain the spread of coronavirus, a 60 hour long weekend lock down began late Friday evening across Jammu district . The lock down will continue till 6.00 a.m on Monday. Neighbouring districts of Udhampur, Reasi, Ramban, Samba, Kathua and Rajouri are also witnessing lockdown to effectively screen local contacts of fresh cases.  
According to the media bulletin, "353 new positive cases were detected in J&K while 508 patients were discharged from different hospitals after they recovered on Friday while 14 patients died due to Covid-19 taking the total tally of deaths to 296".  
In Jammu, a car show room and their workshop had to be closed down after one of the employees working there tested positive. The employees working there are expected to be screened on Monday. In Kathua, 26 jawans of CISF, 1 CRPF personnel and 1 army jawan tested positive while several local residents from Rajouri and Jammu continue to report positive raising fears among the local population. **PNS**



Christian Association and Alliance for Social Action (CAASA), a group of Indian Christians based in Kerala, staged a demonstration on Friday in front of New Delhi's Mashingarh Church to protest against the offering of prayers by Muslims in the Hagia Sofia Church, the 6th century church in Istanbul that was converted into a mosque by the Government of Turkey. Christians all over Kerala are up in arms against the decision to convert the church into a mosque.

er and asked him to work for him to operate the CEO's campaign during the October 2019 State Assembly polls.  
Chavan said that there was "clear evidence" to establish that the CEO Maharashtra's social media campaign in the October 2019 Assembly polls was run by a BJP sponsored digital agency "Social Central" owned by a BJP officer bearer Devang Dave, who is an officer bearer of BJP and the National Convener of the IT and social media cell for the BJYM, the Youth Wing of the BJP.  
Demanding an investigation into the State CEO's alleged wrong doing, Chavan said: "The ECI is mandated to monitor social media activity of all political parties - both direct and proxy - during the elections. But, in the instant case, the CEO Maharashtra worked with an office bearer of the ruling party"  
"The Election Commission has access to voter data bases and demographics. The data is crucial in targeting specific voter groups. It is clear that this data was available to the BJP through the social media agency run by the BJP," the former chief minister said.  
"We request you to conduct a thorough enquiry into the whole episode because the very integrity of the free and fair conduct of the election process appears to be undermined," Chavan wrote.

353 afflicted in J&K on Friday

**Jammu:** After a long gap the total number of recoveries surpassed fresh cases of coronavirus detected in the Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir on Friday.  
In order to contain the spread of coronavirus, a 60 hour long weekend lock down began late Friday evening across Jammu district . The lock down will continue till 6.00 a.m on Monday. Neighbouring districts of Udhampur, Reasi, Ramban, Samba, Kathua and Rajouri are also witnessing lockdown to effectively screen local contacts of fresh cases.  
According to the media bulletin, "353 new positive cases were detected

in J&K while 508 patients were discharged from different hospitals after they recovered on Friday while 14 patients died due to Covid-19 taking the total tally of deaths to 296".  
In Jammu, a car show room and their workshop had to be closed down after one of the employees working there tested positive. The employees working there are expected to be screened on Monday. In Kathua, 26 jawans of CISF, 1 CRPF personnel and 1 army jawan tested positive while several local residents from Rajouri and Jammu continue to report positive raising fears among the local population. **PNS**

versities.  
According to officials, mechanisms will be explored for starting multi-disciplinary and innovative programs, twinning and joint degree programs, cross-country designing of centres, facilitating online lectures by eminent faculty abroad, linkage between academia and industry, facilitate joint degree ventures and lateral entry to Indian higher education institutions.  
HRD Minister Ramesh

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE						
Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE NILOKHERI	NAME OF WORK PROVIDING AND LAYING SHELL MAC BITUMEN MIX BAG FOR SOLVING POT HOLE COMPLAINTS (HARPATH) MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, NILOKHERI - 2 OTHER WORKS	24.07.2020 06.08.2020	21.60 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01745-247520 Secymc.Nilokheri@hry.nic.in
2	HARYANA POLICE HOUSING CORPORATION, PANCHKULA	CONSTRUCTION / SPECIAL REPAIR / CMF / RENOVATION / PROVIDING / DEVELOPMENT IN VARIOUS DISTRICTS IN HARYANA STATE	27.07.2020 13.08.2020	2150.23 LACS	www.hphc.org.in	dbpanchukla@yahoo.com
3	HARYANA FOREST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, AMBALA	SUPPLY OF MATERIALS FOR IN-HOUSE MANUFACTURING OF FURNITURE AT SAWMILL & FURNITURE WORKSHOP, CHANDIMANDIR	20.07.2020 27.07.2020	10 LACS	www.hfdc.gov.in	0171-2551567 gm.ambala@hfdc.gov.in
4	DHVN, BHIWANI	HIRING OF BOLERO JEeps UNDER M&P DIVN., BHIWANI NIT NO. 01/M&P/BWN/2020-21	06.08.2020 20.08.2020	28.36 LACS	www.dhvn.org.in	8059886683 xenmbwn@dhvn.org.in 0172-2561106 officemco@gmail.com
5	HSAMB PANCHKULA	E-TENDER INVITING TO LEASE OUT THE 4 VANS OF "MARKET ON WHEELS" PROJECT AT GURUGRAM	25.07.2020 07.08.2020	50000/-	www.hsamb.org.in	
6	MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE MEHAM	CONSTRUCTION OF MATERIAL RECOVERY FACILITIES (MRF) SHED AT MC MEHAM.	24.07.2020 04.08.2020	As per DNIT	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	Municipal Engineer
7	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL NARNAUL	BILL PRINTED, BILL DISTRIBUTION OF PROPERTY TAX WITH RECEIPT AND INFORMATION ALONG WITH MOBILE NO. UPDATION ON THE WEBSITE OF M.C. NARNAUL, PROGRESS MONITOR ETC (E-TENDER)	23.07.2020 30.07.2020	-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in/nicepp/app	9999740089 eomcnarnaul@gmail.com
8	H.S.A.M. BOARD, AMBALA.	PROVIDING AND INSTALLATION OF ONE NO. TUBEWELL IN NEW GRAIN MARKET AT AMBALA CANTT IN THE N.A. OF M.C. AMBALA CANTT (M-1319).	23.07.2020 11.08.2020	11.82 LACS	www.hsamb.org.in	0171-2530675 xenambala2019.hsamb@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in RO NO. 81928

## HC breather to Pilot

With Gehlot pushing for a floor test and the legal wrangle set to drag on a bit, stalemate continues in Rajasthan



After the Supreme Court's observation that no party could suppress the "voice of dissent" in a democracy by disqualifying members holding a different viewpoint under the anti-defection law, thereby holding on to power, it was clear the way things would go in Rajasthan. So it came as no surprise that the Rajasthan High Court stopped the Speaker from taking action against now-sacked deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot and other rebel Congress leaders. The breather holds till Monday when the Supreme Court is to take up the High Court judgment as desired by the Rajasthan Speaker. And since the top court will need some time

to deliberate and define the larger constitutional question of the Speaker's powers and whether his moves were neutral or biased, there could be some more delay for the stalemate to be resolved. In fact, the High Court reprieve gave further credence to Pilot's contention that he was not against the party but the Chief Minister, making it look like an egoistic contest of the liked and the unliked. The Ashok Gehlot Government, which is in an ugly battle to see Pilot and his group turfed out, had hoped that it could use the anti-defection law to disarm the rebels, arguing that their skipping the legislature party meeting amounted to defiance and that the Speaker could take action even if the House was not in session. Pilot claimed that considering that he and his men had not initiated any move to self-destruct or leave the party on their own except express a divergence of opinion with the Chief Minister concerned, this infringed upon the right to "freedom of speech." In fact, Gehlot's provocative legal action has misfired and Pilot's reactive strategy has worked for the time being. Vilely derided and almost forced to break away, it is now easier for Pilot to take the help of the BJP, which has been courting him for quite some time. Not only for reclaiming Rajasthan but to deal a body blow to the Congress as Pilot, like Jyotiraditya Scindia, has been close to its undeclared leader Rahul Gandhi. An inkling of this came when Pilot, who had challenged the disqualification notices in the High Court, added the Centre as a party to the case so that it can weigh in on whether the anti-defection law applies to his group or not. According to earlier Supreme Court judgments on clause 2(1)(a) of the 10th Schedule of the Constitution, any anti-party activity could be interpreted as voluntarily giving up membership. Gehlot has, therefore, been building damning evidence of Pilot's breakaway moves, like parading MLAs claiming bribery offers and publicising alleged tapes of senior BJP leaders coaxing rebels at Pilot's behest. But Pilot sought to target that edge, threatening a legal suit and demanding authenticity of such claims. The clouding up of legalese has meant that both Gehlot and Pilot will have a tough time holding on to their men. Gehlot needs to prove that he has more than 101 MLAs in his support in the 200-member Assembly. If Pilot and his group are disqualified after the top court considers the merits of his plea, the halfway mark would come down and Gehlot could sail through. But with the Pilot group voting against his Government, he would have it tough. Pilot could actually get some advantage now as Gehlot has been dangling the Damocles' sword of disqualification over his rival's loyalists, saying they would lose by crossing over and gain privileges by staying with him. The breather means that some floaters could pitch in with Pilot. As of now, the Pilot camp has 19 MLAs and the BJP 72. Including smaller parties and independent members, the Opposition has 97 at the moment.

This is one of the reasons why Gehlot sought an appointment with Governor Kalraj Mishra for a floor test as his supporters marched to the Raj Bhavan soon after the "status quo" ruling. Although he has herded his MLAs at Fairmont hotel, more delays will make that job difficult. If a floor test is held now and he wins, there cannot be fresh elections for the next six months. Meanwhile, the BJP will try to exasperate Gehlot as much as possible, considering he had named Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat as the architect of toppling games and even written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi about it. The Governor, while maintaining that he wasn't against a floor test, said he needed some time to go over the rule book. The Supreme Court, too, has said the issues raised in the Speaker's petition on the right to issue disqualification notices required "prolonged hearing" as it involved a "larger question" related to the democracy. So clearly, the imbroglio cannot be resolved as fast as Gehlot would have liked. Meanwhile, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) supremo Mayawati, who has accused Gehlot of poaching six of her MLAs, could be another hurdle. If she somehow manages to woo them back and decides to take the help of the BJP in doing so, Gehlot could have trouble. As for Pilot, he may not have the Chief Minister's chair still but given his solid Gujjar votebase, he could bargain hard for a leadership role. Jyotiraditya Scindia delivered 22 MLAs to the BJP in Madhya Pradesh and now, having got some positions for them in the Government, is attracting more MLAs to cross over. The BJP will spare no effort to bleed out the Congress.

## Another firewall

Govt issues fresh tender norms barring Chinese bidders for procurement in its projects as LAC impasse continues



In a clear signal to Beijing that aggression on the borders will have cascading economic costs, India restricted bidders from countries with which it shares land borders from participating in tenders for Government procurement on grounds of national security. It, however, exempted those nations to which it provides lines of credit or developmental assistance. So this move effectively confines the trade barriers to China and Pakistan. However, in view of the pandemic, it has allowed relaxations in medical supplies from China till December 31. But this seems to be a half-measure as the private sector has been exempted from such restrictions.

This could be due to India Inc's reluctance to sever all ties with China, given how deep the supply chain of raw materials, intermediates and components runs, and the absence of an alternative sourcing hub. Now bidders for Government contracts have to additionally register with a committee and must have clearances from the Ministries of External and Home Affairs. In effect, this move will block the supply of stationery, turbines and telecom equipment as well as stall road and power contracts to public utility firms that have a link with China.

The move follows the Chinese reluctance to pull back after partly complying with a mutual agreement to disengage along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh. China is simply not willing to give up its strategic gains on spurs as peacetime compliance would mean India would have the advantage. Since diplomacy doesn't seem to be working, the Government has slowly and wherever feasible tried to reduce economic dependencies. In April, FDI policy mandated Government clearance for all inflows from neighbours, again read China, to prevent ambush and takeover of weaker companies. India has already cancelled telecom equipment, railway and road tenders secured by Chinese companies and barred 59 Chinese apps. Now it is looking at ending its dependence on China for solar panels and power equipment. While these moves will help India become self-reliant, spurring manufacturing within the nation, the barriers will hurt MSMEs and small businesses as they will lose access to cheaper accessories and inputs. Besides, they do not have the infrastructure to roll out competitively priced and quality finished goods. China accounts for five per cent of India's exports and 14 per cent of imports. What we import from China is a paltry three per cent of its total exports. China's imports from India are less than one per cent of its global sourcing. What we need is a reasoned, graded, incentivised and scaling up of capacities. Correcting imbalances takes time but there has to be a beginning. Looks like India is willing to bear costs in the short term for longer *atmanirbharata*.

# The forgotten threat

The world will ignore the shadow of climate change at its own peril. The money and effort needed must be forthcoming, notwithstanding the pandemic and related disruptions



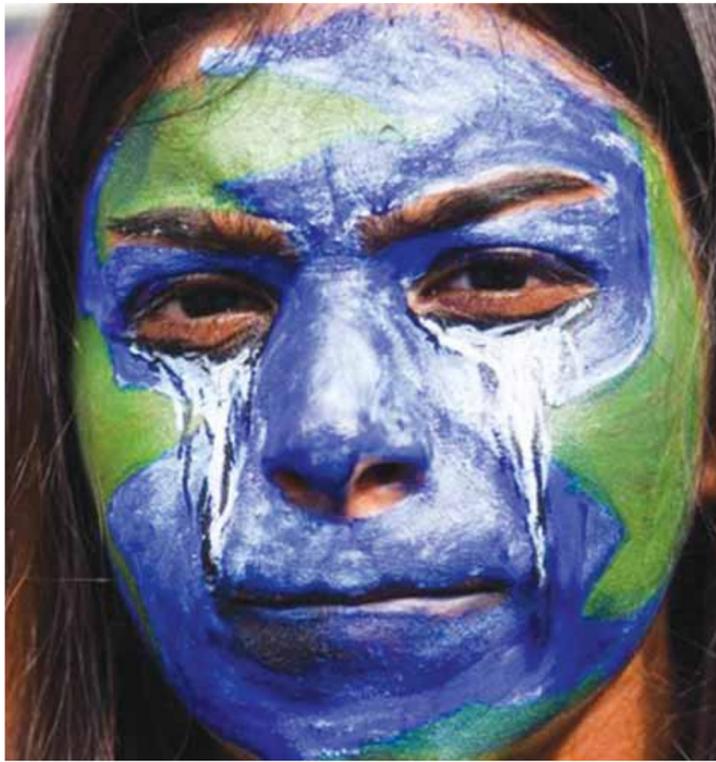
HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

The COVID-19 pandemic has sidelined the issue of climate change. This can have very serious consequences given that the matter had been receiving far from adequate attention even before the virus began its global surge. Two things have been impeding progress. First, leaders like US President Donald Trump and President Jair Bolsonaro of Brazil are known to be dismissive of the environmental threat. The second is a lack of will on the part of governments and people to take effective preventive action.

A recent report in *The New York Times*, (last updated on July 15) by Nadja Popovich, Livia Albeck-Ripka and Kendra Pierre-Louis, cites a *New York Times* analysis, based on research by Harvard and Columbia law schools and other sources, saying that the Trump administration has officially reversed, revoked or otherwise rolled back nearly 70 environmental rules and regulations. More than 30 other rollbacks are works in progress.

A report by Sarah Gibbens in the *National Geographic*, published on February 1, 2019, mentions 15 important decisions by the Trump administration that would adversely impact the environment. The list, which starts with the US withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement, includes decisions that would undo measures to ensure clean power and fuel, prevent air pollution and protect wildlife. Besides, the Trump administration has opened up public land to business and dropped climate change from the list of national security threats. Bolsonaro's policies regarding de-regulation of economic activity and tax cuts to encourage FDI are liable to severely damage the environment and devastate the lives of Brazil's indigenous communities.

As to the lack of will to take preventive action against climate change, one must begin by recognising that the task here is vast and daunting, requiring basic and transformational changes in the pattern of development followed by most countries since the industrial revolution in the second half of the 18th century. Whether in the form of steam produced by burning coal or electricity generated by coal-based thermal power plants, diesel or petrol combustion, it has been driven by fossil-based fuel, the burn-



ing of which has been a potent cause of air pollution. The institutional structures, management and/or administrative procedures, communication systems and, in more recent times, information transfer and processing, have all been based on this form of energy utilisation.

Clearly, the pattern of fuel use has to change. Of course, the use of fossil-based fuel cannot be given up immediately. It has to be gradually reduced and alternative forms of energy have to be harnessed. Hydro electricity is a safe bet but its generation is limited by the availability of dam sites and water. The world has taken baby steps towards the utilisation of solar and wind (through windmills) power. Even though the potential of both are yet to be fully grasped, it is doubtful whether they can by themselves meet the steady, gargantuan increase in global energy demands that will continue.

This leaves one with nuclear energy. It produces zero-carbon emission as it is generated through nuclear fission and requires less land to produce more electricity than any other clean air source. The second is important at a time when finding land for establishing power plants often prompts mass protests against land acquisition, particularly in India. Against this, there is still a problem of

waste disposal, though technology is taking care of it through its re-processing and re-cycling to generate nuclear power.

The major fear, of course, is of the spread of radiation through accidents like the ones that occurred at the Three-Mile Island in the US in 1979, Chernobyl in Ukraine in 1986 and Fukushima Daiichi in Japan in 2011. Clearly, one has to proceed very carefully and slowly in generating and harnessing nuclear power. Indeed, what one needs is a mix in generation patterns to cater to diverse consumption demands with local variations. Solar panels, for example, have already begun providing household power.

The mix will have to be different for different countries and even regions, depending on the nature of power demand. This will require planning at the international, national and regional levels and also huge amounts of investment for which the developing countries would require assistance. The World Bank has increased climate-related spending and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has set climate change as a priority in its capacity-building efforts. These efforts are constrained, however, by funding, that is not commensurate with the scale of the challenge as well as by deeper challenges in

the development aid model. Under former President Barack Obama, the US had pledged three billion dollars to the Green Climate Fund — a global reserve fund created to, among other things, help developing countries invest in renewable and low-emission technologies. A sum of one billion dollars had already been given during his tenure in office. Trump has pledged no money to the fund.

The question of funds is particularly important in respect of the introduction of technologies to reduce emissions. An example is the Carbon Capture and Storage technology, which focusses on securing and storing carbon dioxide emissions before they are released into the atmosphere. Although it is still in its early stages, successful pilot projects offer hope of developing and implementing it on a large scale. Some countries are committed to implementing variations of it and both bilateral and multilateral cooperation is under way. One, however, has still to wait and watch as implementing it on a large scale can be expensive beside offering few obvious economic benefits.

Meeting the costs of implementing such technologies, indeed of all measures against climate change, will require political will. This takes us back to the second factor — identified at the

beginning of this piece as impeding the fight against climate change — the lack of will on the part of governments and people to take effective preventive action. Governments are constrained by groups whose incomes and profits are going to be reduced by the implementation of climate change measures as well as the compulsion of having to decide among diverse demands on their resources. People are generally hostage to their existing ways of life. This applies especially to the elite, who decide on policies and measures in every society and who enjoy all the comforts — like air conditioning, which is highly polluting, and conveniences that present technology-powered civilisation has brought them.

The answer lies in developing and introducing non-polluting technologies relating to heating/cooling, transportation, cultivation, construction and all other human activities. The money and effort needed have to be forthcoming, the COVID-19 pandemic and the disruption caused by it notwithstanding. It is important to recall here that the Paris Agreement on climate change, signed on December 12, 2015, calls for holding the increase in global average temperature to well below two degree Celsius above the pre-industrial-revolution level and to try to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degree Celsius above it, stating that this would significantly reduce the risks and impact of climate change. *The Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C*, released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) at Incheon, South Korea, on October 7, 2018, makes the chilling statement that at the current rate, the global mean temperature is likely to rise to the 1.5-degree mark sometime between 2030 and 2052.

The world has already warmed one degree Celsius since the industrial revolution. Hence, it is really a question of another half degree. Further, the report clearly indicates that warming, even if limited to 1.5 degrees Celsius, would not reduce the risks and impact of climate change. Sea levels will continue to rise beyond 2100, threatening coastal ecosystems and infrastructure. Flooding, drought and extreme weather events will wreak havoc on communities around the globe. Many species will continue to be driven toward extinction and marine ecosystems could face "irreversible loss." This is long and written on the wall. Humankind will ignore it at its own peril.

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

## SOUNDBITE

I kept warning it (Government) on COVID-19 and the economy. It rubbished it. Disaster followed. I keep warning it on China. It is rubbishing it.

Congress leader  
—Rahul Gandhi



I've never done a Karan Johar or a Yash Raj film, I've never approached them, nor have they showed interest in working with me. But that doesn't make me any less an actor.

Actor  
—Shreyas Talpade



The old paradigm of blind engagement with China has failed. If the free world doesn't change Communist China — (it) will surely change us.

US Secretary of State  
—Mike Pompeo



Strict safety protocols have to be put in place both for off-field and on-field activities to make the IPL safe and successful. They should not be compromised at all.

Kings XI Punjab co-owner  
—Ness Wadia



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Progressive step

Sir — The Defence Ministry's decision to grant Permanent Commission (PC) to women officers in the Indian Army is welcome. In effect, this means a recognition of the sterling role women have played and continue to play — shoulder to shoulder with their male counterparts — for the security of the nation. It will now be interesting to see how many women reach top positions.

TKM Kumbalamchuvattil  
Muvattupuzha

### Protect users' data

Sir — Many global firms have invested in Jio in recent months. These investments are due to two reasons: One, the large customer base that Jio has. Two, the lack of personal information law in India. Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp are already interconnected and now Google and Jio are also connected with them. All these platforms have our personal information.

We also know that WhatsApp is going to start its own e-payment system. Though

### The oil pricing paradox

On May 6, the Union Government raised the additional excise duty and road and infrastructure cess on petrol by ₹10 per litre and diesel by ₹13 per litre. It was the steepest hike in the history of petroleum pricing. It will require rudimentary knowledge to understand that the Government's sources to raise revenues and reduce the fiscal deficit have dried up. A Petroleum Ministry official claimed that prevailing prices of petrol and diesel would not be impacted due to a rise in prices. The retail prices were retained at the same level, probably by adjusting the "ready to send to the petrol pump" cost. But in Chennai, the retail price of petrol in May was ₹72.28 per litre. Come July, the price jumped to ₹83.63 per litre. Price continues to move skywards steadily through daily hikes. The removal of the administered pricing mechanism, which was meant to pave the way for pricing on pure market dynamics, has helped the Government change price dynamics to its advantage.

There are other aspects, too, which demand mention. The Union Government holds 51.50 per cent of the share capital in the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC). ONGC has a 14.20 per cent, Life Insurance Corporation 6.48 per cent and OIL a 5.16 per cent stake in the company. In 2018-19, IOC earned a profit of ₹16,894 crore



and distributed as dividend ₹11,635 crore (including DDT). The OMCs must maximise their earnings to sign fat cheques as dividends to the Government. There are significant companies in the private sector, too, which refine crude, export and sell products. They used to procure crude oil even from Venezuela through barter arrangements of export of refined products. These refiners sell petroleum products in India at the rates of the OMCs. Strange are the ways of product pricing. The common man is always at his wit's end to make head or tail of the pricing paradoxes.

Haridasan Rajan  
Kozhikode

the Government hasn't approved it yet, after a while, it might give the go-ahead.

Already, Facebook and other firms have been accused of mining users' personal data for political campaigns. No one

knows how else our personal data will be used. It is a big concern. The Government should introduce laws to protect personal information.

Harshal Suresh Desale  
Pune

### Shameful incident

Sir — Ever since the Coronavirus pandemic has been upon us, we have hailed the doctors as warriors, equivalent to god. It was

shocking that in Uttar Pradesh, a doctor attempted to rape a patient who tested positive for Corona. The incident will remain a blot on the medical fraternity.

Further, this isn't the first time that an incident of sexual assault has been reported from a hospital during a pandemic. In Maharashtra, a 25-year-old COVID-19 patient was arrested for allegedly raping a woman in a quarantine facility. Ours is a country where no place is safe for women. Not even a hospital.

Shruti Bansal  
Via email

### Safety first

Sir — The Government has taken the right decision to put the Amarnath yatra on hold in view of the pandemic. In this manner, we can at least prevent further cases of Coronavirus and can focus on treating the existing patients. Prevention is better than cure. Pilgrimage can resume in healthy times. And divinity is in the mind.

Jatin Singhal  
Via email

Send your feedback to:  
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## FIRST COLUMN

## Diplomatic firefighting vital

The Communist regime in Kathmandu is being stage-managed by Beijing to systematically cut the umbilical cord between Nepal and India



VK BAHUGUNA

Nepal is closest to India not only in terms of geography, civilisation, religion and culture but also in terms of blood relations. Both the countries have an open border with visa-free travel and the Indian currency is freely used in Nepal. A whopping 60 lakh Nepalese citizens (out of a population of 2.81 crore) live in India and are a major source of remittance to Nepal. Out of this, more than 25,000 are Gurkha soldiers serving in the 7 Gurkha regiment of the Indian Army. Most of the Nepalese soldiers in the Indian Army are Rais and Limbus of eastern Nepal and Gurungs and Magars from west Nepal. According to the Nepal Rashtra Bank, for the fiscal year 2018, a total of 784 billion Nepali Rupees (NPR) in remittances were received from 189 countries. Out of this, India led the remittance count with 93 billion NPR. However, due to COVID-19, the remittances will be less this year but the Nepalese living in India are still able to eke out a decent living and are being supported by Indians.

Ever since the monarchy was overthrown by Indian-educated Maoists, democratic governance in Nepal has never been smooth and the country is in the grip of political instability. Most of the leaders lack a comprehensive vision of an all-encompassing democracy and there has been protracted haggling over the new Constitution between political parties, especially between the leaders from the hills and the Terai plains. Political jingoism and one-upmanship is the order of the day among Nepalese politicians. Corruption is all-pervading and people are suffering due to the lack of a sound trajectory of political and economic development. In new democracies, a stable and visionary leadership is essential, especially in poor countries like Nepal, where people are used as pawns by politicians to cling to power.

Among top Nepalese professionals, there are positive feelings towards India. We need to discuss the contours of the current turmoil in the relationship between the two old neighbours. Since the end of monarchy and initiation of democracy, some groups in Nepal are whipping up anti-Indian feelings. The objective is to take control over the resources of Nepal. These groups are controlled by locally-based foreign-funded NGOs and are rapidly gaining ground as there is no organised resistance to them. Some of these groups are propped up by China. The Communist regime in Kathmandu is being stage-managed by Beijing to systematically cut the umbilical cord between Nepal and India.

It is not unusual for two neighbouring countries to have disputes but mature leadership solves differences in an amicable manner. The recent postures and knee-jerk statements of Nepali Prime Minister KP Oli are indications of an immature leader throwing childish pranks. The statement on the birthplace of Lord Ram being in Nepal, his invectives on boundary issues and the spread of the Coronavirus from India are unbefitting of a Prime Minister. Such comments are nothing less than diplomatic *hara-kiri* by Oli who is struggling to save his chair with the help of his patrons in China.

International affairs experts know that anti-India postures of the current Nepalese leaders are nothing but a diplomatic gimmickry at the behest of China. The recent amendment in the Constitution, by incorporating around 400 sq km of Indian territory and disputing the source of the emergence of the Kali River in Kalapani on the Nepali map, has escalated the bilateral tussle to a point of no return. It was done by deliberately objecting to the opening of a road by the Defence Minister on May 8, connecting the Chinese border in the Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand at the Lipulekh pass. There is no historical basis for Nepal's claim on the territory east of the Kali, which is based on the Limpiyadhura origin. The historically agreed fact is that the river actually takes the name Kali near Kalapani. Nepal is now changing the site of origin of Kali river to a stream west of Kalapani which is absurd, considering the provisions of the 1816 Sugauli treaty which fixes the Kali river as Nepal's western boundary with India. The boundary was settled by this treaty and 150 sq km of the area from the south of Kalapani to Tinkar pass along with the two villages of Chhangru and Tinkar was transferred to Nepal. It is a moot question on whose maps were Lipulekh, Limpiyadhura and Kalapani being shown so far. Obviously, on the Indian map as that is genuine Indian territory based on the 1816 treaty between the two countries.

In fact, the people of Uttarakhand have a genuine grievance against Nepal, which was well articulated by the retired Chief Secretary of Uttarakhand NS Napolchyal recently during a webinar. He trashed the Nepali claim with irrefutable facts that Nepal owes an apology for the atrocities it committed on Garhwali and Kumaoni people during its despicable colonial rule before the British ended it in 1815. If Nepali politicians can raise emotions, so can their Uttarakhand counterparts. They could start a movement seeking an apology from Nepal for the atrocities committed by its rulers. It will, however, not solve the problem. Both the countries need to have a dialogue. But Nepal must think of the unbearable cost of bad relations with India that it will have to sustain. It is rich in natural and other resources and the focus of Nepalese politicians should be on development of the country. They must steer it on the path of progress by remaining vigilant about their nation's cultural integrity with India and resolve all sticky issues in a friendly manner. The Indian diplomatic corps must seize the opportunity whenever it presents itself. Indians, too, love Nepal as we have no other alternative but our old, traditional ally.

(The writer is a retired civil servant)

EVERYONE IS AWARE THAT SOME OF OUR MLAs HAVE BEEN HELD CAPTIVE IN A HOTEL OUTSIDE THE STATE UNDER THE WATCH OF BOUNCERS AND POLICE.

—RAJASTHAN CHIEF MINISTER  
ASHOK GEHLOT

## POINT COUNTERPOINT



I WANT TO MAKE IT CLEAR. WE ARE NOT BEING HELD HOSTAGE, NOR ARE THERE BOUNCERS, NOR ARE WE CRYING OR ILL OR DYING TO GO BACK THERE.

—RAJASTHAN CONGRESS MLA  
SURESH MODI

## Remembering Kargil

As we recount the sacrifice of our armed forces on Vijay Diwas, some of the lessons learnt during the Kargil War still remain unaddressed for which we paid the price at Galwan



ANIL GUPTA

The nation commemorates Kargil Vijay Diwas every year on July 26 to recount the sacrifice and martyrdom of our armed forces that brought laurels to the nation by defeating a deceitful and untrustworthy neighbour of ours during the Kargil War of 1999. It is celebrated to honour the sacrifices of our brave soldiers, who laid down their lives on the lofty heights of Kargil on the frontlines to secure an unparalleled victory in the annals of military history. The war, fought mainly in the uncompromising climate of the upper Himalayas, saw the raw courage of Indian soldiers assaulting uphill, unmindful of enemy fire and dislodging them after a tough hand-to-hand fight. They regained our lost territory which the enemy forces had occupied surreptitiously, throwing to wind the unsigned convention between the two armies of maintaining status quo in the traditional gaps along the Line of Control (LoC). But for the raw courage and audacious bravery of our soldiers and young officers, history would have been different as the unscrupulous enemy had succeeded in taking us by surprise. Sadly enough, what happened in Kargil is being replicated, albeit on a much larger scale, across the trans-Himalayan region in Eastern Ladakh along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

We were surprised then and we have been surprised now. Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) remain our major weakness. Since the war was limited and the LoC was much smaller in length, though there were shortages, the crunch was not felt. The amassing of Bofors guns and ammunition played a crucial role in enabling infantry assaults. The Indian Air Force (IAF), too, played a major role though it was not equipped to fight at those heights with the restriction of not crossing the LoC. India also successfully called the nuclear bluff of Pakistan. A determined political leadership made a critical difference. The higher military leadership and higher direction of war left many questions to be answered which were subsequently addressed by the Kargil Review Committee (KRC) but unfortunately no heads rolled. Our true homage to the martyrs would be to say with certainty and authority that their sacrifices would not go waste and a Kargil-like situation will not be repeated.

While we can say with confidence that Kargil 2.0 will not happen again but while achieving that capability, did we ignore our other neighbour? While we considered Pakistan as a threat, we continued to treat China as a challenge. Our political leadership was convinced about averting a conflict with China through political and diplomatic outreach. Despite the alarm raised by the Army and other services, the political hierarchy was overconfident of their capability to handle China. Like Pakistan, China, too, proved to be treacherous and lulled our leadership into being friendly because it needed the Indian market to become an economic superpower. China all the while wanted to be the sole power in Asia but our leadership failed to read the Chinese mind correctly as it did with Pakistan at the time of Kargil. While AB Vajpayee had taken a bus ride to Lahore in search of peace, its scheming Army Chief Pervez Musharraf was planning the Kargil incursions.

Like any developing nation with a large segment of the population below the poverty line, we also face the dilemma of butter versus barrel of the gun. Every Government had to tread a very cautious path while allocating resources for defence forces. Even during Kargil, General Malik, the then chief, had said that "my Army will fight with whatever we have." Immediately after Kargil, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and other surveillance equipment were added to the inventory. However, post-Kargil, because of the Bofors scandal, all major defence contracts were put on hold. As a result, the country's armed forces began to suffer not only obsolescence but shortages in spares, affecting the battle-readiness of equipment.

However, the trend was reversed post-2014 and big ticket purchases were made for enhancing the combat efficiency of the forces. Delegation and enhancement of financial powers was also done to

“THE PROBLEM DOES NOT LIE IN THE ASSETS BUT IN TIMELY PROCESSING AND DISSEMINATION. THE PERMANENT OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR IS MEANT TO LOOK INTO THIS VITAL ASPECT OF NATIONAL SECURITY MANAGEMENT BUT THE DESIRED LEVEL OF INTEGRATION HAS NOT TAKEN PLACE. WE ALSO NEED TO ENHANCE THE CAPABILITY OF OPERATIONAL AND TACTICAL INTELLIGENCE. IN SUCH A TERRAIN, WITH UNPREDICTABLE AND HARSH WEATHER, A MULTI-MODE, MULTI-LAYERED, ALL-WEATHER, 24X7 SURVEILLANCE GRID IS NEEDED



enable the armed forces to meet their immediate and critical needs. Today, our armed forces are well-equipped with latest platforms, smart munitions, UAVs, missiles and so on. We have definitely made a qualitative jump but numerically we are still short of fighting a sustained two-front war. Also critically still exists in our Air Defence and the infantry weapon systems. The Navy and IAF also have critical gaps which need to be filled. Depending on the quality of security we need, a percentage of the GDP (not below 3.5) has to be earmarked for the defence budget.

Unlike 1999, when we had just become a nuclear power, today we boast of our triad capability with ICBM capability. However, in view of the looming threat, we must review our policy of "No First Use." India has always believed in honouring various treaties and agreements but both our neighbours have shown scant respect for them while threatening us on the LoC/LAC. In the case of Kargil, the plan was made as early as during the Zia regime. We should have known about it. Thereafter, Pakistan began a proxy war against us. Just prior to Kargil War, it began regular shelling of the national highway, linking Kashmir and Ladakh. Our responses were mainly defensive and ad-hoc. Proactive and punitive responses were absent due to the fear of an escalation. Pakistan took advantage of it, ignored the understanding about "traditional gaps" and presented us a fait accompli in the form of Kargil incursions.

It is the same with China. Despite salami-slicing, we continued to appease it. Even after Doklam, we failed to wake up. The net result is the multi-point, well-planned incursions in eastern Ladakh with a definite aim of holding out and not vacating. Our planners would have known that our claim of Aksai Chin and Gilgit Baltistan will definitely raise hackles in China because both are very critical to Chinese President Xi Jinping's pet project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). However, our planners, including the military, failed to take any preventive and precautionary measures to thwart the Chinese threat. Once again we are reacting. Worried about escalation, we did not even exercise the option of quid pro quo. Now it may be too late though the LAC is

quite vast and the enemy has many vulnerabilities. The possibility of collusion between China and Pakistan cannot be ruled out completely, though Islamabad does not have the capability to launch such an offensive for the time being. Where we were holding the entire frontage with a brigade then, now we have a full infantry division with well-sited and hardened defences along the entire length of the LoC. Similarly, compared to 1962, our defences in eastern Ladakh are very strongly held with adequate reserves and a well-developed road and track network. The Kargil experience has shown us that a ratio of 1:9 or 1:12 is needed in these heights to launch offensive operations.

ISR was a weakness then and remains so even today. Though a lot of structural changes have taken place like the Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA), National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO), Defence Image Processing and Analysis Centre (DIPAC), yet the optimal has not been achieved. The problem does not lie in the assets but in timely processing and dissemination. The permanent office of the National Security Advisor (NSA) is meant to look into this vital aspect of national security management but the desired level of integration has not taken place. We also need to enhance the capability of operational and tactical intelligence. In such a terrain, with unpredictable and harsh weather, a multi-mode, multi-layered, all-weather, 24x7 surveillance grid is needed. We also need to develop capability to monitor the movement of Chinese troops and formations to the plateau or towards the LAC from the Xinjiang Military District. Mountains do impose certain restrictions but we need to invest more in the required means. Lack of jointness was a major lesson from Kargil. Here I would like to quote the first-hand experience of the then Colonel General Staff of 8 Mountain Division, which was moved from the Valley to dislodge the intruders. "Ever since the infamous huff between the then Army and IAF chiefs in the initial stages of the operations, the Army and Air Force never operated in unison. In the first week of June, the IAF recommenced Operation Safed Sagar as we were in Operation Vijay. Two standalone operations in a small mountainous area, where the IAF had

never operated earlier. We were never consulted on targets and never apprised of strike missions. Occasionally we would hear aircraft north-east of Zozila and see some puffs around some features. Though, the stories of bombs/rockets hitting our own troops are exaggerated, it is a fact that sometimes the munitions would land a few ridges away where our troops were deployed. Fortunately we never had a friendly fire casualty. Equally and importantly we never saw any target destroyed.

"When we were planning an attack on Tiger Hill, in order to maintain surprise, the artillery was tasked to fire on distributed targets but the IAF kept hitting Tiger Hill without consulting us. Infuriated, Hq 15 Corps was informed, which also confirmed that they had no knowledge of air plans." This should give adequate idea of the absence of jointness during the last war we fought. It would be unfair to say that there has been no change. Lot of changes for the good have taken place. Joint planning is quite obvious in the current stand-off. Even the idea of theatre commands is gaining currency. Post-Kargil, two joint commands were raised as Strategic Forces Command and Andaman & Nicobar Command. Lately, a Special Forces joint command has also been raised.

Another recommendation of the KRC was regarding border management. One force per border has been implemented. But the question of command and control still remains an issue. Particularly, along the LAC with China where the Indo-Tibet Border Police (ITBP) has been deployed. There is a divided responsibility between the Army and the ITBP, which has proved highly ineffective in the current stand-off. Incursions happened under the watch of the ITBP and the Army had to come in when the crisis developed. A poor arrangement, particularly when we are faced with a cunning enemy on the other side. The ITBP should be placed under the command of the Army following the LoC model.

Needless to say the situation then and now is quite different. But some of the lessons learnt during the Kargil War still remain unaddressed for which we paid the price at Galwan.

(The author is a Jammu-based veteran and security and strategic analyst.)

## GIS helping nations fight the pandemic

A comprehensive data platform can support the entire process of disease surveillance, preparedness and response



ASHWANI RAWAT

A review of health geographic information system (GIS) literature has shown that almost 30 per cent of all volumes is focussed on infectious disease mapping. This is why one of our biggest champions in the ongoing fight against COVID-19 is the use of GIS.

COVID-19 is a challenge like no other in recent times as the virus spread strikingly fast from China to the rest of the world. For comparison, one can look at how MERS took about 30 months to infect a thousand people, SARS took around four months and the plague containment in Italy. Over the last 300 years, the value of maps as a communication tool for the understanding and tracking of infectious diseases, be it the yellow fever, cholera, the 1918 influenza pandemic or the new-age MERS-CoV, has only heightened.

requested applications of GIS services as early as February was the Coronavirus dashboard. The interactive maps can locate as well as tally confirmed infections, fatalities and recoveries, along with graphs detailing the progression of the virus.

Viewers can see the time and day of the most recent data update from various sources, which include authoritative bodies such as the WHO and the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention. If you look at India, the National Centre for Disease Control is the source of authoritative data via the application programme interface (API). Epidemiologists are utilising GIS to map disease occurrence measure against multiple parameters such as demographics, environment, geographies, past occurrences and so on, to understand the origin of future

outbreaks, the spread pattern as well as its intensity to be able to implement control, preventative as well as surveillance measures.

It is an undeniable fact that in order to identify at-risk populations in real-time, public health agencies, policymakers as well as administrators need GIS to be able to understand outbreak patterns and plan targeted intervention such as the evaluation of available facilities and increasing their healthcare capacities. Apart from this, there is also the need for effective communication amid all the supporting agencies as well as citizens so that there can be a coordinated response to the crisis. Since location is the common denominator between all these, GIS provides the capability to create a common operating picture that will allow multi-agency collaboration.

Using GIS functionality such as spatial analytics, mapping and location intelligence, health officials and Government agencies have access to confirmed and active cases, fatalities and recoveries. Since COVID-19 impacts demographics in a disproportionate manner, such as the elderly and those with co-morbidities, mapping criteria such as social vulnerability, age and other factors have been helping in monitoring at-risk groups across regions. Based on the available data, agencies can take a look at the relevant area of interest such as hospitals, location of the cases being reported, areas that have been affected, capacities as well as key demographic data in order to create strategies that can aid in the descriptive, predictive as well as prescriptive stages of combating COVID-19.

Ranging from mapping the outbreak source, site selection for treatment, monitoring supply chains, resource location and so on, GIS has contributed significantly to fighting the virus and speeding up efforts in places that they are needed the most.

Modern GIS technologies are based around web tools that improve data sharing and offer real-time information that can aid critical decision-making. A comprehensive GIS platform can support the entire process of disease surveillance, preparedness and response. With the world now shifting to a new normal, epidemiologists expect that outbreaks like this could happen more frequently in the future. Hence, GIS will continue to be crucial for tackling viruses.

(The writer is co-founder and director of a technology company)



FOREIGN EYE



WE MUST ACT NOW

Though a declining population in the future is good news, the strain on resources would be immense even then. Nor would the reduction save us from climate catastrophe. Action must be taken now, not by future generations. And emissions are heavily dependent on economic circumstances and policy. What matters most is not how many people there are in the world but what they do.

(The Guardian editorial)

# China orders US to close consulate in Chengdu

**Beijing:** China on Friday ordered the US to close down its consulate in Chengdu in retaliation to Washington's decision to shut the Chinese mission in Houston, further straining the already tense bilateral ties.

A statement by the Chinese Foreign Ministry said the US Embassy here has been informed of the Chinese government's decision to withdraw its consent for the establishment and operation of the US Consulate General in Chengdu, the provincial capital of southwestern Sichuan province.

The consulate, established in 1985 and currently having more than 200 staff, some 150 hired locally, is seen as strategically important because it allows the US to gather information on the sensitive region of Tibet, where the followers of the Dalai Lama have been demanding meaningful autonomy.

At a regular press conference on Friday, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Wang



Consulate workers remove items from the Consulate General of China in Houston on Friday

Wenbin accused staff in the Chengdu consulate "of interfering in China's internal affairs and harming China's national security interests."

Wang said that closing the US mission in Chengdu was a "legitimate and necessary response" to Washington demanding that the Chinese consulate in Houston be shut.

US officials have made similar accusations about Chinese diplomats acting beyond their

duties and engaging in espionage related activity.

Earlier, the ministry, in a statement noted that on July 21, the US launched a "unilateral provocation" by abruptly demanding that China close its Consulate General in Houston.

The US move seriously breached international law, the basic norms of international relations, and the terms of the China-US Consular Convention, the foreign min-

istry statement said.

"It gravely harmed China-US relations. The measure taken by China is a legitimate and necessary response to the unjustified act by the US. It conforms with international law, the basic norms of international relations, and customary diplomatic practices", it said.

"The current situation in China-US relations is not what China desires to see, and the US is responsible for all this. We once again urge the US to immediately retract its wrong decision and create necessary conditions for bringing the bilateral relationship back on track", it said.

Chengdu is one of six US foreign missions, including the embassy in Beijing, in mainland China. The US also has a consulate in Hong Kong.

The US ordered the closure of the Chinese consulate in Houston, a move it said was aimed "to protect American intellectual property and private information." Top American officials

have accused the Chinese consulate in Houston of being part of Beijing's espionage operation in the US.

US President Donald Trump on Wednesday said he may order the closure of more Chinese consulates in the country. The Chinese consulate in Houston was one of five in the US, along with the embassy in Washington DC. It has consulates in New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Chicago.

Relations between the US and China have taken a turn for the worse in recent months over Beijing's handling of the coronavirus pandemic. Fresh concerns over China's crackdown of its Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang and Beijing imposing a controversial national security law in Hong Kong have also raised bilateral tensions.

In a major speech on the Trump administration's China policy on Thursday, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo called the Chinese consulate in Houston "a hub of spying and intellectual property theft." PTI

## US seeks new 'alliance of democracies' to take on authoritarian Chinese regime, says Pompeo

**Washington:** Upping the ante on China over its expansionist policies and alleged cover-up of the COVID-19 outbreak, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has pitched for a new "alliance of democracies" to counter the challenges posed by the authoritarian Chinese regime.

Echoing President Donald Trump that the US has had "enough" with China, Pompeo announced "distrust and verify" as US' new rules of engagement with the Chinese Communist Party and called on all nations to insist on reciprocity, transparency and accountability from them.

Pompeo's remarks at the Nixon Library on Thursday, titled "Communist China and the Free World's Future," cast aspersions on Beijing and its relations with Washington,

nearly 50 years after President Richard Nixon became the first US president to travel to China.

The top American diplomat formally announced a reversal in the decades-old China policy, which now would be more of confrontationist in nature and organising the rest of the free world against the authoritarian Chinese regime led by President Xi Jinping.

Today China is "increasingly authoritarian at home, and more aggressive in its hostility to freedom everywhere else," he said.

"Let's not repeat the same mistakes of the past. The challenge of China demands exertion from democracies... those in Europe, in Africa, in South America, and especially those in the Indo-Pacific region. This isn't about con-

tainment. It's about a complex new challenge we've never faced before: The USSR was closed off from the free world. Communist China is already here, within our borders," he insisted.

"So we can't face this challenge alone. The UN, NATO, the G7, the G20, our combined economic, diplomatic, and military power is surely enough to meet this challenge, if directed properly. Maybe it's time for a new grouping of like-minded nations... a new alliance of democracies," Pompeo said.

He said that if the free world did not change Communist China, the latter will change them.

There can be no return to past practices just because they are comfortable, or convenient, he noted. PTI

## US accuses Russia of test-firing anti-satellite weapon in space

**Washington:** The United States accused Russia of test-firing an anti-satellite weapon in space, warning that the threat against Washington's systems was "real, serious and increasing."

US Space Command said it "has evidence" that Moscow "conducted a non-destructive test of a space-based anti-satellite weapon" on July 15.

"Last week's test is another example that the threats to US and Allied space systems are real, serious and increasing," the Thursday statement continued.

"Clearly this is unaccept-

able," tweeted US nuclear disarmament negotiator Marshall Billingslea, adding that it would be a "major issue" discussed next week in Vienna, where he is in talks on a successor to the New START treaty.

The treaty caps the nuclear warheads of the US and Russia — the two Cold War-era superpowers.

Commenting Friday on the accusations, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Russia supports "full demilitarisation of space and not basing any type of weapons in space."

The US Space Command said the test consisted of Russia's satellite called Cosmos 2543 injecting an object into orbit.

Russian state media has said that Cosmos-2543 had been deployed by another satellite, Cosmos-2542, which was launched on 25 of November 2019 by the Russian military. AFP

## Judge blocks US agents from arresting observers in Portland

**Portland (US):** A federal judge specifically blocked US Agents from arresting or using physical force against journalists and legal observers at protests in Oregon's largest city where President Donald Trump is testing the limits of federal power.

Federal agents appeared to deploy tear gas early Friday to force thousands of demonstrators from crowding around the federal courthouse.

Protesters had projected lasers on the building and attempted to take down a security fence that had been reinforced to keep demonstrators at a distance.

The protesters moved away as clouds of gas rose from the area and flash grenades could be heard.

US Judge Michael Simon



Federal officers use chemical irritants and projectiles to disperse Black Lives Matter protesters near the Mark O. Hatfield United States Courthouse on Friday

made his ruling late Thursday, a day after Portland's mayor was tear-gassed by federal agents while making an appearance outside a federal courthouse during raucous demonstrations.

Protesters have been kept up in the city for nearly two

months since George Floyd was killed in Minneapolis.

Simon had previously ruled that journalists and legal observers are exempt from police orders requiring protesters to disperse once an unlawful assembly has been declared. AP

## UN: US protesters, journalists need their rights protected

**Geneva:** Protesters and journalists in US cities, including Portland in Oregon, must be able to take part in peaceful demonstrations without risking arbitrary arrest, detention, the unnecessary use of force or other rights violations, the UN human rights office said Friday.

Spokeswoman Liz Throssell of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights noted reports that some peaceful demonstrators in Portland had been detained by

unidentified officers. "That is a worry, because it may place those detained outside the protection of the law, and may give rise to arbitrary detention and other human rights violations," she told reporters in Geneva.

Throssell said authorities should make sure that security forces who are deployed are "properly and clearly identified and use force only when necessary" — proportionately and in line with international standards. AP

### PUBLIC NOTICE

WHEREAS The General Public is hereby informed that Smt. GANGA DEVI W/o Sh. SHANKAR LAL GUPTA was the co-purchaser/owner of ground floor of Eastern side having area measuring 300 sq. yds. along with undivided share in the land portion and PROPERTY No. 844 to 850 NEW No. 4945 PLOT No. 50, DARYA GANI, DELHI by virtue of Sale Deed duly Registered as Document No. 4551 Dated 08.07.1993. Registered with the Sub-Registrar, Delhi and Smt. GANGA DEVI W/o Sh. SHANKAR LAL GUPTA bequeathing the said share in the name of her son Sh. BAL KISHAN GUPTA S/o Late Sh. SHANKAR LAL GUPTA was the claimant of the Late Smt. GANGA DEVI (MOTHER) after her death Sh. BAL KISHAN GUPTA S/o Sh. SHANKAR LAL GUPTA also expired on 06.12.2011. After the death of Smt. GANGA DEVI expired on 18.11.2000. WHEREAS Sh. BAL KISHAN GUPTA S/o Late Sh. SHANKAR LAL GUPTA was the claimant of the Late Smt. GANGA DEVI (MOTHER) after her death Sh. BAL KISHAN GUPTA S/o Sh. SHANKAR LAL GUPTA 2. ASHISH GUPTA 3. ANKIT GUPTA all legal heirs of Late Sh. BAL KISHAN GUPTA are the claimants of share of Late Sh. GANGA DEVI W/o Late Sh. SHANKAR LAL GUPTA. If any person party have any right in the said property they shall inform to writing to Smt. KRISHNA GUPTA W/o Late Sh. BAL KISHAN GUPTA or to the Estate Officer Grade-11, DDA VIKAS SADAN NEW DELHI within 15 days from the date of issue of this notice.

Sd/- Narendran Kumar Sharma (Advocate) ENRL-10-D/1987/2010 AL-85/B, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi-88 #9654501995

### ROTOGRAPHICS (INDIA) LIMITED

CIN: L74899DL1976PLC008036 Regd. Office: Unit No. 6, Ground Floor Pocker M, Santa Vihar New Delhi 110076 Website: www.rotogrp.com Email: info@rotogrp.com Phone: 011-47366600

### NOTICE

Notice is hereby given in terms of Regulation 47 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Friday, 31st July, 2020 at 03:30 P.M. at the Registered office of the company, inter-alia to consider, approve and take on record the stand-alone Audited Financial Results of the Company for the Fourth Quarter and year ended 31st March, 2020.

The information is also available on website of the BSE Limited www.bseindia.com where the shares of the company are listed and is also available on the website of the company viz. www.rotogrp.com

By Order of the Board For Rotographics (India) Limited Poonam Saxena Compliance Officer Date: 24.07.2020 Place: New Delhi

## Iran slams interception by US jet over Syria as 'illegal'

**AP ■ TEHRAN**

Iranian officials on Friday slammed the interception of an Iranian passenger plane by a US fighter jet in the skies over Syria as "illegal," threatening action against Washington over the incident.

Iran had said that one of its airliners, flying from Tehran to Beirut on Thursday, was "harassed" by fighter jets, but later landed safely in Lebanon. A US official confirmed

that a US jet had passed by the Iranian airliner, but at a safe distance.

According to Iranian state TV, two fighter jets came within a distance of 100 meters (328 feet) of the Iranian Airbus A310. The pilot of the Mahan Air Flight 1152 quickly took the aircraft to a lower altitude to avoid a collision, the report said.

The sharp maneuver caused slight injuries among some of the passengers.

## Istanbul's Hagia Sophia opens as a mosque for Muslim prayers

**AP ■ ISTANBUL**

Fulfilling a dream of his Islamic-oriented youth, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan joined hundreds of worshippers on Friday for the first Muslim prayers in 86 years inside Hagia Sophia, the Istanbul landmark that served as one of Christendom's most significant cathedrals, a mosque and a museum before its conversion back into a Muslim place of worship. Thousands of other

### COLUMBUS STATUE TAKEN DOWN AT CHICAGO PARK

**AP ■ CHICAGO**

A statue of Christopher Columbus that drew chaotic protests in Chicago's Grant Park was taken down early Friday amid a plan by President Donald Trump to dispatch federal law enforce-

ment agents to the city.

Crews used a large crane to remove the statue from its pedestal as a small crowd gathered to watch.

Several work trucks were seen in the area but it was unclear where the statue could be taken. AP

### PUBLIC NOTICE

IN RESPECT OF NON DEALING WITH REGARD TO PROPERTY BEARING NO. 2206 TO 2209, WARD NO. 9, BAZAR CHITLI QABAR, TURKMAN GATE DELHI-110066. That my clients, Asifa Begum and Farah Mukhtar, are bonafide owners-in-possession of above mentioned property. Noorjahan Begum has filed a false and frivolous partition case with regard to above mentioned property and same is pending adjudication before Ld. Additional District Judge, Tis Hazari Court Delhi bearing CS No. 1705/2017, titled as Noor Jahan Begum Vs. Naseema Begum. In light of above, General Public is hereby informed not to deal with Mrs. Noor Jahan Begum or his legal representatives for above mentioned property during the pendency of court case. If any one deals with the same, it shall not be binding on my clients and would be non-est in Law U/s 52 of the Transfer of Property Act.

Inraan Ali (Advocate) 13, Ring Road, Lajpat Nagar-IV, New Delhi 110024 Ph: 9212609886

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The Public at large is hereby informed that Late Sh. Darshan Singh Sehgal S/o Late Sh. Sawan Singh Sehgal R/o E-60 Mansarovar Garden, Ramesh Nagari, Rajouri Garden West, Delhi, Delhi-110015 was having commercial property in our project Vatika Business Park B, flat no 1305 A admeasuring 610 sq.ft. Which his legal heirs (Mr. Brijender Singh Sehgal & Mr. Inder Pal Singh Sehgal) requested the company to be transferred to his Son Mr. Brijender Singh Sehgal & his Son Mr. Inder Pal Singh Sehgal. Any person having any objection on this please may contact the company officer details as Under within 15 days after which No claim would be accepted.

Vatika Limited Vatika Tringle, 4th floor, Sushant Lok-I, Block A, M.G. Road, Gurgaon, Haryana

### AMCO INDIA LIMITED

Regd. Office : 10795, SHOP NO. GF-7, HANDEWALAN ROAD, REXINE BAZAAR, NABI KARIM, NEW DELHI-110055 CIN : L74899DL1987PLC029035 PH : 011 - 23636320 Email : amco.india@gmail.com Website : www.amcoindialimited.com

### NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of the Regulation 29 & 33 of Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosures Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Friday, the 31st day of July, 2020 at the Corporate Office of the Company situated at C-53-54, Sector-57, Phase III, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301, inter-alia, to consider and approve the Audited Financial Results of the Company for the quarter & financial year ended on 31st March, 2020.

As per the Company's Code of Conduct for Prevention of Insider Trading read with SEBI (Prohibition of Insider Trading) Regulations, 2015 the "Trading Window" for dealing in the equity shares of Company shall remain closed for all directors, officers and designated employees of the Company from 1st April, 2020 till 48 hours after the declaration of financial results for the quarter / financial year ended on 31st March 2020 in view of the Board Meeting scheduled on Friday, 31st July, 2020.

This information is also available on the Company's website at www.amcoindialimited.com and is also available in BSE Limited at www.bseindia.com.

For Amco India Limited Sd/- Subrat Mohan Gupta Place : Noida, U.P. Dated : 24.07.2020 Company Secretary

### Press Notice Inviting e-Tender

No. 18/EE/DWS/DMN/2020-21

The Executive Engineer, DWS Division Dharmanagar, North Tripura invites single bid percentage rate e-tender on behalf of the "Governor of Tripura" for Drilling and Development of Deep Tube Wells/Construction of Pump Houses with allied works. Deadline for online bidding is 06/08/2020 up to 15.00 Hrs. For details please visit www.tripuratenders.gov.in and for any query please contact:- eedwsdmn@gmail.com all subsequent corrigendum will be available in the website www.tripuratenders.gov.in only.

For and on behalf of Governor of Tripura Sd/- Executive Engineer DWS Division Dharmanagar, ICA/C-1127/2020-21

### NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

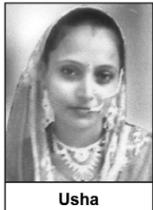
The Dy. Chief Engineer/Const.-II, Northern Railway, Shivaji Bridge, New Delhi for and on behalf of President of India invites open e-tender under Single Packet System for the under noted work:-

1. Name of work and location	"Hiring of one Vehicle such as (Jeep, Gypsy, Tata Sumo type of vehicles) on monthly hiring basis for three years for XENC/SRE working under Dy. Chief Engineer/Const-II, Northern Railway, Shivaji Bridge New Delhi"
2. Completion period of the work	36 (Thirty Six Months)
3. Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 15.13 Lakh (Rupees Fifteen lakh & thirteen thousand only)
4. Earnest money amount (to be deposited Online)	Rs. 30,300/- (Rupees Thirty thousand three hundred only)
5. Date, Time for submission of e-tender and opening of tender	Tender may be uploaded upto 11.30 hrs on 27.07.2020 on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. The bidders can only participate in the e-tender, the tender will be opened at 11.30 hrs. on 27.07.2020.
6. Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document	The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway website i.e. www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in Above tenders document will be available on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 13.07.2020 to 27.07.2020. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender documents. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office.

No. 120-A-Acs-Dy-CE-C-II-CSB Date: 03.07.2020 1626/20 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

### SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED LADY

General Public is hereby informed that one lady (depicted in the photo) namely Usha (with two children Radha Age:12 Years and Sonu Age:8 Years) W/o Beeru R/o H.No. 05, Gali No.12, Kotla Vihar Phase-2, Delhi Age- 32 Years has been reported missing/kidnapped since 06.02.2020 from the area of P.S. Ranhola, Delhi vide DD No. 49-A, Dated 12.02.2020 has been registered at Police Station Ranhola, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-



Usha

Complexion: Shallow, Height: 4'5", Face: Round, Wearing: Red Coloured suit, salwar and leather Slipper in feet, Any person having any information/Clue about this missing/kidnapped lady, may inform SHO, Ranhola, Delhi at E-mail: cbc@cbi.gov.in or Website: http://cbi.nic.in Sd/- SHO, Ranhola, Delhi. Tel.: 011-28363001, 02, 03 DP/156/OD/2020 Mob.: 7065036128

### SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a girl (depicted in the photo), Namely : Fhooljaha D/o Mohd. Ishaq R/o H. No. E-60, New Ashok Nagar, Delhi has been missing since 10.05.2020 from her house. In this regard a case vide DD No. 33A dated 10.06.2020 has been lodged at Police Station New Ashok Nagar, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-



FHOOLJAHA

Age : 21 Years, Height: 4'9", Complexion : Shallow, Face: Oval, Build: Thin, Wearing: Pink colour T-shirt and Red colour lower with white colour printed dots blue colour plastic chappal in feet. Any person having any information/Clue about this missing girl, may inform SHO, New Ashok Nagar, Delhi at E-mail Id - cbc@cbi.gov.in or Website: http://cbi.nic.in SHO P.S. New Ashok Nagar, Delhi East Dist., Delhi Ph. No. 011-22610839, 22610954 DP/93/ED/2020

## Taliban say ready for talks with Kabul after Eid holiday

**AP ■ ISLAMABAD**

The Taliban say they are ready for talks with Afghanistan's political leadership after the Muslim holiday of Eid ul Adha at the end of July, offering to hand over the last of the Government prisoners in a week's time, providing the government frees the last of its Taliban prisoners.

The offer made by Taliban's political spokesman Suhail Shaheen in a tweet late

Thursday follows one of the most significant shakeups in the Taliban in years.

The group appointed the son of the movement's fearless founder to head its military wing and powerful leadership council members to its negotiation team.

In Kabul on Friday, the High Council for National Reconciliation, which was created in May to manage peace efforts with the Taliban, said it was still working through the Taliban's prisoner list.

## France pledges \$17 million to Lebanon's struggling schools

**Mechref (Lebanon):** France's visiting foreign minister pledged Friday 15 million Euro (\$17 million) in aid to Lebanon's schools, which are struggling under the weight of the country's major economic crisis.

Jean-Yves Le Drian said France will not let the "Lebanese youth alone" face the crisis that has hit the education sector hard.

Schools in Lebanon have let some teachers and administrators go and many face the risk of closure. Parents, struggling to pay private school fees, enrolled their children in already overcrowded public schools.

The French assistance will go to a network of over 50

French and Francophone schools. The economic crisis has impacted almost all facets of life in Lebanon, a small Mediterranean country long considered a middle-income state. Since last year, unemployment has risen and poverty deepened, as foreign currency dried up and the currency tumbled to lose more than 80 per cent of its value before the dollar. Le Drian, who arrived here late Wednesday, said France could only help Lebanon face the crisis if Lebanese officials do their part, urging them to introduce much needed reforms.

Le Drian is the first senior Western official to visit the struggling country. AP

# Recovery on, 6% growth next fiscal: Niti

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian economy will start recovering completely by the fourth quarter of the current fiscal and could grow by 6 per cent in the next financial year as green shoots are visible in many sectors where business is back to pre-COVID levels, Niti Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar said on Friday.

Kumar also expressed hope that COVID-19 will begin to taper off from the metros and their economic activity will be normal in the coming quarter. "I expect the economy to start recovering completely by the fourth quarter.... And achieve a positive growth. "And next (fiscal) year, it will be about 6 per cent on a low base," he said in a Twitter

live session.

Several economists, brokerages and multilateral agencies have forecast a deep contraction in India's economic growth, triggered by the COVID-19 outbreak and subsequent lockdowns.

The Niti Aayog vice chairman noted that green shoots of recovery are already visible in multiple sectors.

"If you notice, in 15-16 sectors, businesses are coming back to pre-COVID levels," he said.

Kumar pointed out that for India, the timing of the COVID-19 pandemic was very unfortunate as the economy was bottoming out in the last quarter of 2019-20.

"Our economy was bottoming out in the fourth quarter of 2019-20 after seeing a low

❖ The Indian economy will start recovering completely by the fourth quarter of the current fiscal and could grow by 6 per cent in the next financial year as green shoots are visible in many sectors where business is back to pre-COVID levels

❖ The timing of the Covid-19 pandemic was very unfortunate as the economy was bottoming out in the last quarter of 2019-20

of 4.5 per cent growth but the outbreak of COVID-19 resulted in significant negative impact in the first quarter of this fiscal. "And that downward momentum could not be reversed because of COVID-19," he observed.

Quoting the finance minister, Kumar said there is always a possibility of another stimulus from the government to

boost demand.

"The finance minister has said there is always the possibility of the government coming up with another round of stimulus. Problem is going to be on the demand side. The government may look at a stimulus again to revive investment spirit and boost demand," he said.

Kumar also pitched for

asset monetisation of public sector undertakings (PSUs) as a large number of them are either under-utilised or unutilised.

"Government holding in land can be brought in as equity and private players can be roped in to do projects in PPP (public private partnership) mode," he noted.

Kumar also said states can mobilise resources by either borrowing from international agencies or internally through effective tax collection.

He said the RBI has done a commendable job by providing liquidity and regulatory support to banks and other financial institutions.

"The problem is now in demand and the private sector will have to expand capacity," Kumar emphasised.

# Banks' gross NPA may rise to 12.5% by March 2021: RBI FSR

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Gross non-performing assets of all banks may jump to 12.5 per cent by the end of this fiscal under the baseline scenario, from 8.5 per cent in March 2020, according to the Financial Stability Report (FSR) released by the Reserve Bank on Friday.

The resilience of Indian banking in the face of macroeconomic shocks was tested through macro stress tests which attempt to assess the impact of cumulative shocks on banks balance sheet and generate projections of gross non-performing asset (GNPA) ratios and capital to risk-weighted assets ratio (CRARs) over a one-year horizon under a baseline and three adverse - medium, severe and very severe - scenarios, the report said.

"The stress tests indicate that the GNPA ratio of all scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) may increase from 8.5 per cent in March 2020 to 12.5 per cent by March 2021 under the baseline scenario.

"If the macroeconomic environment worsens further,

the ratio may escalate to 14.7 per cent under the very severely stressed scenario," the report showed.

The baseline scenario is derived from the forecasted values of macroeconomic variables such as GDP growth, combined gross fiscal deficit-to-GDP ratio and CPI inflation among others, the report said.

As the asset classification in March 2020 could have been influenced by the regulatory moratorium in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, the projections for this exercise are built up using data from June 2011 up to the quarter ended December 2019 (instead of March 2020), it said.

"Given the fact that impact of moratorium is still uncertain and evolving, the exact nature of how the same will play out on the quality of banking assets is difficult to ascertain accurately," it said.

The report said that the regulatory dispensations that the pandemic has necessitated in terms of the moratorium on loan instalments and deferment of interest payments may have implications for the financial

health of banks, going forward.

Under the baseline scenarios, state-run banks' GNPA ratio may increase to 15.2 per cent by March 2021 from 11.3 per cent in March 2020. The GNPA ratio of private banks and foreign banks may increase from 4.2 per cent and 2.3 per cent to 7.3 per cent and 3.9 per cent, respectively, over the same period.

The report said system level CRAR is projected to drop from 14.6 per cent in March 2020 to 13.3 per cent in March 2021 under the baseline scenario and to 11.8 per cent under the very severe stress scenario.

The stress test results indicated that five banks may fail to meet the minimum capital level by March 2021 in a very severe stress scenario.

The common equity tier I (CET I) capital ratio of banks may decline from 11.7 per cent in March 2020 to 10.7 per cent under the baseline scenario and to 9.4 per cent under the very severe stress scenario in March 2021, it showed.

# Govt's endeavour has been to further simplify Direct Tax laws: Sitharaman

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government's endeavour has been to further simplify the Direct Tax laws and has brought in a major reform by giving option to taxpayers to opt for a new simpler tax regime, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Friday.

In her message on the 160th Income Tax Day, the Minister also lauded the department for being responsive to the needs of the taxpayers during this pandemic time by relaxing various com-

pliance requirements and addressing their liquidity concerns.

Appreciating its continuous efforts towards making the tax administration taxpayer-friendly, transparent and geared towards facilitating voluntary compliance, she said there has been a paradigm shift in its role in recent years, from being just a revenue collecting organisation to becoming a more citizen-centric establishment.

"Our endeavour has been to continue the initiative of simplification of Direct Tax laws. In line

with the same, we brought in a major tax reform by ushering in a new simpler tax regime for our taxpayers, who now have the option of remaining in the old tax regime or moving to the new simpler regime," Sitharaman said.

She said the Government has reduced corporate tax rates by phasing out exemptions, while encouraging businesses to start manufacturing which is in tandem with the clarion call of Aatmanirbhar Bharat given by PM Narendra Modi.

She said that the department has effectively deployed

Govt has reduced corporate tax rates by phasing out exemptions

technological tools to facilitate honest tax payers and also plug revenue leakage.

"Confident that the department will not only continue to play a critical role in the growth and prosperity of the nation, but will also strive to keep improving and set new standards of professionalism," the Minister added. She lauded the dept for keeping pace with the fast changing economic landscape and adapting to the concomitant challenge of ensuring that tax revenues grow commensurate with the pace of economic growth.

# Sensex, Nifty end flat after see-saw trade; RIL hits fresh peak

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Sensex and Nifty ended marginally lower after a highly volatile session on Friday as a global equity selloff outweighed stock-specific gains on the indices.

After gyrating 487 points during the session, the 30-share BSE Sensex settled 11.57 points, or 0.03 per cent, lower at 38,128.90. Similarly, the NSE Nifty declined 21.30 points, or 0.19 per cent, to 11,194.15.

Axis Bank was the top laggard in the Sensex pack, shedding over 3 per cent, followed by SBI, ICICI Bank, ONGC, HDFC and Kotak Bank.

On the other hand, Reliance Industries' market valuation crossed the ₹ 14 lakh crore-mark after its stock rallied over 4 per cent to scale its fresh peak.

HCL Tech, Tech Mahindra, Sun Pharma, IndusInd Bank and Infosys were among the other gainers. According to traders, despite the rally in index-heavyweight RIL, domestic markets turned volatile amid a selloff in global equities on escalating tensions between the US and China. Earlier in the day, China ordered the US to close its consulate in Chengdu in retaliation to Washington's decision to shut the Chinese mission in Houston, further straining the already tense bilateral ties.

Bourses in Shanghai, Hong Kong, Seoul and Tokyo plunged up to 3.86 per cent.

Stock exchanges in Europe were trading over 1 per cent lower in early deals. Meanwhile, international oil benchmark Brent crude futures rose 1.09 per cent to USD 43.77 per barrel.

# Domestic airfare cap to remain in place till Nov 24: Aviation Ministry

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The upper and lower limits on domestic airfares have been extended till November 24, the Aviation Ministry said on Friday.

The Ministry had on May 21 placed these limits till August 24.

"As per the prevailing situation of COVID-19, the Central government...directs that the order shall remain in force till 2359 hrs on 24th November, 2020, or until further orders," the Aviation Ministry said. Domestic passenger services resumed on May 25 after nearly two months of suspension to combat the coronavirus outbreak.

The aviation regulator DGCA had on May 21 issued seven bands of ticket pricing with lower and upper fare limits. The first such band consists of flights that are of less than 40 minutes duration. The lower and the upper fare limits for the first band is ₹ 2,000 and ₹ 6,000, respectively. The subsequent bands are for flights with durations of 40-60 minutes, 60-90 minutes, 90-120 minutes, 120-150 minutes, 150-180 minutes and 180-210 minutes.

# 'Impact of moratorium on private NBFCs, HFCs can be substantial'

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Impact of the loan moratorium on private non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and housing finance companies (HFCs) can be substantial, with close to 50 per cent of the aggregate assets under moratorium as of April-end, the RBI's Financial Stability Report said on Friday.

In March, the RBI had announced a moratorium on repayment of term loans till May 31. It was later extended for another three months.

"The impact of the moratorium on private NBFCs/HFCs can be substantial, with proportion of assets under the moratorium for NBFCs averaged between 39-65 per cent based on underlying assets with approximately 50 per cent of the aggregate assets under moratorium as on end April 2020," the Financial Stability Report (FSR) showed.

Based on the disclosures made by NBFCs/HFCs, the assets under moratorium are dominated by wholesale customers and real estate developers, although retail portfolios in the micro-loans and auto loan segments have also been affected, it said.

# Downside risks for FY21 significant as duration of pandemic is uncertain: RBI

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The exact duration of how long COVID-19 pandemic will last is still uncertain and resulting in significant downside risks to growth in FY21, the Reserve Bank of India said on Friday.

The RBI had earlier said the country's GDP will contract in FY21, but did not give any number on the same, even as analysts are pegging a negative growth of up to 9.5 per cent.

"For the fiscal year as a whole, there is still heightened uncertainty about the duration of the pandemic. As such, the downside risks to growth remain significant," the RBI said in the half-yearly Financial Stability Report released on Friday. A full restoration in economic activity would be contingent upon the support for robust health infrastructure, recovery in demand conditions and fixing of supply dislocations, it said. Additionally, the state of global factors like trade and financial conditions will also have a bearing on the recovery, the central bank said. "The near-term economic prospects appear severely impacted by lockdown induced disruptions to both supply and demand side factors, diminished consumer confidence and risk aversion," it noted.

# GM reviews progress of Kolkata metro projects

Kolkata: Manoj Joshi, General Manager, Metro Railway held a high-level meeting with Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. (RVNL) officials at Metro Rail Bhavan today (24.07.2020) to review the progress of different ongoing Metro Projects in the city.

In this meeting, he was briefed about the progress of works of Noapara-Dakhineswar Extension Project. Shri Joshi also took

stock of the present status of Kavi Subhash to Hemanta Mukherjee Station stretch of New Garia- Airport Metro project as well as Joka to Majerhat stretch of Joka - Esplanade Metro Project. General Manager instructed all to complete all the pending works within the stipulated time. Senior Officers of Metro Railway were also present in this meeting.



# Govt notifies new rules for e-commerce entities

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has notified new rules for e-commerce companies, including mandatory display of 'country of origin' on their products, and said any non-compliance will attract penal action.

The 'Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) Rules, 2020' were notified on Thursday. The new rules will be applicable to all electronic retailers (e-tailers) registered in India or abroad but offering goods and services to Indian consumers.

The violation of the rules will attract penal action under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019. According to the new rules, the e-commerce players will have to display the total price of goods and services offered for sale along with a break-up of other charges.

They are also required to mention the 'expiry date' of goods offered for sale and the 'country of origin' of goods and services that are necessary for enabling the consumer to make an informed decision at a

pre-purchase stage. Under the rules, e-commerce players have to display details about return, refund, exchange, warranty and guarantee, delivery and shipment, and any other information that may be required by consumers to make informed decisions.

Sellers offering goods and services through a marketplace e-commerce entity will have to provide the above details to the e-commerce entity to be displayed on its platform or website. Under the new rules, e-commerce entities should not impose "cancellation charges" on consumers cancelling orders after confirmation unless sellers are ready to pay similar charges in case cancellation of orders are from their side.

They are also not allowed to "manipulate the price" of the goods and services offered on their platforms to gain unreasonable profit and discriminate between consumers of the same class or make any arbitrary classification of consumers affecting their rights under the Act.

**MPDL Limited**  
(Formerly, Monnet Project Developers Limited)  
Registered Office: Plot No. 216, Sector-C, Ural Industrial Complex, Raipur-493221 (Chhattisgarh), Corp. Office: Monnet House, 11, Masjid Moth, Greater Kailash-II, New Delhi-110048 (INDIA) Phone: +91 11 29218542-46; Fax: +91 11 29218541 Email: isc.mpd@monnetgroup.com; Website: www.monnetgroup.com CIN-L70102CT2002PLC015040

**NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given Pursuant to Regulation 29 & 47 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulation, 2015, that a meeting of Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2020 at the corporate office of the Company, inter-alia, to consider and approve the Audited Financial Results of the Company for the Quarter and Financial year ended on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2020. This information is also available on the website of the Company ([www.monnetgroup.com](http://www.monnetgroup.com)) and on the website of the Stock Exchange ([www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com))

By order of the Board of Directors  
**MPDL Limited**  
(Formerly, Monnet Project Developers Limited)  
Anurag Singh Rathore  
Company Secretary

Dated: 24.07.2020  
Place: New Delhi

**उप प्रो आवास एवं विकास परिषद**  
अधीक्षक अभियन्ता, सप्तम वृत्त  
सैक्टर-16ए, एस्करा कॉम्प्लेक्स, गाजियाबाद  
दूरभाष सं० 0120-4133277, ई-मेल-circle7@upvap.com

पत्रांक: 2366/LA-10/193 अधिसूचना दिनांक 24.07.2020

उप प्रो आवास एवं विकास परिषद द्वारा जनपद गाजियाबाद में विकसित सिद्धार्थ विहार योजना, गाजियाबाद में सोलियड वेस्ट डिस्पोजल/मेनेजमेंट हेतु 43 एम्पलॉयडो बमता का एक सीनेज स्ट्रीटवेस्ट प्लांट स्थापित किया जाना प्रस्तावित है, जिसे मुख्य मार्ग NH-24 के बराल में योजना के अन्तर्गत 100 मी० चौड़ी हरीट पट्टी में निर्मित किये जाने का प्रस्ताव है। उक्त पर्यटकीय क्षेत्र के निर्माण के सम्बन्ध में जन-सामान्य से आपत्ति एवं सुझाव आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं। आपत्ति/सुझाव दिज्ञापि प्रकाशन के एक माह की अवधि में किये जा सकेंगे। प्राप्त आपत्ति/सुझावों पर सुनवाई (अधीक्षक अभियन्ता, सप्तम वृत्त, सैक्टर-16ए, आँफिस कॉम्प्लेक्स, गुरुचरक गाजियाबाद) निवत लिखि पर की जायेगी। अधीक्षक अभियन्ता

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
Tender Notice  
Invitation of tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement System)  
NIT No. : 116-SIAMC/TSS/ICMS Equipments/M-1/2020, Name of work and its location: "CAMC for Integrated Terminal Support System Equipments (Hardware) for Computerized Crew Management System application over Delhi division at Jakhel, Jind, Rohtak, Shakurbasti, Delhi Sarai Rohilla, Delhi Main and Meerut City Stations on various Diesel Lobbies for the period of Two years from the Date of Execution" from OEM (M/s acer only) or Authorized Dealer of M/s 'acer' only. Approx Cost of work: Rs. 14,53,200/- (Fourteen lakh Fifty Three Thousand Two Hundred only) plus GST as Applicable. Earnest Money: Rs. 29,100/- Completion period of work: Two years i.e. 24 months from the date of execution of work. Cost of tender document on cash/by post: Rs. 2360/- with GST @18%. Date and Time for submission of tender and opening of tender: Upto 15.00 hrs. on 17.08.2020 Opening of Tender at 15.00 hrs. Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen: Above Tender available on IREPS site i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) No.:116-SIAMC/TSS/ICMS Equipments/M-1/2020 Dated:23.07.2020 1621/2020

Serving Customers With A Smile

**ROAD-IV DIVISION, CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPTT.**  
NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ROOM NO. 215,  
SBS PLACE, GOLE MARKET, NEW DELHI

**e-Procurement Tender Notice**  
(2nd Call of Tender)

Name of work: Garden, Parks and Fountains.  
SH- Providing and laying EPDM flooring (Synthetic Track) with the concrete sub base for jogging track including maintenance and cleaning & washing for a period of 5 years in Nehru Park, Chanakypuri, New Delhi

Estimate Cost: Rs.3,49,16,508.00  
Tender ID No. 2020\_NDMC\_192805\_1  
Date of release of tender through e-procurement solution on 20.07.2020  
Date and time for pre-bid meeting: 24.07.2020 at 3:00 PM  
Last date/time for receipt of tenders through e-procurement 04.08.2020 upto 4:00 PM.  
Further details can be seen at <http://www.gprocurement.delhi.gov.in>  
Note: To participate in e-tender in NDMC registration with e-tendering system, Government of NCT of Delhi is mandatory.

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer (R-IV)  
N.D.M.C.

**UJVN LTD.**  
H.O.: 'UJ-JWAL', Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006  
Telephones: 0135-2763808 & Fax: 0135- 2763508  
CIN No. U40101UR2001SG025866 Web: www.uttarakhandjalvidyut.com

Letter No. 465 NOTICE INVITING TENDER Dated 24.07.2020

For and on behalf of UJVN Limited, Executive Engineer, PCM(GV), UJVN Limited, Mayapur, Haridwar invites sealed & separate tender from interested bidders. Brief summary of tender is given below-  
NIT No. - 01/2020-21/EE. PCM(GV), Mayapur, Haridwar -  
Name of work - M&R Work of Pathri Power House at Pathri for the year 2020-21  
Estimated Value of Tender :- Rs. 24,24,447.23 only.  
Date of availability of bid document on website :- 24.07.2020 from 17:00 Hrs.  
Last Date for Submission of Tender :- 14.08.2020 upto 15:30 Hrs.  
For eligibility criteria and full and further details kindly visit our web site. The tenders can be downloaded from our web site i.e. [www.uttarakhandjalvidyut.com](http://www.uttarakhandjalvidyut.com) and tender cost shall be paid at the time of submission of the tender.

"Avoid Wasteful use of Electricity"

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
E-TENDER NOTICE  
Dy. CSTE/CW/Northern Railway, DRM office, 2nd floor, New Delhi for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e-tender under Single Packet System for the following work:

Name of work	Hiring of 01 No. Pick up van Non AC Multi Utility Vehicle for two years for the work Rosa-Stipapur section under Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer (Construction)/ CW, Northern Railway, DRM office, New Delhi
Approximate cost of the work	Rs. 12.12 Lakhs
Earnest Money	Rs. 24,200/- (Rupees Twenty Four Thousand Two hundred only)
Completion period	24 (Twenty Four) months
Date, Time & Place for submission and opening of tender	Tender will be available on <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> website from 28.07.2020 to 11.30 hrs. on 21.08.2020 and will be opened on 21.08.2020 after 11.30 hrs. Tender can be uploaded from 07.08.2020 to 11.30 hrs. on 21.08.2020 and will be opened on 21.08.2020 after 11.30 hrs.
Address from where tender form can be purchased	E-Tender document cost - Nil The detailed e-tender notice and document will be available on Northern Railway web site i.e. on <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> from 28.07.2020 to 11.30 hrs. dt. 21.08.2020, bidders are advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which, they would require to, obtain class III digital certificate (if already not obtained) issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document.

No.: 178-Sig/CW/32/93 Pt-III Dt.: 24.07.2020 1630/2020

Serving Customers with a Smile

**Regional Office, Gurugram (N)**  
**Haryana State Pollution Control Board.**  
Vikas Sadan, Opposite- New Court, Gurugram  
Website: [www.hspcb.gov.in](http://www.hspcb.gov.in)  
Email: [hspcbrogn@gmail.com](mailto:hspcbrogn@gmail.com) Tel: 0124-2332775, 2220523

हरियाणा राज्य प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड को नदी यमुना निगरानी समिति के कार्यालय के लिए 500-600 वर्ग फुट काफ़्ट जगह (ढका हुआ) की आवश्यकता है जगह पूर्णतया तैयार होनी चाहिए जिसमें फर्श पर टाइल्स, टॉयलेट, व किचन और वाहन की पार्किंग के लिए जगह हो सभी आवश्यक सुविधाएँ कामकाजी परिस्थितियों में होनी चाहिए. 24 घंटे पेयजल आपूर्ति और बिजली कनेक्शन की आवश्यकता है। आवेदन को 15 दिनों के भीतर क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी, हरियाणा राज्य प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड, गुरुग्राम क्षेत्र (उत्तर) के प्रथम तल, विकास सदन गुरुग्राम में भेजा जाना चाहिए। बोर्ड आवेदन को स्वीकार या अस्वीकार करने का अधिकार रखता है।

क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय,  
हरियाणा राज्य प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड  
गुरुग्राम (उत्तर)

RO NO. 81923 Dt 24-07-2020

**AXIS BANK** Axis Bank Limited, Axis House, Tower-2, 2nd Floor, I-14, Sector-128, Noida Expressway, Jaypee Greens Wishtown, Noida (U.P.)-201301, Controlling Office: Axis House, Bombay Dyeing Compound, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli, Mumbai-400025.

**SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**  
Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the secured creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Secured Creditor will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis on 18-08-2020 on 12 Noon at Axis House, Tower-2, 2nd Floor, I-14, Sector-128 Noida Expressway, Jaypee Greens Wishtown, Noida (U.P.)-201301 for recovery of Rs.1,75,88,165.76/- due as on 28-02-2019 along with further interest as applicable, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred up to the date of actual payment and/or realization due to the secured creditor in the case M/s R K International . The reserve price will be Rs.14,50,000/- (Rupees One Crore forty five Lakh Only) and the earnest money deposit will be Rs.14,50,000/- Last Date, Time And Venue For Submission Of Bids With Sealed Offer/ Tender With EMD on 17-08-2020 at the above mentioned address.

Account Number	Location / Details of the Immovable Property/Secured Assets possessed and put for sale	Encumbrances (if any known to the Bank.
SBB Loan No- 91803001-3815854	Freehold Property Built on Residential Plot of Land Bearing No-182, 3rd Floor with roof right, Area Measuring 199.07 Sq.Yds. In Block - G. Situated in Layout of Industrial Workers Co - Operative Housing Building Society Ltd - Presently Know as Pushkar Enclave Pashim Vihar New Delhi - 110063 with Silt Parking.	NO

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in the secured creditor's website i.e. <https://www.axisbank.com/auction-notices/>

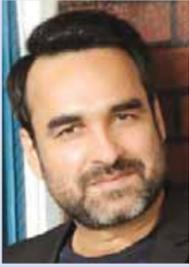
Date : 25.07.2020  
Place: Noida, UP

SD/-  
Authorised Officer,  
Axis Bank Ltd.

SHORT CIRCUITS



**VIDYA BALAN**  
I think it is very human to doubt yourself. Previously I would wallow in that self-doubt. But now with maturity, maybe even with age, you are kinder to yourself. Now, I doubt for a lesser period of time and remind myself that it's okay if I didn't do well today or I am not happy with myself. That's not the end of the world.



**PANKAJ TRIPATHI**  
As an actor, immersing yourself into a character is not just about delivering a few lines perfectly in front of the camera. An artiste is meant to understand the character's world view, their social status, demographic and impact on his emotional status, his inner complexes that stem from it, his vulnerabilities and so on.



**SANYA MALHOTRA**  
Working on *Shakuntala Devi* has been a very fulfilling experience. Being a part of such a talented cast and crew was very special, especially since this one explored a mother-daughter equation. I shared a lovely chemistry with Vidya ma'am (Balan). I also spent a lot of time with Jisshu, who plays my father in the film.



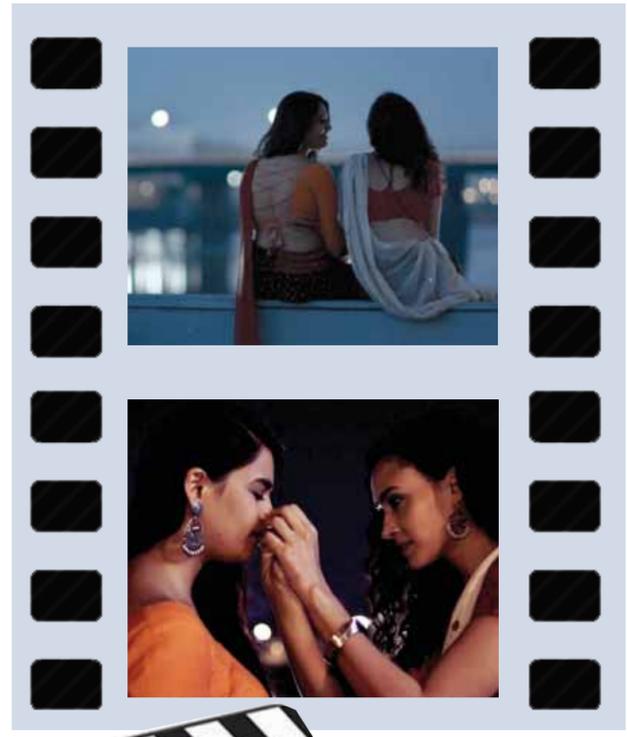
**ALI FAZAL**  
I am happy about going to work. We cannot fall prey to fear or that's the end of us as we know it. Nothing can come out of fear. We need to be smart, healthy, and simply cautious. We had dubbed a few episodes of *Mirzapur 2* before the lockdown, so we picked up mid-way. It was great to be back as this has been an unusually long break.



**KATY PERRY**  
When I write songs like *Firework* and *Roar*, it's not because I'm like "Yay," I have to really push myself into thinking in a different way. And through that push, I usually get something special.

CONVERSATION 45 MINUTES

Director AARTI NEHARSH's debut short film, *The Song We Sang*, explores the idea of choices one makes. Do we regret our decisions or consider them as transformative moments? By AYUSHI SHARMA



When two people meet in a chance encounter and instantly have a connection, we often attribute it to luck and discredit the beauty of a conscious choice leading to that epiphany. Filmmaker Aarti Neharsh's debut short film, *The Song We Sang*, produced by Green Chutney Films, explores the idea of such choices. Would you regret them or would you consider them as transformative moments? Two stranger women, Krishna and Alia (played by Serena Walia and Ayushi Gupta), meet on a festive night of *Navratri*. Romance blossoms between them as they walk the night in the lanes of Ahmedabad, exchanging mythology trivia, laughter, street food and experiences of life only to realise it could lead to more.

◆Recently, you had said, "Two women freely roaming the city, sharing a safe space in the absence of a patriarchal gaze and falling in love was something that I've longed to see on screen. This was a very instinctive thought for this love story..." What did you want to showcase through this simple yet powerful vision?

I majored in film and TV in college. One day, one of my friends, who was also studying with me, showed me some beautiful pictures that he had taken of Pune at night — the empty streets and the glaring lights. I had just bought a new DSLR then and I remember being really motivated to try my hand at street photography for the first time. So when I was in Mumbai, I took my DSLR out and decided to spend two days walking down the lanes of the city without a definitive plan, taking pictures (I had mapped out an itinerary of the locals I was going to take to make good use of my time). But when I actually got down to doing so, I didn't find it as fulfilling and liberating as I had hoped it to be. I found myself looking back every five minutes, pulling down my shirt every time I bent to take a photograph, avoiding dark lanes and quiet corners and prioritising my safety over a good shot. It resonated deeply with an American poet and novelist Sylvia Plath's words: "Yes, my consuming desire is to mingle with road crews, sailors and soldiers, bar-room regulars — to be a part of a scene, anonymous, listening, recording — all this is spoiled by the fact that I am a girl, a female always supposedly in danger of assault and battery. My consuming interest in men and their lives is often misconstrued as a desire to seduce them or as an invitation to intimacy. Yes, God, I want to talk to everybody as deeply as I can. I want to be able to sleep in an open field, to travel West, to walk freely at night..."

In this film, I tried showing an ideal version of this reality — one where the city is a safe space for love, a dreamworld (which hopefully becomes a reality) where two women can immerse themselves in their conversations and just enjoy their night the way they wish to.

◆You said that while writing the film, your co-writer Chintan Bhatt and you were conscious of the nuances of the genre. How did you rein everything in?

Conversational films were always something that both Chintan and I have been drawn towards, especially when it comes to love stories. We've been huge fans of films where dialogue has led the way for two people to come together. To do justice to this genre, it was important that we understood the heart of the film. The chemistry between Krishna and Alia was always central and we approached every conversation, trying to make sure that they seem both magical and believable at the same time. This set-up of a first-meet romance automatically gave us a structure that we could play with-

in — one where they go from awkward silences, getting to know each other to gradually stripping down their guards and becoming vulnerable. We used elements like stories, anecdotes as well as some powerful songs in their conversations such as 'Kai Baar Yuhi Dekha Hai' from *Rajinigandha* and 'Na Jaane Kyun' from *Chhori Si Baat* to give a warm and nostalgic mood to it. Also, people have commented on how this was an ode to Basu Chatterjee's films. I want to take this moment to mention that this was actually a homage to

the stunning Vidya Sinha who played the female lead in both the above-mentioned films. She, unfortunately, passed away last year while we were making this film.

◆Keeping in mind the mood and the cultural backdrop that form the texture of the film, how does the *Navratri* backdrop connect with the storyline?

Having my roots in Ahmedabad, *Navratri* has always been that time of the year when this otherwise stiff city loosens up a little and comes to life. I was never a good dancer and so I was usually more drawn to what happened outside the loud *garba* grounds. People like me are usually out on the streets, laughing, flirting and eating without any time-bound commitments. There is a sense of liberation during these nine nights of the festival (very much contrary to the celebration of the unflawed "divine feminine" that *Navratri* originally stands for). Considering this film is about an instant connection between two women and a night of romance, this cultural set-up fit really well. Also, I am a sucker for pretty *ghaghras* so maybe that might have subconsciously played a role.

◆Do you think films around the queer community still provoke debates and controversies despite attempts to normalise conversations?

I am a huge fan of conversational films, especially when it comes to love stories. But I wouldn't say I chose a topic to tell this story. It stemmed more from choosing a genre that I was keen on exploring as my first film. I don't think that creative endeavours are always driven by thoughts like what ignites controversy and what doesn't. Of course, there is the politics of the film, which is pretty apparent in what the story is and how it is told. But I think ultimately, for me and my team, this was an honest attempt to explore a love story in a world that was closer to ours. It was an initiative to bring something fresh on screen by exploring our understanding of the craft of filmmaking.

Having said that, it was a conscious choice to show a queer love story, normalising the relationship by not contrasting their love with any external backlash. The protagonists are not seeking societal approvals or trying to convince the world of their sexual orientation, but are unapologetically walking the city and just breathing in the night of romance and comfort.

◆Chance encounters have been a common leitmotif in films. What was your approach while exploring this idea?

Both Krishna and Alia have lived very different pasts. The fears that they hold today, their hopes and desires, to a large extent, have been shaped by the choices they have made so far. We are after all a product of our choices — be it conscious ones or even the ones that might have seemed inconsequential at the moment. These two characters are never passive receivers of their surroundings but are constantly making choices. Their decision to ditch the *garba* event and choosing to roam the streets with each other is in itself a way of making them responsible for this time together. I believe that is what makes the night even more special and romantic. Besides this, there are also certain choices they might not be aware of, which have led them here. We have tried to explore those possibilities not just in the narrative of the film but also in its structure.

◆Since it is a short film, exploring the warmth of an instant connection, heartbreak and choices, how do you

think they make an impact on the masses?

When has duration not been a problem? (chuckles) The best reactions we have gotten on the film so far have been that it has made them feel something — be it warmth of an instant connection or a heartbreak that made their eyes moist. Like I mentioned, while writing and even while editing the film, our one truth was the chemistry between Krishna and Alia. From writing every conversation that leads to something bigger to maintaining the pace and rhythm of the story, choosing small moments, glances, reactions in the edit — everything was choreographed keeping in mind the one aim to make these two characters and the energy they share come alive. It was actually interesting to not have my editor (also the co-producer of the film), Manan Bhatt on set and also, to have him step in creatively only when the film was at its post-production stage. This helped in giving it a fresh and unbiased perspective in the edit — something that is always the hardest for a director because you are just so attached with every good moment captured that you just don't want to let them go! So to pull all of it off in 20 minutes was definitely a challenge but a fun one.

◆How do think the streaming platforms can impact the short film space?

Streaming platforms can hugely impact the short film space as I think short films are where the next crop of cinematic storytellers will emerge. And just how streaming platforms are now relieving feature films of various limitations, dependencies and length boundations, they can really help budding production houses by providing them a financially-viable model for short films. This will also allow young and independent filmmakers to focus on the craft itself.

Being a debut film for me and my team, it has been challenging because such a model for short films is unfortunately still close to absent but I am very hopeful that it will improve in the coming years with OTTs and so many streaming options.

◆Such an issue might not find a place in the mainstream cinema. How do you think short films are the right medium to present such ironies to the audience?

I humbly disagree to the claim that such films might not find a place in the mainstream cinema. I believe and hope that our understanding of mainstream cinema itself will evolve with the advent of not just new-age filmmakers but with a healthier competition between platforms and theatrical releases. Our country has so many different pockets of people with such varied stories to tell. It is a matter of time that with the tremendous exposure to world cinema and foreign content, which is accessible so easily now, there will be a surge of demand for feature films which are unique on our shores as well.

Having said that, like I mentioned, the short-film space is an important avenue that needs an equally strong model to sustain, especially considering the digital age and the changing needs and modes of watching films.

◆Were there any stereotypes that you had to hear?

Stereotypes exist in every field and in everything that one does. Isn't it? But I think identifying those stereotypes presents an opportunity to pave something unique. It is important that we realise that stereotypes are not norms but are meant to be identified rightly and broken. One way of doing that is by creating something that challenges that thought.

(The film will have its India Premiere at 11th edition of *Kashish Mumbai International Queer Film Festival*.)

TRIBUTE 15 MINUTES

End of an era

Renowned Indian danseuse AMALA SHANKAR was a great practitioner of experimental and modern Indian dance. She continues to inspire a young breed of innovators



Born in Jashore in 1919 as Amala Nandi, noted Indian danseuse Amala Shankar died on Friday at the age of 101. She was suffering from age-related issues, family sources said. Wife of legendary dancer and choreographer Uday Shankar, she was a great practitioner of experimental and modern Indian dance. In 1939, when she was with a dance group in Chennai, one night Uday came to Amala and proposed her for marriage. They were married in 1942 and had two children — Ananda, who went on to

become a reputed composer and dancer, and daughter Mamata, who is also an actor and dancer.

A sister-in-law of late musician and composer Ravi Shankar who died in 2012, she was the mother of the late musician Ananda Shankar and actor Mamata Shankar.

"Today, my *thamma* (grandmother) left us at the age of 101. We just celebrated her birthday last month (June). Feeling so restless that there is no flight from Mumbai to Kolkata. Heartbroken. May her soul rest in peace. This is the end

of an era. Love you *thamma*. Thank you for everything," her granddaughter Sreenanda Shankar tweeted.

She also played the lead role along with Uday in *Kalpana* (1948), a film by Uday about a young dancer's dreams of setting up a dance academy, a reflection of Shankar's own academy, which he founded at Almora. It was the first film to present an Indian classical dancer in the leading role, and was entirely shot as a dance ballet and a fantasy.

She also graced the red carpet at the Cannes Film Festival.

In 1991, Amala was conferred the Padma Bhushan. She won many other recognitions and prestigious awards for her extraordinary feat in the field of dancing. She was also awarded Banga Vibhushan by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in 2011 for her contributions to the art. Expressing her condolences, CM Mamata said her demise is an irreparable damage to the world of dance. —With inputs from agencies

**ENCOUNTER 45 MINUTES**

# EQUAL AND OPPOSITE

Actor CATE BLANCHETT describes how playing Phyllis Schlafly in *Mrs America* was more than just a character for her as she resonated with her personal struggles and notions of feminism. By TEAM VIVA

**Q Tell us a little about Mrs America, the story of the feminist movement. How did you get involved?**

It is actually about the drive to ratify the ERA and the second-wave feminism. It's about the equal and opposite women's movement, which was the movement of the traditional homemakers, who felt marginalised by the feminist movement. They felt threatened by the notion of equality. And for me, that was the point of wanting to play Phyllis Schlafly, who, at base value, seems so opposite to me and yet there was so much lot in common. I wanted to know what was so terrifying for her about the notion of equality.

**Q You played a woman from your mother's generation. Did you speak to her about it?**

When I was growing up, I identified as a feminist in the backlash. So during my childhood, feminists were those who were men-hating and anti-family. But I thought that all feminism means to me is equality. Yet my mother who had come out of that era, even though she was a single, working parent, didn't identify as a feminist in the sense that I described. But of course, she would now. So it was a very interesting conversation to have with her and particularly because I grew up with my grandmother. There were a lot of different feelings about what a woman's role was, which has always been fascinating to me.

**Q While playing the role of Phyllis Schlafly, was it daunting to play a real life person or a historical figure?**

There's another trait that I share with Phyllis Schlafly and that is that I am quite bossy and opinionated. I also feel that I kind of share a strong work ethic with her. And I love a challenge. To answer this



**'I've always identified as a feminist but I was also a part of the anti-wave in the mid-80s and during the 90s. Feminism was a dirty word at the time. Being a feminist meant that you were anti-family and that is just an anathema to me. I think feminism, at its base, is all about equality, which in itself is powerful'**

question, yes it was absolutely daunting. And this is for a couple of reasons — she is not as well-known as Gloria Steinem, played by Rose Byrne who is brilliant by the way.

But to play Phyllis, it was fleshing out somebody who had such a particular and polarising national identity. It was about having to look behind and beyond that without any sense of judgement or pre-supposing what she truly thought inside!

**Q A lot of powerful women are playing powerful women. How**

**was the atmosphere like on the set?**

Loud, noisy but absolutely fun.

**Q How do you see the current wave of feminism? How was it working with women directors on Mrs America?**

I've always identified as a feminist but I was also a part of the anti-wave in the mid-80s and during the 90s. Feminism was a dirty word at the time. The conversation that was going around in the 70s continued negatively even in the 80s and 90s. Being a feminist meant that you

were anti-family and that is just an anathema to me. I think feminism, at its base, is all about equality, which in itself is powerful. It also means that someone who is holding all the power has to share, which is fearful for many. True power is about self-respect and respect for others. I think if we survive into the next century, it will be hugely about collaboration. It will involve deep listening, doubt and humility. Women who I greatly admire, who've done extraordinary things across industries, I'll ask them a question hoping that they're going to solve the problem and they take the time and have the courage to say 'I don't know, what do you think?' So suddenly, you're in dialogue. Real power is bringing up other people with you and women are by and large great

in doing that. I am really excited about the generations who are coming up. It feels now like there are a lot of growing examples of women who are finding their own voice and have a more secure and broader platform to be seen by audiences.

Alma Harle's work was amazing in *Honey Boy*, and Mariel Heller and Claire Denis — all of these people's work was so fascinating. I am working on *Stateless* and finally got to work with the wonderful Jocelyn Morehouse and Emma Freeman who are great TV directors. And apart from Ryan Fleck, all of the directors on *Mrs America* were women. Which is incredible!

**Q In the film, I'm Not There, you played Bob Dylan. How do you access or inhabit characters that you play, particularly those who are based on a real person?**

For that film, Todd Haynes had approached me. And he is a quintessential director. He came with a huge mood board and a playlist to help me understand the cinematic endeavour and how I could fit into it.

However, I had a very strange time and it was quite close to a panic attack. I was almost not going to do the film because I was in the middle of playing Elizabeth I. I knew I had to lose quite a lot of weight for playing Dylan. I was a bit out of my head. And I remember one Saturday morning, walking off the set of *The Golden Age*, I flew with my kids and husband to Montreal to film the Bob Dylan and felt 'I can do this'. So every lunchtime, I was going through the outtakes from the Pennebaker documentary to try and understand his energy. So it was quite obsessive and I became obsessed with him in a lot of ways.

(The nine-episode mini-series airs on Star World on July 25 and 26 at 7 pm.)

**STUDIO CHAT 30 MINUTES**

## On a lighter note

Actors JASON BATEMAN and JENNIFER ANISTON enjoyed working with director SETH GORDON for their film *Horrible Bosses* due to his good leadership and the ability to bring everything in perfect synchronisation on the sets. By TEAM VIVA



**Nick Hendricks?**  
Jason: Nick's boss wouldn't do anything to him outrightly. He's just very dominating, he

doesn't give him the promotion that he deserved. He basically appoints himself into that position. I think it's an aggregate of dominating, emasculating and relevant stuff and Nick was too done with it.

He is even seen hanging out

with two guys and they want to get a little proactive with their frustration. But that's not something Nick usually does. So he got swept up in this and things started began unfolding in front of them in a way that they couldn't put it back.

**Q How was it working with Seth Gordon?**

Jason: Seth is a very nice person. As boring as it may sound, but it's so important on a set, specially on a comedy set, for things to be light. You want to feel safe there because comedy is somewhat making a fool of yourself and you get a lot of laughs if you do not pull your pants down. So, you want to feel safe to make dumb ideas, say and do dumb things and Seth keeps the set very nice. There is no yelling, he is a great leader, a kind man and happens to be really talented. I've loved every day of it.

**Jennifer Aniston:** Seth was just in hysterics the whole time. He would finish the take and used to be so happy. We were all just in a perfect sync. If anything, we were all

like 'let's take it a little farther. What attracted you to the role of Dr Julia Harris?'

**Jennifer:** I've never been asked to do that sort of incredibly raunchy and inexcusable character. I read it and just jumped at it immediately. I had no fear of the dialogue or the situation, I just thought it will be fun.

**Q Tell us about this film?**

**Jennifer:** Almost every scene is crazy in the film. There was not a single scene where I felt it was a little odd. Though, I felt bad for Charlie Day as we met and in just 20 minutes we were straddling him in lingerie.

**Q How was it being a part of this ensemble comedy?**

**Jennifer:** I've always loved being part of an ensemble. That's the stuff I'm really excited to do, playing such different characters. How fun for an actor is to have a day plan with Jb Fox or Julie Bowen, Charlie and Sudeikis. It was great.

(The film premieres on Sony PIX on July 26 at 1 pm.)

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male **Name:** Unknown, **S/O:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** about 30 years, **Height:** 5' 5", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Oval, **Built:** Strong, **Wearing:** Black colour check shirt and red colour lower pant, who was found at Vacant Ground, Near SB Dairy, Bus Stand, Delhi. In this regard a case **DD No. 79A U/S 174 Cr. PC Dated 18.07.2020 has been registered at P.S. SB Dairy, Delhi.**



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

**Sd/- SHO**  
**DP/378/ON/2020(UIDB)** **P.S. SB Dairy, Delhi**  
**Tel.: 011-27821047**

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**

**See Section 82 Cr. P.C.**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Pankaj S/o Kharundas R/o H.No. 4492/11, Jai Mata Market, Trinagar, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence under case **FIR No. 220/20 U/S 376 IPC & 6 PCOSO**, has been registered at **P.S. Keshav Puram, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said **Pankaj S/o Kharundas** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said, **Pankaj S/o Kharundas** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Pankaj S/o Kharundas FIR No. 220/20 U/S 376 IPC & 6 PCOSO**, required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 29.07.2020

**By Order,**  
**DP/188/NW/2020-** **Sh. Bhupinder Singh, ASJ**  
**Court matter** **Rohini Court, Delhi**

**SEARCH FOR MISSING**



General Public is hereby informed that one man namely **Varun Jha S/o Mahesh Jha R/o B-7/3, Gali No. 7, Dayalpur, Delhi. Age About 40 Years, Height 5'6" Face Oval, Built: Thin, Complexion- Sallow, Wearing: Brown Coloured Shirt, Blue Colour Jeans & Shoes in Feet** has been missing from **Gandhi Nagar Market, Delhi** since 10.07.2020. In this regard a vide **DD No. 22-A dated 11.07.2020 at PS Gandhi Nagar, New Delhi** Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the man but no clue has come to light so far, if any one having any information about this man please inform undersigned.

Web-site <http://cbi.nic.in>  
E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) **SHO**  
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 **P.S. Gandhi Nagar, Delhi**  
Fax.: 011-24368639 **Ph. 011-22072761**  
**DP/137/SHD/2020** **22082235**

**RATHI BARS LIMITED**  
Regd. Office : A-24/7, Mohan Co-operative Industrial Estate, Mathura Road, New Delhi-110044  
Ph.: +91-11-43165400, Fax : +91-11- 40597117  
Web: www.rathisteels.com, E-mail : rathibars@hotmail.com  
CIN No: L74899DL1993PLC054781

**NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosures Requirements) Regulations, 2015, that the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Friday, the 31st day of July, 2020, at 4.00 P.M., inter alia, to consider and approve the Standalone Audited Financial Results of the Company for the year / quarter ended 31st March, 2020.  
This notice is available on the Company's website at [www.rathisteels.com](http://www.rathisteels.com) and also on the website of the stock exchange at [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com).  
For Rathi Bars Limited  
**Sd/-**  
**Kamlesh Kumar Rathi**  
Managing Director  
Place : New Delhi  
Date : 24-07-2020

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**TENDER NOTICE**  
Invitation of tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)  
Nit No. 221-S/4/2/AMC/HRD-Holmatro/SPARMV/DLI/ML-IV  
Name of work and its location: Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of Hydraulic Rescue Device One Set (HRD) of Accident Relief train for the period of Five Years (Make: Holmatro) from OEM or Authorised Dealer only.  
Approximate Estimate cost: ₹10,75,000/- (Rs. Ten Lakh Seventy Five Thousand only) plus GST as applicable.  
Earnest Money: Exempted for OEM and Authorised Dealer Only  
Completion period of work: Five years i.e. 60 months from the date of execution of work.  
Cost of tender document on cash/by post: ₹2,360/- with GST @18%  
Date and Time for submission of tender: Upto 15:00 hrs. on 17.08.2020 and opening of tender: Opening of Tender at 15:00 hrs.  
Website particulars notice board location: Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in complete details of tender can be seen  
No. 221-S/4/2/AMC/HRD-Holmatro/SPARMV/DLI/ML-IV Dated: 23.07.2020  
**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE** 1620/20

**MEYER APPAREL LIMITED**  
CIN:L18101HR1993PLC032010  
Regd. Office : 412, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Orient Bostech Business Tower, Sector-34, Khandsa, Gurugram-122004 (Haryana), India  
Tel. : 91-9953696916, E-mail: [info@meyerapparel.com](mailto:info@meyerapparel.com), Website: [www.meyerapparel.com](http://www.meyerapparel.com)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**27<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD THROUGH VIDEO CONFERRING FACILITY**

- The Shareholders of Meyer Apparel Limited ("the Company") may kindly note that the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Company will be held through the video conferencing facility on Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2020 at 11.30 IST in compliance with the General Circular Numbers 20/2020, 17/2020, 14/2020 and all other applicable laws and circulars issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), Government of India and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), to transact the business that will be set forth in the Notice of the AGM.
- In compliance with the circulars, electronic copies of the Notice of the AGM and Annual Report for financial year 2019-20 will be sent to all the shareholders whose email addresses are registered with the Company's Registrar and Share Transfer Agent (RTA) and Depository participants. Shareholders holding shares in dematerialized mode, are requested to register their email addresses and mobile numbers with their relevant depositories through their depository participants. Shareholders holding shares in physical mode are requested to furnish their email addresses and mobile numbers with the Company's Registrar and Share Transfer Agent : M/s Skyline Financial Services Private Limited at [admin@skylinerfa.com](mailto:admin@skylinerfa.com). The notice of the 27<sup>th</sup> AGM and Annual report for financial year 2020 will also be made available on the Company's website, at [www.meyerapparel.com](http://www.meyerapparel.com), BSE Limited website and on NSDL's website: <https://www.evoting.nsdl.com/>.
- Shareholders will have an opportunity to cast their vote remotely on the business as set forth in the Notice of the AGM through electronic voting system (E-Voting) from 6<sup>th</sup> September to 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2020. The manner of voting remotely for shareholders holding shares in dematerialized mode, physical mode and for shareholders who have not registered their email addresses will be provided in the Notice to the shareholders. The details will also be made available on the website of the Company. Shareholders are requested to visit [www.meyerapparel.com](http://www.meyerapparel.com) to obtain such results.
- The 27<sup>th</sup> AGM Notice will be sent to the shareholders in accordance with the applicable laws on the registered email addresses in due course.

For Meyer Apparel Limited  
**Sd/-**  
**R. K. Sharma**  
CFO & Company Secretary  
Dated : 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2020  
Place : Gurugram (Haryana)

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)**

Name of work with its location	Development of Green Patches landscaping and other Horticulture in the section of SSE/W/HNZM under DEN-W-II for a period of 3 years.
Approx. Cost of work	Rs.5871144/-
Earnest Money	(It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. Note: FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no 2015/CE-I/CT/5/1 dated : 31.08.2016) Rs.117400/-
Cost of tender	(It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. Note: FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no 2015/CE-I/CT/5/1 dated : 31.08.2016) Rs.5900/-
Date and time for Submission of tender and opening of tender	Upto 15:00 hrs on 21.08.2020 Opening of tender at 15:00 hrs. On 21.08.2020
Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

128-W/280/e Tender Notice/NIT-10-2020-21/Works Dated : 24.07.2020  
1631/2020  
Serving Customers With A Smile

**UJVN Limited**  
H.O. : "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006  
Telephone: 0135-2763808, Fax No.: 0135-2763508  
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: [www.ujvn.com](http://www.ujvn.com)

**Tender Notice**  
Office of the Executive Engineer (Civil-Maintenance), Yamuna Bhawan, Yamuna Colony, Dehradun, invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below :  
Tender No. 03/EE(C-M)/DDN/2020-21  
Name of work: Cleaning and Upkeep (General Cleaning & Sweeping etc.) of Residences of UJVN Limited at Yamuna Colony, Dehradun.  
Estimated cost : Rs.15,71,155.00 (GST Extra).  
Date of availability of bid document on website : From 17:00 hrs. of 25<sup>th</sup> July 2020.  
Last date for submission of tender : Up to 17:00 hrs. of 17<sup>th</sup> August 2020  
For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "www.ujvn.com"  
**Executive Engineer (Civil-Maint.), Dehradun**  
462UJVN/Adv1 Dated 24-07-2020  
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

# IPL SET TO START ON SEPT 19

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The eagerly-awaited Indian Premier League will start on September 19 in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with the final slated on November 8, IPL Chairman Brijesh Patel told PTI on Friday.

While the event's Governing Council will meet next week to chalk out the final details and approve the schedule, it is understood that the BCCI has informally intimated the franchisees about the plan.

"The GC will meet shortly but we have finalised the schedule. It will run from September 19 to November 8. We expect the government approval to come through. It is a full 51-day IPL,"

Patel confirmed the development after PTI reported the dates on Thursday.

The IPL has been made possible by the ICC's decision to postpone the October-November T20 World Cup in Australia owing to the COVID-19 pandemic due to which the host country expressed its inability to conduct the event.

Patel said that the Standard Operating Procedure to combat the COVID-19 threat is being prepared and the BCCI will formally write to the Emirates Cricket Board.

"We are making the SOP and it will be ready in a few days. To allow crowd or not depends on the UAE government. Anyway social distancing has to be maintained. We have left it for their govern-

ment to decide on that. Will also be writing to the UAE board formally," Patel said.

There are three grounds available in the UAE -- Dubai International Stadium, Sheikh Zayed Stadium (Abu Dhabi) and the Sharjah ground.

It is learnt that the BCCI will be renting the grounds of the ICC Academy for training of the teams.

The ICC Academy has two full-sized cricket grounds along with 38 turf pitches, 6 indoor pitches, a 5700 square foot outdoor conditioning area along with physiotherapy and medicine centre.

As per the current health protocol in Dubai, there is no need to be in quarantine if people are carrying a negative COVID-19 test report, but if they are not, they will

have to undergo a test.

While there was speculation that the IPL will start from September 26, the BCCI decided to advance it by a week in order to ensure that the Indian team's tour of Australia is not jeopardised.

"The Indian team will have a mandatory quarantine of 14 days as per the Australian government rules. A delay would have sent the plans haywire," a BCCI official said on conditions of anonymity.

"The best part is that 51 days is not at all a curtailed period and broadcasters will be happy with full seven-week window," he added.

While the original schedule had five double-headers, Patel said the new one will feature around 12 double-headers which means two matches each on both Saturdays

and Sundays.

The Indians are set to play a four-match Test series against Australia starting December 3 in Brisbane after the IPL.

It is expected that with each and every team needing at least a month's time to train, the IPL franchisees will be leaving base by August 20 which gives them exactly four weeks time to prepare.

The cash-rich event was originally scheduled to start at the end of March but the COVID-19 pandemic and the travel restrictions that were put in place to contain the virus, led to an indefinite postponement.

However, BCCI President Sourav Ganguly had always maintained that the event will be held some time this year.



# POPE, BUTTLER KEEP WI AT BAY

AP ■ MANCHESTER

Ollie Pope and Jos Buttler made their first big scores of the series in putting on an unbeaten stand of 136 runs to rebuild England's innings against the West Indies and put the hosts on top on day one of the deciding Test at Old Trafford on Friday.

England recovered from 122-4 just before tea to close on 258-4, with Pope on 91 as he goes in search of his second Test century and Buttler on 56.

Both players were under pressure to deliver in the third test after underwhelming performances so far in this series. Buttler, in particular, is feeling the heat from Ben Foakes for the wicketkeeper position and a first half-century in tests since September justified the selectors' backing of the limited-overs specialist.

Buttler smashed recalled spinner Rahkeem Cornwall for two sixes in the same over - one over deep mid-wicket and the other over long-on - but otherwise stayed measured and largely restrained in a 120-ball knock. His one and only test century came two years ago against India.

Pope, whose highest score in this series was 12, compiled his runs quicker - a rarity for a batsman alongside Buttler - and struck 11 fours before bad light stopped play for the day about 10 minutes before the scheduled end in Manchester.

Before Pope and Buttler came together, the wisdom of England deploying a truncated batting lineup and including four fast bowlers along with a spinner was being



questioned. Dom Sibley (0) departed off the sixth ball of the day after playing across Kumar Roach and getting trapped lbw, and captain Joe Root, attempting a quick single, was run out by Roston Chase's direct throw

for 17 just before lunch. When Ben Stokes - promoted to No. 4 and playing as a specialist batsman - was bowled through the gate by Roach for 20, England was 92-3 and its batting lineup was suddenly looking wafer thin.

Rory Burns (57) then edged Chase to slip, where the burly Cornwall took a brilliant, instinctive one-handed catch. England responded well, though, and moved into a strong position to win a series that is poised at 1-1.

The Windies, who won the first test in Southampton, are looking to capture a Test series in England for the first time since 1988. Roach has 2-56 off 18.4 overs, and needs one more wicket for 200 in Tests.

# 'I don't mind getting hurt, just don't want to get out'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The lesson of "forward press against fast bowlers" from Sachin Tendulkar and a tip from head coach Ravi Shastri to stand outside the crease led to his transformation as a prolific Test batsman after a disastrous England tour in 2014, feels India captain Virat Kohli.

Kohli had a nightmare of an England tour where he failed in 10 successive innings but came back later in the year against Australia scoring four tons in four games, including two in Adelaide.

In a chat with Mayank Agarwal for 'bcci.Tv', the Indian skipper decoded his technical changes post that England tour.

"The 2014 (tour) will be a milestone in my career. Lot of people take good tours as a milestone in their careers but for me 2014 will be a milestone," Kohli told Agarwal in the show 'Open Nets with Mayank'.

"I came back from England and spoke to Sachin Paaji and had a few sessions with him in Mumbai. I told him that I am working on my hip position. He made me realise the importance of big stride, a forward press against fast bowlers," Kohli explained.

"The moment I started doing that with my hip alignment, things started falling in place nicely and then the Australia tour happened," he said Kohli.

He explained what went wrong in England and how he realised it.

"My hip position was an issue during that England tour. It was basically not adjusting to the conditions and doing what I wanted to do. So being rigid doesn't take you anywhere. It was a long and painful realization but I realized it," he said.

The opening of hip limited his shot making ability, Kohli realized.

"One thing stood out, right hip opens or closes too much you now you are in trouble. Keep that hip position nice and

side-on and balanced so that you can play through both off side and leg side with equal control is very very important," he said.

Anderson was taking him out mainly with outgoing deliveries.

"I was too worried thinking about the ball that might come in. I was opening up a bit too early so the ball that was going away I was getting out to it every time. I just couldn't get past that confusion," he admitted.

However with the tweak in technique also came a tweak in his stance, which was suggested by Shastri (Team Director in 2014-15) just before the start of 2014-15 Australia tour and the rest is history.

"He (Shastri) told me one thing, to stand outside the crease. He explained the mindset behind it. 'You should be in control of the space you are playing in and not giving opportunities to the bowler to get you out'."

Shastri also explained the logic that by standing outside the crease, so many dismissals get taken out.

"So I started practising that the same year and results were unbelievable."

He also credited former India coach Duncan Fletcher, someone with vast knowledge about batting.

"I made my stance bigger after a conversation with Duncan Fletcher, who has an amazing understanding of the game. He only asked one question, 'Will I be able to play the short ball with a forward press and that base (widened stance)'. I said I can."

There was another interesting little chat with Shastri which was an example of Kohli's determination.

"Ravi bhai asked me that if I was scared of short ball," Kohli laughed.

"I said I am not scared and I don't mind getting hurt but I don't want to get out," the India skipper added.



# Azam one of the best players in the world: Tahir

IAANS ■ LAHORE

Veteran South Africa spinner Imran Tahir heaped praise on Pakistan white-ball skipper Babar Azam and referred to him as one of the best in the world.

Over the years, Azam has been one of the most consistent Pakistan batsmen across formats. He holds the top spot in ICC rankings for batsmen in T20Is, third spot in ODI and sixth in Tests.

Tahir also lauded Azam's leadership skills and stated he is perfect for young Pakistan cricketers to follow.

"The current team led by Babar Azam is very young and I wish him all the best because I believe he is one of the best players in the world today," Tahir was quoted as saying by Cricket Pakistan.

"He is surrounded by youngsters. Young players put a lot of effort into the game. My experience tells me that they will do well in the future but at the same time they should be prepared to not give up if they lose some games," he added.

# Juve loses 2-1 at Udinese

AP ■ MILAN

Juventus missed a chance to clinch a record-extending ninth straight Italian league title as it lost 2-1 at relegation-threatened Udinese.

Ilija Nestorovski canceled out Matthijs de Ligt's opener and Seko Fofana grabbed the winner in second-half stoppage time to keep Juve's celebrations on ice.

"We lost order, even after the draw, because we wanted to win at all costs," Juventus coach Maurizio Sarri said.

"In this way we took the game to a dangerous level, and after the 90th minute, we lost it."

Juventus remained six points clear of second-place Atalanta and can secure the title with a win over Sampdoria on Sunday.

It could even be crowned earlier, if Atalanta loses at AC Milan on Friday and Inter fails to win at Genoa on Saturday.

"In this period we are physically



and mentally tired, and it is a problem common to all," Sarri said. "For this reason, being aggressive is something more tiring and, therefore, now what matters most is order ... It is difficult to keep it throughout

World Cup is scheduled to be played in New Zealand from February 6 to March 7 next year.

Healy's remark is significant as she is one of the top female cricketers of not only Australia but the world.

Eyre wondered why it's so difficult for the women's team to tour England even as the BCCI plans to go ahead with the rescheduled IPL in the United Arab Emirates.

His tweet read, "Why is it harder to send the Indian national women's team to England than it is to send the entire IPL to the UAE?"

A challenging tour of England would have helped immensely in the Indian team's preparations for the World Cup, reckoned a few from the cricket community after the cancellation.

The ICC Women's

# 'Archer brings that X-Factor which every team needs'

PTI ■ LONDON

Former West Indies T20 skipper Carlos Brathwaite feels England pacer Jofra Archer is the "do-it-my-way" type of player which every team needs and also has the potential to be a future leader of the side.

The 25-year-old Archer was included in the England team for the third Test after being dropped from the second game for breaching the side's COVID-19 bio-secure protocol. He apologised for his action of visiting his home while the team was in a bio-secure

environment. "There is the traditional English way of doing it by the book, but all good teams need the X-Factor. I think he (Archer) brings that X-Factor and I thought Kevin Pietersen brought that X-Factor," Brathwaite told BBC Sport.

"While you're hoping that the majority of the team are 75 per cent consistent and they do everything by the book - they are always early, they eat right, they do this and they do that - you do need that rogue."

"I am not saying that he (Archer) is that, but every team needs

that rogue, that X-Factor, that doesn't play by the rules of the book and 'do it my way' type of character."

Brathwaite cited the example of star all-rounder Ben Stokes, who has courted trouble in the past but emerged as one of the most consistent performers for England in the last two years. He also led the England team in the first Test in the absence of Joe Root.

Brathwaite sees a leader in Archer and wants England to support him in discovering his leadership qualities so that he can serve English cricket for a long time.

"If you think about it, Stokes not so long ago, was seen as that type of character. Now he's seen as a leader," Brathwaite said.

# 'Need constant monitoring to find Sunil's successor'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian football team assistant coach IShanmugam Venkatesh feels constant monitoring and exposure could help in finding a worthy successor for talisman Sunil Chhetri who continues to dazzle with his incredible game.

At 35 and after over 15 glorious years of international football, Chhetri remains the mainstay of the national team, regularly finding the back of the net while creating chances for players that look up to him.

Venkatesh, a former India captain himself, said Chhetri is one of the few top footballers comfortable with both left and right foot.

"We played together and Sunil has played under my captaincy. His beauty is that he is comfortable with both feet. That I saw after a long time," Venkatesh said during an All Indian Football Federation (AIFF) Instagram Live

session. "He works so hard, he is not only a great scorer but can also create chances, and can play in three positions," he added.

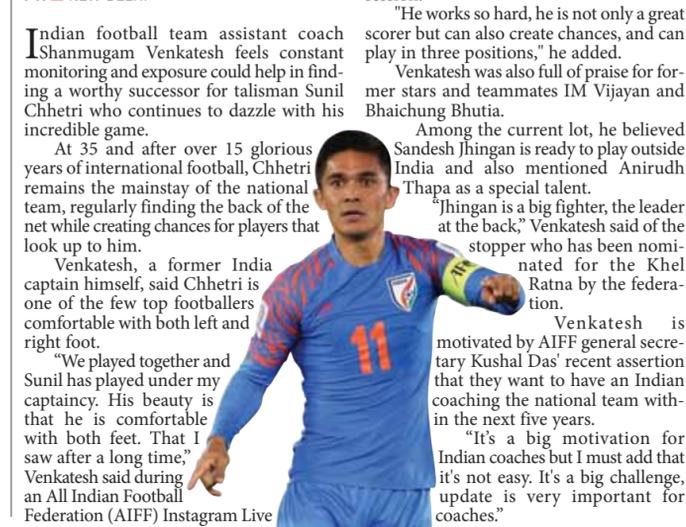
Venkatesh was also full of praise for former stars and teammates IM Vijayan and Bhaichung Bhutia.

Among the current lot, he believed Sandesh Jhingan is ready to play outside India and also mentioned Anirudh Thapa as a special talent.

"Jhingan is a big fighter, the leader at the back," Venkatesh said of the stopper who has been nominated for the Khel Ratna by the federation.

Venkatesh is motivated by AIFF general secretary Kushal Das' recent assertion that they want to have an Indian coaching the national team within the next five years.

"It's a big motivation for Indian coaches but I must add that it's not easy. It's a big challenge, update is very important for coaches."



# 'Great opportunity for Ind hockey to repeat history at Tokyo'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The last time the Olympics happened in Tokyo, Harbinder Singh realised his dream of winning a gold and the former Indian hockey center-forward is hoping that Manpreet Singh and his men will recreate history when the Japanese city hosts the Games next year.

Indian hockey has a rich history in the Olympics, having won an unprecedented eight Gold medals, besides one Silver and two Bronze medals.

But India's last success at the quadrennial event came 40 years ago in the 1980 Moscow Olympics, where they won the last of their eight Gold medals.

Singh, who also won bronze medals at the 1968 Mexico games and the 1972 Munich Games apart from the coveted gold at the 1964 Games, said next year's Olympics is an opportunity for the Indian team to again achieve the highest honour. "Now after more than half a century, the Olympics is again taking place in Tokyo where I saw my dream come true with the Indian Team winning the Gold Medal," the 77-year-old wrote in a column for Hockey India (HI). "I feel it would be a great opportunity for our team to repeat this history in the same place by winning a Gold Medal and make it as memorable as it was for us in 1964."