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EVERYWHERE

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US WARPLANES COME CLOSER  
TO SHANGHAI: REPORT

**SPORT 12**  
JUVENTUS WIN  
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## Guv rejects 2nd proposal for Raj session

Raj Bhavan demands 21-day notice, says short notice can be accepted for trust vote

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/JAIPUR

Rajasthan Governor Kalraj Mishra continued to play hard ball with Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on the issue of convening a State Assembly session, which could be used by Gehlot to prove his majority on the floor of the House and derail Sachin Pilot camp's plot to topple his Government. The Governor suggested a 21-day notice to the MLAs even as Congress held countrywide protest against "murder of democracy".

While rejecting a second proposal from the State Cabinet to hold an early Assembly session from July 31, the Governor has asked for a for a 21-day notice for the session.

Governor Kalraj Mishra, according to news agency ANI, had also asked whether Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot wants a trust vote in the State Assembly.

"Do you want to move Motion of Confidence? It is not mentioned in the proposal but you have been speaking about it in the media," the Governor was quoted as saying by ANI.

"The Raj Bhavan (Governor) has no intention of not calling the Assembly session... If the Government wants to win a vote of confidence, then it can become a reasonable ground for calling the Assembly session on short notice," said the Governor in a statement, adding it would be difficult to summon all MLAs



Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot during a prayer meeting organised under the 'Save Democracy-Save Constitution' protest against the BJP-led Central Government, at a hotel in Jaipur, on Monday

at a short notice during the pandemic.

"Can you consider giving 21 days' notice to the MLAs?" it added.

The Governor also asked how social distancing will be maintained during the session.

The State Cabinet had recommended that the Assembly session should be convened from July 31 to discuss Covid-

19 situation.

Experts feel that the Governor's advice to give three weeks to enable the MLAs to assemble for the session is illogical. "The Governor should know that all the MLAs are camping at only two places — in Fairmount Hotel in Jaipur, and two hotels at Manesar. It would take them no more than a few hours to assemble," said a

senior leader.

The Governor has also said that if a trust vote is moved in the House the entire proceedings should be recorded and asked the Government how it intended to maintain social distancing if the House is convened.

Congress president Sonia Gandhi too has called for a virtual meeting of Rajya Sabha

MPs on Thursday, to hold discussions on the 'current political situation' and the Covid-19 situation.

In a memorandum to the President, the Congress asked the President to intervene in the current political crisis. The memorandum states that the BJP is conspiring to topple the State Government through horse-trading tactics. Without worrying about the dignity of his post, Governor Kalraj Mishra is defying the Constitution at the behest of the ruling party.

Taking swipe on the Governor's ultimatum, Congress chief spokesman Randeep Surjewala drew a comparison between the Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh crisis. "Constitution of Governor in Rajasthan — permission to convene session only on 21 days' prior notice. Constitution of Governor in Madhya Pradesh — instructions for calling a session at 10 in the morning by writing a letter at 1 o'clock in the night — lockdown announced only after toppling the Government. Truth vs power," Surjewala said.

The Congress held countrywide protest against "murder of democracy". Congress leaders picketed before the Raj Bhavans in different States and also courted arrest, Rajasthan Assembly Speaker withdrew his appeal against the High Court's order asking him to defer the disqualification pro-

ceedings against sacked Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot and 18 dissident Congress MLAs.

Upset with the Governor, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has written to President Ram Nath Kovind and spoken with Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the Governor's refusal to abide by the State Cabinet's recommendation. Gehlot had also written a letter to the Prime Minister on the matter a few days ago.

Continued on Page 2

### HC dismisses BJP MLA's plea against merger of 6 ex-BSP MLAs with Cong

Jaipur: The Rajasthan High Court on Monday dismissed a petition filed by BJP legislator Madan Dilawar against the merger of six former Bahujan Samaj Party MLAs with the Congress. Former BSP MLAs Sandeep Yadav, Wajib Ali, Deepchand Kheria, Lakhna Meena, Jogendra Awana and Rajendra Gudha had applied for a merger with the Congress on September 16, 2019, a request which was granted by then Assembly Speaker Chandra Prakash Joshi. Two days later, the Speaker declared the MLAs will be considered as a part of the Congress.

## At 613, Delhi sees lowest daily Covid count in 2 months

Recovery rate 88%  
STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi reported 613 new Corona cases in past 24 hours, the lowest daily increase in the last two months. With this, Delhi's recovery rate is at 88 per cent and only nine per cent people are ill.

After this development, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said, "The coronavirus situation has improved since June when Delhi had climbed to the second spot on the list of worst-hit States."

Around 1.16 lakh patients in Delhi have recovered so far and 1,497 recoveries were reported in the last 24 hours, according to the daily health bulletin which revealed that

Covid-19 tally has surged to 1,31,219 cases.

"Due to the hard-work and mindfulness of two crore people in Delhi, the situation is now improving. Today, the Delhi Covid model is being discussed across the country and the world," said the CM.

"Our recovery rate is 88 per cent and the rate of active cases in Delhi is only 9 per cent, which means that out of 100 corona infected people in Delhi, only 9 people are currently infected and 88 people have recovered, and around 2-3 per cent people have lost their lives," Kejriwal said, adding, "I want to appeal to the people again, please do not be complacent. Please use masks, we do not know when the corona may strike again."



A CRPF man wearing a PPE conducts thermal screening of a police personnel during a function on the occasion of the 82nd Raising Day of CRPF in New Delhi on Monday

### CAPSULE

#### TIME CAPSULE UNDER RAM TEMPLE IN AYODHYA

Ayodhya: The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust has said that a time capsule will be placed about 200 feet underground beneath the Ram Temple construction site in Ayodhya. The construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya will begin after the ceremony to lay the bhoomi puja.

#### CHINESE DOC ALLEGES COVID-19 COVER-UP

Beijing: A Chinese doctor, who diagnosed early coronavirus cases in China, has accused the local authorities of a cover-up of the initial scale of the outbreak at the epicentre Wuhan, saying the evidence was already destroyed when they went for investigation, according to a media report.

## IAF's 18-yr wait for hi-tech fighters over, 5 Rafale jets on way

RAHUL DUTTA ■ NEW DELHI

Indian Air Force two-decade-long wait for a new fighter aircraft may end soon with the first batch of five Rafale fighter jets scheduled to land at the Ambala airbase on Wednesday after covering a distance of more than 7,000 km. The jets took-off from France on Monday.

The focus of the IAF is now on speedy operationalisation of these state-of-the-art planes in view of the ongoing tension at

the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh.

The last induction of a versatile plane was about 18 years back when the IAF got frontline SU-30 planes manufactured by Russia. The arrival of the Rafales comes at a time when the India and China are engaged in dialogue to end the more than eight-week off stand-offs at the LAC in Eastern Ladakh. Both the sides have ramped up their troops strength at the LAC besides deploying heavy weapons.

After the formal induction of the newly arrived Rafales takes place into No. 17 'Golden Arrows' squadron at Ambala airbase some days later, the IAF team will work overtime to make the jets ready for deployment in a few weeks. This process is being undertaken given the confrontation at the border and the IAF already deploying its other frontline jets like SU-30, Mig-29s and Jaguars at forward bases near the 4,000-km-long LAC, sources said here on Monday.

Continued on Page 2

## 47 more Chinese apps banned, total now 106

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has banned 47 more Chinese apps, taking the total number of mobile applications banned for being prejudicial to sovereignty, integrity and defence of the country, to 106, said source.

The source privy to the development said that the 47 additional Chinese apps that have been banned now were clones and variants of the apps

which were blocked earlier.

An order to this effect was issued on Friday, the source said. The list of additional apps that have been banned was not immediately available, and there is no official word on the matter yet.

Earlier on June 29, the Government had banned 59 Chinese apps, saying they were prejudicial to sovereignty, integrity and security of the country.

## I'll continue to speak truth about PLA intrusion: Rahul

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a fierce attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has said those claiming Chinese forces haven't occupied Indian territory in Ladakh are "not nationalistic and patriotic," and he will continue to speak the truth about Beijing's transgressions.

Stepping up the attack on the Government over the Chinese intrusions, Rahul said



the People's Liberation Army (PLA) continues to occupy parts of Indian territory in Ladakh.

"Now, it is pretty clear that

### Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL  
CASES: 14,82,503  
DEATHS: 33,448  
RECOVERED: 9,53,189  
ACTIVE: 4,95,443



STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	3,83,723	13,883	2,21,944
Tamil Nadu	2,20,716	3,571	1,62,249
Delhi	1,31,219	3,853	1,16,372
Andhra Pradesh	1,02,349	1,090	49,558
Karnataka	1,01,465	1,953	37,685
Uttar Pradesh	70,493	1,456	42,833
West Bengal	60,830	1,411	39,917
Gujarat	56,874	2,344	41,482
Telangana	55,532	471	42,106
Bihar	41,111	255	27,844
Rajasthan	37,564	633	26,934
Assam	33,577	86	24,041
Haryana	32,127	397	25,046
Madhya Pradesh	28,589	820	19,791
Odisha	26,892	181	17,374
Kerala	19,728	64	10,045

## Right call at right time saved India from virus: Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Because of "right decisions B taken at the right time", India is in a much better position than other countries in the fight against Covid-19," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday, asserting that the country has expanded its health infrastructure at a rapid pace. Modi was speaking after virtually launching Covid-19 testing facilities in Noida, Mumbai and Kolkata.

Modi said that in the fight against coronavirus, India has come to a point where it does not lack in awareness, its scientific data is expanding and resources are also increasing.

Due to the "right decisions taken at the right time" in the country, India is in a much better position than other countries in the fight against the pandemic, he said.

The deaths due to the

coronavirus in India are much lower than many big countries, Modi said as he also pointed to the rapid pace of health infrastructure development, from testing labs, personal protection equipment to Covid facilities.

"In January, where we had only one centre for Covid-19 testing, now there are about 1,300 labs operating in the country," he said. The new testing facilities will give West Bengal, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh more strength to fight Covid-19, Modi said.

The three high-tech testing facilities have been set up strategically at ICMR institutions — National Institute of Cancer Prevention and Research in Noida, National Institute for Research in Reproductive Health in Mumbai and National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases in Kolkata.

Continued on Page 2



Prime Minister Narendra Modi launches high-throughput labs of ICMR at Noida, Kolkata & Mumbai through video conferencing, in New Delhi, on Monday

## Aishwarya, daughter test Covid negative, released from hospital

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Bollywood actress Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and her daughter Aaradhya were discharged from the Nanavati Super Speciality Hospital at Vile Parle in north-west Mumbai on Monday, after they tested "negative" in an apparent second Covid-19 test they underwent at the hospital.

Aishwarya (46) and her daughter Aaradhya had earlier on July 12 tested positive for Covid-19 a day after Ambitabh Bachchan and his actor-son Abhishek were admitted to the Nanavati Hospital after testing positive for coronavirus.

Aishwarya and her daughter had initially isolated them at the Bachchans' residence for six days.

Abhishek tweeted, "Thank



you all for your continued prayers and good wishes. Indebted forever. Aishwarya and Aaradhya have thankfully tested negative and have been discharged from the hospital. They will now be at home. My father and I remain in hospital under the care of the medical staff."

It may be recalled that Abhishek had himself through a tweet put out on July 12 con-

firmed that his wife and daughter had tested positive for Covid-19. "Aishwarya and Aaradhya have also tested COVID-19 positive. They will be self quarantining at home. The BMC has been updated of their situation and are doing the needful. The rest of the family including my Mother have tested negative. Thank you all for your wishes and prayers," the actor had tweeted.

Sr Bachchan's Rajya Sabha member-wife Jaya tested negative for the pandemic. "My father and I remain in hospital till the doctors decide otherwise. Everyone please remain cautious and safe. Please follow all rules!", Abhishek had tweeted on July 12, by when his wife and daughter had not been admitted to the hospital.

## Woman's body found in bag in Ghaziabad

PTI ■ GHAZIABAD

An unidentified body of a woman was found stuffed in a suitcase in Dashmesh Vatika area of Ghaziabad district on Monday, police said.

An unattended suitcase was spotted by locals in Sahibabad area in the morning. The body has been sent for post-mortem, an officer said.

An investigation has been launched and efforts are on to identify the identity of the deceased, the officer said.

The deceased woman is said to be around 25 to 30-years-old.

## Abducted Gorakhpur boy found murdered day after ₹1 crore ransom demand

PTI ■ GORAKHPUR

The body of a class 6 student kidnapped for ransom was recovered from an area near a canal here on Monday evening.

The 14-year-old son of a grocery and "paan" shop owner, Mahajan Gupta, was kidnapped from Pipraich area on Sunday.

The son of Gupta, who runs his shop near his house at Jungle Chhatradhari area, was kidnapped on Sunday afternoon and the family had also received a ransom call.

asked me to pay a ransom of ₹1 crore for my son," said Gupta, adding the matter was immediately reported to the police.

Gorakhpur SSP Sunil Kumar Gupta said soon after getting the abduction information from the victim's family, the police swung into action and nabbed the kidnappers on Sunday night itself.

On interrogation, the kidnappers disclosed that they killed the boy soon after kidnapping him. On the information provided by kidnappers, the boy's body was recovered, the SSP said.

Several police teams, including those of Crime Branch and STF, had been deployed to search for the boy, he added.

# Gold hallmarking deadline extended till June 1, 2021

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan on Monday said that the Government has extended the deadline for mandatory hallmarking of gold jewellery and artefacts by over four months till June 1, 2021, in the wake of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. From June 1 next year, jewellers will be allowed to sell only 14, 18 and 22 carats of gold jewellery. Gold hallmarking is a purity certification of the precious metal and is voluntary in nature at present.

The Centre, in November last year, had announced that hallmarking of gold jewellery and artefacts would be made mandatory across the country from January 15, 2021. The

government had given jewellers more than a year to shift to hallmarking and register themselves with the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).

Jewellers had made a request to extend the time. We have extended the deadline from January 15 to June 1, 2021, in view of the disruption in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis," Paswan told reporters in a virtual press conference.

The All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council (AGJDC) and the India Bullion and Jewellers Association had demanded the extension of the deadline. "Due to the lockdown, jewellers have lost almost three months for sales and operations. It will take another 3-4 months before sales get back on track. It is highly likely that they will be

left with jewellery with no hallmarking," AGJDC Vice-Chairman Shaankar Sen had said recently.

The BIS is already running a hallmarking scheme for gold jewellery since April 2000, and around 40 per cent of gold jewellery is being hallmarked currently. So far, 28,849 jewellers have been registered by BIS. According to the BIS, the mandatory hallmarking will protect the public against lower caratage and ensure consumers do not get cheated while buying gold ornaments and get the purity as marked on the ornaments. India is the largest importer of gold, which mainly caters to the demand of the jewellery industry. In volume terms, the country imports 700-800 tonne of gold annually.

# Kejriwal gives ₹10 lakh aid to kin of man drowning in Minto Bridge underpass

New Delhi: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday gave financial assistance of Rs 10 lakh to the family of Kundan Kumar, who lost his life due to drowning under the Minto Bridge here, as the road under the bridge was flooded due to heavy rain.

Taking to micro-blogging site Twitter, Mr Kejriwal said, "Kundan Ji, a resident of Uttarakhand died in the Minto Bridge waterlogging. Today, gave his family a financial assistance of Rs 10 lakh. I hope that the family will get some help from it. If his family needs any help in future also, we will definitely help."

The 56-year-old Kundan Kumar, was a transport goods vehicle driver. Kundan drove the mini tempo and tried to cross the bridge, which was

flooded due to heavy rain. He tried to maneuver his vehicle through the waterlogged underpass, however, could not succeed in the bid.

Kundan is survived by his wife and two daughters. He hailed from Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand.

He lived at Shankar market Taxi Stand in Connaught Place. PTI



# Delhi child rights panel rescues 9 child labourers

New Delhi: The Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR), along with the North-East District Task Force, on Monday rescued nine child labourers from the Mustafabad area, who were working at several scrap shops with no masks, and in unhealthy and unhygienic condition.

During the pandemic, this was the fourth operation undertaken by the Commission to rescue child labourers, because of which it is concerned about the increasing number of cases.

The children were rescued and provided masks, sanitisers, food and water. The DCPCR and the Delhi Police also sealed seven shops in the process.

They have undergone a medical examination by the Chief District Medical Officer



(CDMO), including tests for Covid-19.

They were also produced before the Child Welfare Committee and would now be placed in the Mukti Ashram in Burari. Their statements have been recorded in the office of the Sub-District Magistrate and legal proceedings will fol-

low. Meanwhile, the International Labour Organisation has predicted that with the Covid-19 pandemic, the world may witness an increase in child labour for the first time in 20 years, thus, there is a risk of reversing years of progress in this area.

# 15K challans issued for not wearing masks since lockdown in Gurugram

Gurugram: The Gurugram police have issued over 15,000 challans for not wearing face masks, since the Covid-induced lockdown, officials said on Monday.

According to the officials, the District police have issued 15,250 challans for not wearing face masks since the imposed lockdown from March 25. The cops have also collected Rs 75 lakh as challan amount from them.

"We have conducted many door-to-door health campaigns in the city. Besides, so many campaigns are underway through digital, print and electronic media to educate residents. Despite that, offenders have been coming on roads and violating the guidelines drawn by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare," said Preet Pal Singh Sangwan, ACP and PRO of Gurugram police.

According to the official, maximum challans are issued in areas adjacent to high risk Large Outbreak Region (LOR). Besides, challans are also issued in market places like Sadar Bazar, sector 14, sector 31, sector 40, Galerai market, sector 5.

"We are conducting surprise checking at market places and penalizing offenders. Some of the shopkeepers have also

violated the norms. They are found of not wearing masks as well as violating social distancing norms. After every challan, Gurugram police handed over a mask to offender with strong warning. Repeated offenders are liable to face action under pandemic and disaster management act," Sangwan said.

Gurugram has a total of 8,720 Covid positive cases in the district and 7,558 patients have been discharged so far. On Monday, 108 fresh cases were reported in the city. IANS

# Construction, beautification work on for Ayodhya bypass at ₹55 cr: Gadkari

New Delhi: Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Monday said the construction and beautification work is progressing for the Ayodhya bypass at Rs 55 crore to showcase the historic city.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to visit the city to lay the foundation stone of the Ram Temple on August 5.

"Sri Ram is a symbol of our culture and heritage. Ram Jambhoomi temple's construction will begin soon. For beautification- and construction-related works of the Ayodhya bypass, NHA has sanctioned a project worth Rs 55 crore," Gadkari said in a

video message. The road transport and highways minister added that the bypass will "showcase Ayodhya's beauty to visitors from the country and abroad".

The bypass connecting Ayodhya will be 16-km long. However, the exact locations the bypass would be connecting could not be provided by the NHA.

He said the Rs 55-crore project, sanctioned on the request of Ayodhya MP Lallu Singh, includes a bypass construction work of Rs 40 crore and beautification of Rs 15 crore.

"Special trees will be planted and Ayodhya will be beau-

tified," the minister said.

"The present progress of the civil work is nearly 30 per cent at present date," he said.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday visited Ayodhya and placed the idols of Laxman, Bharat and Shatrughan on the new 'asans' at the Ram Jambhoomi temple site.

Adityanath was on a short visit to Ayodhya to review the preparations for the foundation stone laying ceremony for the construction of the temple.

Ayodhya MP Lallu Singh thanked Gadkari for taking initiative for construction and beautification of bypass. PTI

# Raj Guv...

From Page 1  
Gehlot said he had a phone conversation with the Prime Minister and spoke about the behaviour of the Governor on the ongoing political crisis in the State. Gehlot also spoke about the letter written by him to the Prime Minister seven days ago.

Taking a swipe at Kalraj Mishra, Gehlot said he would respond to the Governor's "six-page love letter" pertaining to the Assembly session by today evening. The remarks came hours after the Governor rejected the Chief Minister's fresh proposal for a session on July 31.

The Governor had in the past returned an earlier recommendation by the

Government, asking for clarifications on six specific points.

Both Gehlot and Pilot camps are making contradictory claims about their strength. Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala told his party MLAs camping at Fairmont hotel in Jaipur that three MLAs of Sachin Pilot camps would join them in the next 48 hours.

On the other hand, Pilot camp MLA Hemaram Choudhary claimed that 10-15 MLAs of Ashok Gehlot camp are in contact with them and are saying they will come to our side as soon as they are set free.

"If Gehlot removes restrictions, it'll become clear how many MLAs remain on their side," he said.

Earlier, the Supreme Court allowed the Rajasthan Assembly Speaker to withdraw his appeal against the High Court's order asking him to defer till July 24 the disqualification proceedings against 18 dissident Congress MLAs.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Speaker CP Joshi, told a Bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra that the Rajasthan High Court had passed a fresh order on July 24 and they were weighing the legal options.

While withdrawing the plea, Sibal told the Bench that the appeal had become infructuous as the apex court did not stay the earlier High Court order passed on July 21 asking the Speaker to defer disqualification proceedings.

"The SLP (special leave petition) is withdrawn with liberty to file a fresh SLP and keeping all grounds open," advocate Sunil Fernandes, who also represents Joshi, said.

The High Court had ordered on July 24 maintenance of status quo on the disqualification notice issued by the Speaker to 19 dissident Congress MLAs, including Pilot.

The Rajasthan Governor's approach has drawn flak from several quarters. Kalraj Mishra has become the first Governor in Independent India to reject a State Cabinet's recommendation to convene State Assembly session. Three former law Ministers of the Congress on Monday wrote to the Governor, saying the delay in holding the Assembly ses-

# Biggest single-day jump of 258 Covid cases in Goa

Panaji: Goa recorded its biggest single-day jump of 258 COVID-19 cases on Monday, taking the state's tally to 5,119, health officials said.

The active cases in the state now stands at 1,673, the officials added.

As many as 133 persons were discharged after recoveries on Monday.

Earlier in the day, the Opposition staged walkout during the one-day monsoon session of the Goa Legislative Assembly, accusing the treasury benches of trying to avoid



a discussion on the impact of coronavirus pandemic in the state, which has resulted in 35 deaths so far.

# IAF's...

From Page 1

The first batch includes three single seater and two twin seater Rafale aircraft. After taking off from France, the planes flown by the Indian pilots will have stop over for a day in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and likely to land in Ambala on July 29. While French air tankers will refuel the jets mid-air enroute the UAE, the IAF mid-air refuellers will escort the Rafales from there till Indian airspace.

"This is going to add a great deal of strength to our air power and defence preparedness. But it is also a powerful symbol of the strategic partnership between India and France," said Indian Ambassador in France Jawed Ashraf before the jets took off.

"These five Rafale jets are extremely swift, versatile & very deadly aircraft, they're both beauty & beast. I would like to thank Dassault for delivering aircraft on time and French Government & French Air Force for all the support," the ambassador said.

"Our pilots, who I just spoke to, are very excited. They are very proud to be flying the machines to India. It is going to be a long flight. It is a remarkable symbol of their professionalism, endurance and the skills that they have acquired during their training that they be able to do this with mid-air refuelling and just a single stop en route to India which is actually quite a long distance," he stated. The five jets took off from Merignac airbase at Bordeaux in France.

"Delivery of 10 aircraft has been completed as per schedule. Five will stay back in France for training mission," the Indian Embassy in France said in a statement adding, "Further batches of IAF personnel will continue the training over the next nine months." Delivery of all 36 aircraft will be completed as per schedule by the end of 2021. French aerospace conglomerate Dassault has manufactured these jets.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in October last year on a visit to France for the 2nd India-France Ministerial level annual defence dialogue took formal delivery of the first Rafale jet built for India. The IAF pilots since then were undergoing training on the jets there.

During the defence dia-

logue, France agreed to consider the Indian request for 8-10 Meteor missiles to be given to India by 2020 with the first four aircraft.

The introduction of Meteor Beyond Visual Range (BVR) air-to-air missile with a range of over 160km, SCALP long-range stand-off attack air-to-ground missile and MICA multi-mission air-to-air missiles will add to the IAF firepower.

Moreover, as the border remains volatile, the IAF has decided to procure HAMMER (Highly Agile Modular Munition Extended Range) medium-range air-to-ground missiles from the Rafales from France. This procurement is processed under the emergency powers given by the Defence Ministry to the Armed forces recently for off-the-shelf purchase of weapon systems up to ₹300 crore.

At present, 12 IAF pilots and ground staff have received training on the Rafales and additional aircrew has undergone comprehensive training on the aircraft, including its highly advanced weapons systems, and are fully operational now, the IAF had stated.

These five jets are part of the 36 Rafale multi-role fighter jets contracted from France in fly-away condition with 13 India Specific Enhancements (ISE) under a seven billion Euro Inter-Governmental Agreement signed in September 2016.

The Rafale fighter jets are capable of carrying a range of highly effective weapons, including the Meteor air-to-air missile and Scalp cruise missile. planes come with various

# I'll continue to speak...

From Page 1

"I don't care if I don't have a political career after that but I am going to say the truth as far as the India territory is concerned," Rahul said in a video message series. "If you want me to lie that the Chinese have not entered this country I am not going to lie. I simply will not do it. I don't care if my whole career goes to hell. I'm not going to lie," he added.

The ruling BJP too was quick to retort that Rahul Gandhi's offer is an empty one because his career in fact has already tanked.

"Your political career ended soon after it took off. The people of this country don't see him as any leader. It ended in 2019, and now, you are determined to kill the future of the Congress party," BJP MP and national spokesperson GVL Narasimha Rao said.

At the AICC Press conference, when Chidambaram was asked whether he has been consulted on Rahul Gandhi airing of his foreign policy perspective, the former Home Minister responded that he (Rahul Gandhi) has not served as Defence or Foreign Minister. He said Rahul Gandhi does sometimes seek his opinion "but not for these videos".

India-specific modifications, including Israeli helmet-mounted displays, radar warning receivers, low-band jammers, 10-hour flight data recording, infra-red search and tracking systems among others.

# Right call at right time...

From Page 1

These will be able to test over 10,000 samples in a day, a statement from the Prime Minister's Office had said. Despite crossing the 14 lakh mark on Monday, recovery rate in India is 63.92 per cent.

These labs will also reduce turnaround time and exposure of lab personnel to infectious clinical materials. The Prime Minister said now India has more than 11,000 Covid-19 facilities and more than 11 lakh Covid-19 beds. "In January we had only one centre in India for Covid-19 testing and now we have 1,300 labs across the country. More than five lakh tests are being done every day.

And in the coming days we are trying to get 10 lakh tests," he said.

Modi said the number of people getting cured from Covid-19 is almost 10 lakh. "That is why in the beginning the central government announced Rs 15,000 crore package, for isolation centres, Covid-19 centres, testing and tracing. India has improved its facilities," Modi said.

The labs are enabled to test diseases other than Covid-19 as well, and post the pandemic, will be able to test for Hepatitis B and C, HIV, mycobacterium tuberculosis, cytomegalovirus, chlamydia, neisseria and dengue.

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E-Mail - chandrapur2.ee@mahapwd.com Telephone No.07172-252256

**E-Tender Notice No. 07 / C Form Year 2020-21**

Online e-tenders in 'C Form' (Lumpsum) form are invited by Executive Engineer, Public Works Division No.2, Chandrapur for the following works from bidders who satisfy the qualifying criteria. The tender documents should be downloaded from the Government Website <http://mahatenders.gov.in>. The competent authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders. Conditional Tenders will not be accepted.

Sr No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (In lakhs)
1.	CONSTRUCTION OF MAJOR BRIDGE ON VISAPUR KOLGAON ROAD ACROSS WARDHA RIVER IN BAIARPUR TALUKA DISTT CHANDRAPUR (MDR 113) (Maharashtra State)	4985.00

Tender Download As per Online Schedule

All information of e-tendering is available on the following websites / Notice Board  
1. <http://www.mahapwd.com>  
2. <http://mahatenders.gov.in>  
(If there is any change in the notice, then the information / Corrigendum will not be given in the newspapers and the same will be communicated on the above websites. Also, Online Schedule will be applicable and final.)  
3. Executive Engineer, Public Works Division No.2, Chandrapur Office Notice Board.

**For any correspondence contact**  
Executive Engineer, Public Works Division No.2, Mul Road, Chandrapur Telephone No.07172-252256 E-mail - chandrapur2.ee@mahapwd.com

**Note:-**  
1. All eligible / interested bidders are required to be enrolled on portal <http://mahatenders.gov.in> before participating in e-tendering process with Class II / III Digital signature.  
2. The Post Qualification Criteria is included in this work contract.

Sd/-  
**Executive Engineer**  
**Public Works Division No. 2**  
**Chandrapur**  
DGIPR/2020/2021/430

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
To be known to all that my client, SAURABH CHAUHAN, S/O SH. MAHESH CHAUHAN, R/o A-31, FIRST FLOOR, BLOCK-A, VIKAS PURI, NEW DELHI-110018 has applied for conversion of the aforesaid flat from lease hold to free hold vide File No. F-15/8851/582/HL/NDP in GDA. The original documents, i.e. DEMAND/ALLOTMENT LETTER, POSSESSION LETTER, NOC TO WATER AND ELECTRIC AND SITE POSSESSION of the above said flat has been lost. An NCR/LR NO.443375/2020 dated 27/7/2020 to this effect has been lodged in P.S. Crime Branch, Delhi.  
Any person(s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write / contact with above named person at above Address / Phone No. 8588886969 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objection with respect to this property, can personally inform or write to Deputy Director (GH) or Director (GH), C Block, 2nd Floor, Vikas Sadan, New Naven Aggarwal (Advocate) Delhi.  
Ch No. M-7 Tis Hazari Court Delhi-54

**WESTERN RAILWAY**  
**BULK ADVERTISING**  
**ADVERTISING ON DDIS/ATMA SCREENS**  
Tender Notice No.: CA/11/DDIS & ATMA/Tender 2020: Dated: - 27.07.2020 Name of Work: Tender for Bulk Advertising Rights Through Installation of Dual Display Information System (DDIS) Screens & (Automated Ticket checking and managing Access) ATMA screens at various stations of Mumbai Division for a period of five years. Reserve price per annum: ₹ 92,72,563/- Approx Tender Value for 5 years: ₹ 4,92,95,994/- Cost of Tender forms ₹ 10,000/- EMD: ₹ 9,86,000/- Completion Period: 5 Years. Date of submission and opening: 25.08.2020 The NIT and Tender Document is uploaded on website on [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in)  
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कार्यालय अधिष्ठाता  
शासकीय चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, अम्बिकापुर,  
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Phone No. 0774-297800  
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क्रमांक./3059/क्रय/शाचिग/2020 अम्बिकापुर दिनांक:- 23/07/2020

// निविदा //  
शासकीय चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय अम्बिकापुर, सरगुजा (छ.ग.) की ओर से माइक्रोबायोलॉजी विभाग में कोरोना जाँच हेतु लगने वाले कैमिकल्स, रिपॉर्टर्स, ग्लूकोसोक्सीज एवं अन्य चिकित्सा सामग्रियों के निर्माताओं तथा उनके अधिकृत विक्रेताओं से कैमिकल्स, रिपॉर्टर्स, ग्लूकोसोक्सीज एवं अन्य चिकित्सा सामग्रियों को प्रदान करने हेतु मुहूर्तबंद निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा प्रपत्र एवं अन्य जानकारी महाविद्यालय के वेबसाईट <http://www.gmcambikapur.co.in/> में अवलोकन कर प्राप्त किये जा सकते हैं।  
निविदा प्रपत्र जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि - 11/08/2020 समय-दोपहर 3 बजे तक।  
निविदा प्रपत्र खोलने की तिथि - 11/08/2020 समय-संध्या 4 बजे।  
स्थान:- शासकीय चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय अम्बिकापुर, सरगुजा (छ.ग.)  
हस्ता/-  
अधिष्ठाता  
शासकीय चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय  
अम्बिकापुर, सरगुजा (छ.ग.)  
RO.No:- 82607/6  
RO. Dated:- 25/07/2020

# KEJRIWAL LAUNCHES 'ROZGAAR BAZAAR' PORTAL

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In order to bridge the gap between job seekers and employers, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday launched Rozgaar Bazaar site Jobs.delhi.gov.in.

While many people have lost their jobs, businesses amid Corona pandemic, the site received massive response within six hours of its launch.

According to government data, so far, 51,403 job-seekers registered while 1071 employers posted 18,585 vacancies.

Addressing virtually, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said, "I appeal to the traders, industrialists, NGOs, people and media to join hands to revive Delhi's economy from the impact of lockdown."

Job seekers in Delhi can also update their qualifications, experience, and desired positions under multiple job categories.

Urging media and industrialists to join hand with government to revive Delhi's economy, Kejriwal said, this portal will particularly help people who lost their jobs and businesses who had been affected due to the Corona pandemic and successive lockdown.

"The people of Delhi have successfully fought Corona in the last 3 months. Now we have to move to the next stage. During the Corona pan-



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal speaking at a podium during the launch of the Rozgaar Bazaar portal.

dem, people lost their jobs, shops and factories were shut down.

"People have suffered huge losses, and many people suffered from hunger. Even though the government arranged for their food during the lockdown, but people need jobs and businesses now, the shops and factories should be reopened. Now, we all need to pay attention to the economy. And I have full faith in Delhiites that they will do this, just as they have achieved great targets in the past. I want to appeal to the people of Delhi to please come together and take steps to improve the condition of the economy in Delhi," Kejriwal said.

## STEP WISE REGISTRATION ON PORTAL

- Visit jobs.delhi.gov.in
- Select among the two options. If you are looking for a job, please choose the 'I want a job' option and if you are looking for an employee, please choose the 'I want staff' option.
- Enter your 10-digit mobile number to register yourself, and get an OTP number. Enter the OTP on the screen.
- If you are looking for a job, choose the job categories of your interest, and create your profile by filling in the information requested in the form. Jobs matching to your interest will be displayed.
- Click on the job of your choice and contact your employer by WhatsApp or call. Any employer you contact will be enlisted in your application list.
- With the 'My Profile' option, you can update your profile and you can log out.
- If you are looking for an employee, please give all the information related to the job posting and your company.
- All the employment opportunities you post will be visible on the 'My Jobs' option. Whenever a person wishing to work will apply to your posted job, you will see it under 'My Jobs.'



- Rozgaar Bazaar site attracts massive response in first 6 hours
- As per data from the Employment department, Rozgaar Bazaar site has attracted massive response within the first six hours itself.
- 51,403 job-seekers had registered, whereas 1071 employers had posted 18,585 vacancies.
- The job portal provides for job-seekers to connect with employers via phone or Whatsapp.
- In the first six hours, 26,722 connections had been initiated.

**Following is the list of top 5 job categories with vacancies posted by employers:**  
 Sales/Marketing/Business Development – 11,367  
 Construction – 1,298  
 Accountant – 1051  
 Delivery – 1030  
 Customer Service/Tele caller – 1007

**Following is the list of top 5 job categories based on number of job applicants:**  
 Back office/Data Entry – 17,527  
 Teaching – 7567  
 Sales/Marketing/Business Development – 7429  
 Customer Service/Tele caller – 7036  
 Accountant – 6379

coming back in huge numbers now. I want to appeal to the rest, it is your Delhi. Coronavirus cases were rising drastically, and many people left Delhi in fear of the rising cases. The Corona situation is improving in Delhi, and the businesses and shops have started reopening. I would like to appeal to all to come back to Delhi. The industries, shops, construction activities, etc that were shut down want to reopen, but there is no man-

power."  
 "To synchronize and match these two sides, the Delhi government is launching a job portal - 'jobs.delhi.gov.in', where employers can post jobs citing desired qualifications, designation, position, experience. The people seeking jobs can also register on this website, citing the experience they have, their academic qualifications, and the categories they want jobs in, such as tourism, hotel industry, construction, etc.

They can also fill in multiple categories. This is a Rozgaar Bazaar, where the job seekers and job providers will come together and people will get jobs. I hope that this will benefit all, businesses, industries, construction employers, shopkeepers, professionals, and job seekers," CM Kejriwal said.

Labour Minister, Gopal Rai, who also attended the conference said this is a free platform and no one will be needed to pay, do not pay to

## Street vendors will now be allowed to operate biz

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday said that the Delhi Government passed orders to allow street vendors and hawkers to restart their work and businesses.

As per the orders, Street hawkers will be allowed to operate from 10 am to 8 pm every day and will have to ensure social distancing and all other precautionary measures to avoid the spread of COVID-19.

The Corona pandemic and its successive lockdown had affected both small scale and individual businesses, with street vendors being one

of the most affected groups.

Addressing a press conference on Monday, Kejriwal said, "Due to some confusion, the street hawkers were not allowed to work. The Delhi government is now taking out special orders, under which the street vendors and hawkers will be allowed to operate their businesses."

Kejriwal said, "It is due to the hard work, prudence, and caution of the two crore people of Delhi that the situation in Delhi has improved significantly in the last few weeks. The Delhi model is widely discussed and appreciated across the country and the world, that how the people of Delhi came together to fight COVID-19."

## Three men arrested for firing at shopkeeper in Tigri

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested three men for allegedly firing at a shopkeeper in National Capital. Police said the accused are also found involved in other cases registered across the city.

The accused have been identified as Sunil (19), Dheeraj (19) and Bupender (20), all residents of Sangam Vihar area in National Capital. Police said the accused are also found involved in other cases registered across the city.

According to Atul Kumar Thakur, the Deputy

Commissioner of Police (DCP), South district, on July 24, a police control room (PCR) call regarding an incident of firing by 3-4 persons at a shop in Sangam Vihar area was received.

"On the basis of the statement given by the shopkeeper,

a First Information Report (FIR) was registered under section 307/34 of Indian Penal Code (IPC) and 25/27 Arms Act at Tigri police station and investigation was taken up," said the DCP.

"On July 27, after receiving specific inputs, the trio was

nabbed from Sangam Vihar area and on the cursory search, one country made pistol along with two live cartridges was recovered. On checking, it was revealed that the recovered weapon was used in commission of crime," said the DCP.

"During interrogation, the

accused revealed that some of their accomplices were in jail and they had asked the shopkeeper (complainant) to provide the garments for the use of their accomplices in jail but the complainant denied following which they decided to fire upon the complainant," said the DCP.

## Cong leaders detained for taking out march against BJP's alleged attempt to topple Raj

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leaders, including its Delhi unit chief Anil Kumar, were detained while trying to march to the Lieutenant Governor's office in Civil Lines here, in a protest against the BJP's alleged move to topple the Rajasthan Government.

The protest was held against the "anti-democratic and anti-constitutional" actions of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to topple the democratically-elected Congress government in Rajasthan, Kumar said. Delhi Congress president Anil Kumar said that when the country is reeling under the Covid-19 pandemic with a one-day count of over 50,000 cases on Sunday, the Modi Government at the Centre was playing petty politics to topple the Congress-led Governments in the country.

Kumar said that after Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh, the BJP was trying to destabilize the Government in Rajasthan, despite Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot proving his majority and requesting the Governor to honour the state cabinet's decision to convene the Assembly session.

The Congress president accused the Governor of dancing to the tune of the BJP leadership to topple the Rajasthan Government which the Congress will resist with all its might to 'Save Democracy-Save Constitution', to expose the anti-democratic and anti-constitutional actions of the BJP. Among prominent leaders who participated in demonstration are DPCC vice-presidents Jai Kishan, Mudit Agarwal, Ali Mehndi, Dr Narendra Nath, Mateen Ahmed, Hari Shankar Gupta, Amrish Gautam, a large number of district and block Congress committee presidents and Municipal Councillors.

## Homebuyers raise concern at justice meet chaired by Badshahpur MLA

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

More than 250 homebuyers from over 90 under construction project raised their grievances and sought resolution at justice meet chaired by Badshahpur MLA Rakesh Daultabad, along with senior officials, from various authority including DTP, MCG, GMDA, HRERA, DHBVN, Police department and HSIIDC in Gurugram on Sunday.

Also, residents of posh housing societies of Gurugram facing issues such as high maintenance costs, bad quality of construction and lack of infrastructure had also voiced their complaints in front of the authority concerned.

"I had decided to bring all the stakeholders to a common platform in order to find step-wise solutions as a lot of builders are not providing services as per the agreement and homebuyers have been raising the issue at several platforms. I don't want the homebuyers to suffer any further. The problems will be fixed at the common platform," Daultabad said.

"During the justice meet each matter was discussed in detail with the concerned officers from the respective departments and solutions were also offered by the officers," he added.

Meanwhile, district town planner



A trader waits for customers to sell his goats ahead of the Eid al-Adha festival in New Delhi on Monday.

## Conduct fresh cadre review of all CAPFs by June '21: HC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Court while disposing of the pleas said that even if IPS Officers are occupying any posts in the paramilitary or Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), grant of opportunity of hearing to them is not the same as grant of opportunity to the Cadre Officers of CAPFs. It is only the Cadre Officers of CAPFs who have grievances qua stagnation, residency etc. and the IPS Officers, even if manning some posts in CAPFs, are not aggrieved therefrom.

The court disposed the matter by directing that the members of each CAPF to make comprehensive representation

(s) to the Ministry of Home Affairs, for amendment of the respective Recruitment Rules of each Central Armed Police Force including cadre structure, residency and Deputation.

It also directed the government to immediately undertake the exercise for review of existing Recruitment Rules of each Central Armed Police Force taking into consideration the representation(s), if any, received from the members of the Central Armed Police Forces and after giving them an opportunity of being heard and to place its decision in this regard before the Department

of Personnel and Training.

The court directed the Department of Personnel and Training to take necessary action immediately on receipt of decision from the Ministry of Home Affairs with respect to review of Recruitment Rules of respective CAPF.

The court directed the DoPT that the entire exercise of cadre review be concluded on or before June 30, 2021.

The court also vacated the stay on promotions to the post of DIG/IG in the CAPFs. The order was passed by the bench of Justice Rajiv Sahai Endlaw and Justice Asha Menon.

## India hands over 10 broad gauge locomotives to Dhaka

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar and Minister of Railways Piyush Goyal on Monday virtually flagged off 10 Broad Gauge (BG) locomotives to Bangladesh to help it fulfill requirements of Bangladesh Railway.

The event was also attended by the Minister of State for Railways Suresh C. Angadi, Minister of Railway Nurul Islam Sujan and Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Abul Kalam Abdul Momen from the Bangladesh end received the locomotives on behalf of the government of Bangladesh.

The railways in a statement said that the handing over of these locomotives under grant assistance from the Government of India fulfills an important commitment made during the visit of Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh

Hasina to India in October 2019.

In keeping with the requirements of Bangladesh Railway, the locomotives have been suitably modified by the Indian side, it said.

Speaking on the occasion, S Jaishankar said, "I am glad to know that parcel and container trains have been started between both the countries. This will open up new opportunities for our businesses. I am happy to note that movement of trade by rail has been ensured."

Jaishankar further said that during the COVID-19 pandemic, the supply of essentials particularly in the holy month of Ramadan was ensured. He further highlighted the depth of time tested India-Bangladesh ties, based on mutual trust and respect. He expressed his happiness that the COVID pandemic had not slowed



Minister of Railways Piyush Goyal and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar holding Indian flags during the handover ceremony.

down the pace of bilateral cooperation and conveyed that he looked forward to more such milestones in the ongoing historic Mujib Barsho.

Goyal said, "These locomotives will be useful in handling the on-going freight train operations between India and

Bangladesh. We have been huge strides forward in our respective efforts at achieving development."

India and Bangladesh have come a long way in the last few years, he said, adding that the bilateral relationship between both the countries is at its very best.

"Our neighbourhood policy follows PM Narendra Modi ji's vision of Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas. The present leadership are committed to reviving the pre-1965 railway connection between the two countries. Out of the seven rail links that existed then, four are functional now," he said.

To further strengthen rail connectivity in the region, one new rail link, between Agartala in India and Akhaura in Bangladesh is being constructed and financed under grant assistance from India, it said.

The ministry further said that during COVID-19, both Railways have shown exemplary foresight in managing the crisis and maintained the supply chain by stepping up transportation of essential commodities.

"Parcel train and container train services have been introduced via Benapole in Bangladesh. Both these services have already started in the month of July. These have enabled us to move a wide range of products from both sides. Railways have ensured that the two countries can continue our bilateral trade without any disruption and health risk," it added.

Goyal also committed support to Bangladesh in its development of the Bangladesh rail network. He underscored the significance of railway cooperation in enhancing bilateral trade and connectivity and in

further boosting the economic partnership between the two countries.

In recent times, India and Bangladesh have stepped up their rail cooperation in mitigating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, as trade via land border faced disruptions. Rail as a cost effective and environmental friendly solution, has helped in transporting essential commodities across the border, it said.

"Both sides saw the highest ever exchange of freight trains in the month of June. A total of 103 freight trains were utilized for carrying essential commodities and raw materials," it added.

Recently, parcel and container train services have also commenced between India and Bangladesh. The move is expected to significantly enhance the scope of bilateral trade.

# Govt won't put Itolizumab in Covid treatment protocol

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry has decided not to include Itolizumab drug, manufactured by Bangalore-based manufacturer, Biocon, in the national treatment protocol for coronavirus patients. The decision came in the wake of experts raising questions on approval given to the drug on the basis of a small clinical trial.

The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) had a few days ago given green signal to Itolizumab drug for restricted emergency use on moderate to severe Covid-19 patients. Itolizumab is an already approved drug used for treating skin ailment psoriasis.

A senior official from the Union Health Ministry said that the National Task Force on Covid-19 constituted by the ministry held its meeting and discussed whether to put Itolizumab drug into the treatment protocol or not.

"It was discussed in the meeting but it is not included for now because experts opine very less evidence in favour of this medicine," she said.

On July 11, the Health ministry in a press statement said that Itolizumab (rDNA origin), a monoclonal antibody which was already approved for severe chronic plaque psoriasis, has now been granted Restricted Emergency Use authorisation by the DCGI based on clinical trials data.



The ministry had stated that Biocon has been manufacturing and marketing the Itolizumab drug for the treatment of patients with moderate to severe chronic plaque psoriasis since 2013 under the brand name Alzumb. This indigenous drug has now been repurposed for Covid-19.

To check the efficacy of the drug on Covid, the company has so far done a phase 2 study on 30 Covid-19 patients.

"Biocon has presented the Phase II clinical trial results generated in Covid-19 patients to DCGI. The results of these trials were deliberated in the Subject Expert Committee of DCGI's office," said the Health Ministry.

Based on the media reports about the rejection of the drug, the Biocon has now decided to share more data as "evidence", which it has derived from off-label use of the drug on 1,000 patients. Off-label means doctors have prescribed the drug after taking the consent of the patient on compassionate grounds, said the company.

## Over 19.23 cr footfall in health and wellness centres despite Covid-19-induced lockdown

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

While the private clinics and hospitals have been struggling to get non-covid patients during the Coronavirus pandemic, Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs) established under the Government's Ayushman Bharat seem to have found favour among the citizens: over 19.23 crore beneficiaries have availed health facilities at 43,022 centres operational across the country since the outbreak of the disease.

"An additional 13,657 HWCs were operationalised within the period of the pandemic itself (between January to July 2020) to ensure that an array of healthcare reaches the vast community of citizens they serve. As of July 24th, 2020, a total of 43,022 HWCs are operational across different parts of the country," said a statement from the Union Health Ministry.

In one week itself, starting 18-24th July 2020, a total of 44.26 lakh people have benefited from the HCWs services being provided by the AB-HWCs. The cumulative total footfall among the HWCs since their inception



(i.e. 14th April 2018) consequently rose to 1,923.93 lakh. "This is a testimony to the foundational work of the HWCs in their communities. They have played a pivotal role in ensuring that non-COVID essential services are not hampered and continue to be provided,"

Also, 14.24 lakh yoga sessions have been conducted in total by the HWCs since their inception.

Apart from this, HWCs are playing a major role in mass screening for non-communicable diseases. Since their inception, the HWCs have tested a total of 4.72 crore individuals for hypertension, 3.14 crore for diabetes, 2.43 crore for oral cancer,

1.37 crore for breast cancer and 91.32 lakhs for cervical cancer.

The AB-HWCs have been very useful in the pandemic as their population-based screenings for non-communicable diseases have provided the State health authorities a list of those with chronic diseases and the vulnerable, co-morbid population which has to be protected from COVID-19 on priority.

Immunisation sessions have been organised by the HWC teams where medical checkups of pregnant women are ensured apart from the delivery of essential medicines to TB, leprosy, hypertensive and diabetic patients, said the Ministry.

## RNA detection: Sputum testing gives better results than nasal swab testing

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In most of the Covid-19 centres in the country, nasopharyngeal (NP) swabs, which require inserting a long shaft into the nasal cavity to collect a sample from the back of the nose and throat, are being considered the gold standard for collecting a specimen for diagnosis. However, researchers, based on their study have found that sputum testing detects the RNA of the disease causing virus at significantly higher rates compared to tests based on NP swabs.

In their study published in EBioMedicine, investigators from Brigham and Women's Hospital conducted a systematic review and meta-analysis, analyzing data from more than 3,000 specimens to compare the three approaches. The team found that sputum testing detected the RNA of the virus that causes COVID-19 at significantly higher rates while oropharyngeal swab testing had lower rates. Regardless of the collection method, the earlier samples were collected after symptoms began, the



Higher the detection rate.

"The accurate diagnosis of COVID-19 has implications for health care, return-to-work, infection control and public health," said corresponding author Jonathan Li, a faculty member in the Division of Infectious Diseases at the Brigham.

"Our gold standard in and out of the hospital is the nasopharyngeal swab, but there's a lot of confusion about which sampling modality is best and most sensitive. Our study shows that sputum testing resulted in significantly higher rates of SARS-CoV-2 detection and supports the use of this type of testing as a valuable method for the diagnosis and monitoring of COVID-19 patients."

Li and his colleagues scoured the literature — both preprints and published papers — for studies that assessed at least two respiratory sampling sites using an NP swab, oropharyngeal swab or sputum. From more than 1,000 studies, they identified 11 that met their criteria. These studies included results from a total of 3,442 respiratory tract specimens.

The team examined how often each collection method produced a positive result. For NP swabs, the rate was 54 percent; for oropharyngeal swabs, 43 percent; for sputum, 71 percent. The rate of viral detection was significantly higher in sputum than either oropharyngeal swabs or NP swabs. Detection rates were highest within one week of symptom onset for all three tests.

"When it comes to testing, the earlier the better, as diagnostic accuracy is improved earlier after symptom onset, regardless of the sampling site," said Li. "Unlike antibody testing, it's very rare to have a false positive qPCR test when diagnosing COVID-19 early in the course of the disease using these methods."

## Security agencies to analyse e-mails of urban Naxals to expose international links

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Security agencies have planned to identify international linkages of intellectuals connected to Naxalites through analyses of their e-mail network.

In addition, the agencies will undertake data analysis to monitor the activities of urban Naxals, including their foreign travel. For this, teams will be set up for Darknet analysis in Naxal context. Funding of such Naxal activities are also planned to be choked, said a senior official of a key paramilitary engaged in internal security role including anti-Naxal operations.

The Intelligence wings of the police and paramilitary forces will regularly update the format of databases where the number of intellectuals whose email networks were analysed and those with international linkages were unearthed as part of the exercise, the official further said.

Apart from the regular States hit by the Naxal problem, the agencies will seek to prevent propagation of Maoist ideology. The agencies will keep tabs on the indoctrination efforts being organised by pro-Naxal;

elements in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka trijunction area, he said.

Re-evaluation of the Naxal surrender policy is also being undertaken to ensure that only genuine ultras avail advantages of the policy. A process for identification of individual beneficiaries in the worst Naxal blocks will be undertaken to provide them the benefits of Government welfare schemes. Counter-narratives and anti-Naxal ideologies will be disseminated in the affected areas in the local languages through various forms of media like television, print and social media, officials said.

Various police and paramilitary forces are also in the process of constituting teams to undertake study of convicted, surrendered, reformed Naxals as also insurgents in the Northeast and terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir. The teams are expected to scientifically analyse the modus operandi use, means of radicalisation/indoctrination and ways to reintegrate them in the society.

Naxal violence is a major concern in the affected States as disturbances on the law and order front retards development works.

## UGC told to respond on pleas against direction to conduct final year exam by September 30

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Monday directed the University Grants Commission (UGC) to respond to the petitions which have challenged the July 6 directive to all the universities and colleges to conduct final year examinations by September 30 amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Several issues have been raised in the petitions, including plight of lakhs of students in places like Bihar and Assam which are reeling under floods and also that many states have already cancelled the final year examinations of state universities due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

A bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan said that replies be filed by UGC and the Centre on the pleas and posted the matter for hearing on July 31.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told the bench, also comprising Justices R S Reddy and M R Shah, that they are only concerned with final year exams and out of over 800 universities in the country, 209 have completed the examinations.

Mehta said that around 390 universities are in the process of conducting the examinations.

## India, Indonesia resolve to expand defence relations

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India and Indonesia on Monday reviewed the entire gamut of defence ties and steps to further strengthen relationships in the field of defence production and manufacturing. The talks between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and visiting Indonesian counterpart General Prabowo Subianto also focused on giving a boost to military-to-military relations between the two countries.

Giving details of the talks, defence ministry officials said the Indonesian minister is here to strengthen the ties between two maritime neighbours. Rajnath reiterated the long history of mutually beneficial interactions between the two countries with a tradition of close political dialogue, economic and trade linkages as well as cultural and people to people interactions.

Conveying satisfaction to the military to military interactions, Rajnath indicated that the defence cooperation between India and Indonesia has witnessed an upswing in the recent years, which is in consonance with the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the two sides. Both the Ministers

agreed to further enhance the bilateral defence cooperation in mutually agreed areas.

Potential areas of cooperation in the field of defence industries and defence technology were also identified by the two countries. Both the ministers committed themselves to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in these areas and take them to the next level of deliverables.

The meeting ended on a positive note with a commitment to further strengthen and widen the scope of the bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat, Army Chief General M M Naravane, Navy chief Admiral Karambir Singh, IAF chief R K S Bhadauria, Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar and other senior civil and military officials also took part in the bilateral meeting.

General Subianto was given ceremonial Guard of Honour on the lawns of South Block when he arrived for the Defence Ministers' Dialogue. He was personally received by Rajnath at the venue. Earlier, General Subianto visited the National War Memorial and laid a wreath as a mark of respect to the fallen heroes.

## People can now keep weather updates with mobile-based app 'MAUSAM'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

People can now keep weather updates with mobile-based application 'MAUSAM' which will relay weather forecasts and warnings for multiple cities and locations and even radar-based forecasts updated every 10 minutes. The app will provide current weather of a location that will be updated eight times in a day; share city-wise forecast for upcoming seven days; issue Nowcast warnings of severe weather events likely to occur in the immediate future along with radar-based images and information for tracking of approaching weather events.

The ministry of earth sciences launched the app on Monday on the occasion of its foundation day. This is the second app launched by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) that is meant for everyone.

The app, which can be downloaded on Playstore and Appstore, is dedicated to the public and designed to provide weather information and forecasts in a lucid manner without technical jargon. The first app Meghdoot was launched by it which meant only for farmers and those involved in agriculture.

Launching the 'MAUSAM

app', and a Knowledge Resource Centre Network (KRCN) on the occasion of 14th foundation day of the ministry, Union MoES minister Dr Harshvardhan said that the app will relay weather forecasts and warnings for multiple cities and locations while KRCN will be a one-point stop to access research, publications, e-resources of all institutions functioning under MoES.

"Towards augmentation of our systems and services, MoES institutions will be incorporating Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, Machine Learning as part of the upgrading the weather forecasts, data gathering and analysis. A new High Performance Computing (HPC) system will also be inducted by 2021," Vardhan said. Vardhan said that MoES needs at least twice more budgetary support than what is currently provided so that the overall services can be enhanced. "I am aware of the lacunae and understand that twice the current budgets are needed. Replacement of old ships, better computer systems and automation is required besides, most importantly, having trained manpower," the minister added.

Mausam offers five services — current temperature, humidity, wind speed and wind direction for 200 cities and the information is updated eight times a day. There is information on sunrise, sunset, moonrise and moonset, three hourly warnings of local weather phenomena and their intensity issued for about 800 stations, and forecast of weather conditions for 450 cities for the past 24 hours and seven day. There are also alerts issued twice a day for all districts for the next five days in colour code (red, orange and yellow) to warn users of any intense weather phenomena, and station-wise radar forecasts updated every 10 minutes. The app was designed and developed jointly by ICRISAT's Digital Agriculture and Youth team, Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) in Pune, and IMD.

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**DHFL** DEWAN HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION LIMITED: National Office: HDIL Towers, B-wing, 6th Floor, Anant Kanekar Marg, Station Road, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400051. Branch Office: Dhraj Baug, Building 'A' Ground & 1st Floor, Beside Axis Bank, Opp. Monalisa Building, Agra Road, Hari Niwas Circle, Naupada, Thane (West) 400602.

**DEMAND NOTICE**

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

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) / Loan code	Demand Notice Date and Amount With NPA date	PROPERTY ADDRESS
(LC No. PTM30066 of Delhi - Pitampura Branch) Sandeep Aggarwal (Borrower)	20-02-2020 ₹ 4800945/- (₹ Forty Eight lakh Nine Hundred Forty Five) NPA (01-07-2015)	B-805, Plot No. 14, Jaipuria Apartment Nh 24, Ghaziabad - 201001
(LC No. 00002102 of New Delhi-west Branch) Dilip Kumar (Borrower)/Ruchika (Co Borrower 1)	20-02-2020 ₹ 2207541/- (₹ Twenty Two lakh Seven Thousand Five Hundred Forty One) NPA (01-01-2020)	Property No. Rz 6, Third Floor with Roof Kh No 646, Gali No 8, Indira Park, Palam Colony, New Delhi New Delhi Delhi 110045
(LC No. 00001238 of Rewari Branch) Kumar Neha Rani (Borrower) Kam Kumar Gupta (Co Borrower 1)	20-02-2020 ₹ 1598705/- (₹ Fifteen lakh Ninety Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Five) NPA (01-01-2020)	Property No. 817, 3rd floor LHS Portion with roof rights kh no. 93 Gali No. 7, Govindpuri, Kalkaji New Delhi, New Delhi Delhi 110019
(LC No. 00000076 of Delhi Janakpuri Branch) Sompal Singh (Borrower) Shakuntla Devi (Co Borrower 1)	20-02-2020 ₹ 1551584/- (₹ Fifteen lakh Fifty One Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Four) NPA (01-01-2020)	House No. 124/8a Plot No. 10 Block-I West, Azad Nagar Shadara New Delhi, Delhi, New Delhi-110001, Delhi.
(LC No. 00001380 of Greater Noida Branch) Shalendra Sharma (Borrower) Priyanka (Co Borrower 1)	20-02-2020 ₹ 902312/- (₹ Nine lakh Two Thousand Three Hundred Twelve) NPA (01-01-2020)	Flat No-gf-2, Ground Floor Rear Side LHS Flat, Plot No C-198, Block-C, Sir Ved Vihar, Sadulabad, Loni, Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad-201102
(LC No. 00000241 of New Delhi-west Branch) Abhishek Kumar (Borrower)	20-02-2020 ₹ 369778/- (₹ Three lakh Sixty Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Eight) NPA (01-01-2020)	Plot No. D-743, Block-D Indraprastha Awasiya Yojna-1 Loni- Bhouppura Road, Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad-201011
(LC No. 00004932 of New Delhi Branch) M/S. Fairwell Securities Limited (Borrower) Naveen Gaba (Co Borrower 1) Dhirender Gaba (Co Borrower 2)	20-03-2020 ₹ 17851287/- (₹ One Crore Seventy Eight lakh Fifty One Thousand Two Hundred Eighty Seven) NPA (01-02-2020)	Flat No. 1651, 1st & 2nd Floor Duplex Sector-B Pocket-1 Vasant Kunj New Delhi New Delhi 110070
(LC No. 00000585 of Netaji Subhash Place Branch) Trilok Singh Mehlawat (Borrower) Manisha (Co Borrower 1)	16-06-2020 ₹ 4787068/- (₹ Forty Seven lakh Eighty Seven Thousand Sixty Eight) NPA (01-02-2020)	DDA Flat No 3139, Third Floor Category II Sfs Flat, Pkt B & C Vasant Kunj, South Delhi New Delhi New Delhi Delhi 110070
(LC No. 00001950 of Noida Branch) Anil Kumar Puri (Borrower) Rajat Puri (Co Borrower 1)	18-06-2020 ₹ 8202491/- (₹ Eighty Two lakh Two Thousand Four Hundred Ninety One) NPA (01-07-2019)	Unit No 2102-21st Floor Tower E Manorath G Noida West G Noida G Noida G Noida Gautambudh Nagar Uttar Pradesh - 201301

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

Date : 28.07.2020  
Place : Delhi

Sd/- (Authorised officer)  
DEWAN HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION LIMITED

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR**  
**Office of the Executive Engineer, PHE,**  
**Ground Water Division, Bagh Ali Mardaan**  
**Nowsheera, Srinagar Kashmir..**

**Gist of e-Tender.**  
**NIT No. -PHE/GWDS 14 of 07/2020 Dated: 25-07-2020**

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders are invited in **02 Cover System** for Construction of Exploratory Test Bore Well and Construction of production tube well for successful exploration at the following location/site from registered water well drillers/contractors as per the details given in tender document.

**S.No 1 Site :-** Construction of Production Tube Well at Poshpathri  
**Estimated Cost :- Rs 43,32,000,**  
**Cost of Tender Document :- Rs. 1000/-**  
**Cost of EMD :- 2% of estimated value,**  
**Time of completion :- 30 Days**  
**Validity of Rates :- 180 Days**  
**Programme :- CAPEX**  
**Position of Funds :- Available**  
**Critical Dates / Information.**

1. Publishing Date :- 27-07-2020
2. Period of Downloading of Bids :- 27-07-2020 (9:00 A.M) to 03-08-2020 (2:00 P.M)
3. Period of Submission of bids :- 27-07-2020 (9:00 A.M) to 03-08-2020 (12:00 P.M)
4. Date of opening of Tender. :- 03-07-2020 at 02:00 P M
5. Tender Receiving Authority: Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar.
6. Document Cost : Rs 1000/= (one thousand only) for each well (Non-Refundable) in the shape of Treasury Challan/receipt deposited to Account Head 0215 in favour of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar (at Sadder Treasury Srinagar) on account of (The firm shall specify the name of work for which apply)
7. Earnest Money: for an amount shown in Gist of NIT against each well tender in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar 190011.
8. Bid Validity Period: 180 Days

No.DIPK-3505/20  
Dated: 27-07-2020

Sd/- Executive Engineer,  
Jal Shakti PHE Ground Water Division, Srinagar.

## IIMA survey hails Guj CM dashboard for Covid synergy

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

A survey conducted by the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA) has hailed the dashboard through which Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani coordinates with various stakeholders in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Nearly 80 per cent of the 2,387 respondent citizens have expressed their satisfaction with the leadership of the CM during the time of COVID-19 pandemic, it said. Similarly, 70 per cent of respondent health workers are satisfied with the CM's support in terms of communication, building trust, and overall handling of the crisis. Nearly 53 per

cent of health workers and 51 per cent administrative workers find the CM's leadership and support "excellent", as per the survey.

The survey is part of a report prepared by IIMA faculty member Ranjan Kumar Ghosh and his team, with the aim to provide "an overview of the COVID-19 situation in Gujarat

**MAHATRANSCO**  
Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co.Ltd.

**MAHARASHTRA STATE ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION CO.LTD**  
**SRM tender Notice (2nd Call)**

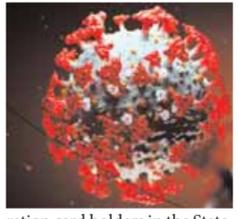
Digitally signed online bids are invited through SRM process of MSETCL in two bid system from bidders who are registered Electrical Contractors of MSETCL **SRM-Tender No:- SE/EHV/ O&M/C/NSK/T-02 2021 Srm Rfx no.7000016196 Particulars of Work:** Work of design, supply, installation, testing and commissioning of 132kV (2x15MVA) capacitor banks at various EHV substations under EHV O&M Circle, Nashik and EHV O&M Circle Bhusawal (Nashik Zone)-under Phase IV Scheme. **Estimated cost of work; Rs.1691.87 Lakhs E.M.D. (Aprox.1% of est cost) i.e. Rs. 1,691,875.82/-, Tender cost in Rs 26,250.00/-, Sale period: 24.07.2020 to 08.08.2020 upto 10:00 Hrs, Date of opening (Tech. bid): 08.08.2020 to upto 10:01 Hrs. (If possible), Contact person: Executive Engineer, EHV (O&M) Circle, Nashik. Phone No.02532403212, for further details please visit to <https://srmtender.mahatransco.in/> Superintending Engineer, EHV (O&M) Circle, MSETCL, Nashik.**

**DGIPR/2020/2021/426**

# 6,993 new cases in TN

## CM to hold collectors' conference tomorrow

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI



Tamil Nadu saw 6,993 new persons getting diagnosed with Covid-19 on Monday while the pandemic claimed 77 lives across the State in the last 24 hours, according to the medical bulletin issued by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

Since July 23, the State has seen the number of persons getting contracted with Covid-19 showing an unprecedented increase and this has made Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswami to convene a meeting of all district collectors on July 29 to find out a strategy to check the unprecedented hike. Palaniswami also inaugurated on Monday the scheme of providing free face masks to all

number of covid patients in the State, Tamil Nadu has 54,896 active cases. The death toll reached 3,571 while the total number of persons discharged after getting cured showed 1.62 lakh.

While Chennai showed some stabilisation as the number of new patients were restricted to 1,138, the three neighbouring districts remained problematic. Chengalpattu tested 448 positive cases while Kancheepuram had 362 new cases and Thiruvallur was home to 474 new patients.

The States 22 districts have more than 100 patients each while 1.82 lakh of the total patients were of the 13-60 age group. Out of the 77 persons who died on Monday, 69 had pre-existing morbidity issues.

ration card holders in the State. On July 23, the State saw the number of persons diagnosed with the pandemic on a single day reaching 6,472, while on July 24 it shot up to 6,785. On July 25, the number of new persons tested positive for covid reached 6,988 and on July 26, there were 6,986 new addition to the army of covid patients in the State.

With Monday's hike in the

# 702 infected in Kerala

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHCHI

As 483 out of the 702 new persons diagnosed with Covid-19 on Monday contracted the pandemic through local transmission, Kerala is intensifying its war against Coronavirus by chalking out long-term strategies for controlling and preventing the disease. This was disclosed by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan in his media briefing on Monday.

"Two deaths were reported in the last 24 hours in the State. Expatriates accounted 75 cases while 91 persons from other States tested positive today. 35 persons could not give details about how they contracted the pandemic," said the chief minister.

"Thiruvananthapuram accounted for 161 covid-19 cases while Malappuram tested 86 new persons with covid," he said. The day saw 1,237 persons

getting hospitalised on Monday. "We have 9,611 persons under treatment in various hospitals across the State. We sent 18,417 samples for testing in the last 24 hours," said the Chief Minister.

Vijayan pointed out that Kerala has the lowest mortality rate in the country and said that this was a major achievement. "The main concern is the increasing number of persons getting contracted through local transmission and also from unknown sources," he said.

The Chief Minister said the increasing number of suicides by persons tested positive and by those who were under observation has shocked the State. Ten suicides have been reported from various parts of the State during the last two weeks. So we are launching a suicide prevention programme across the State through interactions with the patients as well as those who are in observation," said Vijayan.

# Time capsule to be placed under Ram temple in Ayodhya

IANS ■ AYODHYA

The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust has said that a time capsule will be placed about 200 feet underground beneath the Ram Temple construction site in Ayodhya.

According to Kameshwar Chaupal, a member of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, the capsule will help anyone in the future who wishes to study the history of the temple.

"The time capsule will be placed about 200 feet underground at the Ram Temple construction site. In future, anyone who wishes to study about the history of the temple, will get all facts related to Ram Janmabhoomi in the time

capsule," he said.

Kameshwar Chaupal, incidentally, is a Dalit from Bihar who had laid the foundation stone for a Ram temple in Ayodhya on November 9, 1989.

Since then, the 64-year-old Chaupal, has been anxiously waiting for the construction of the temple to begin.

Almost nine months after the historic verdict of Supreme Court on the Babri Masjid vs Ram Janmabhoomi dispute, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Ayodhya on August 5 for the 'Bhumi puja' ceremony to begin the construction of a grand Ram Temple.

The Supreme Court had, on November 9 last year, ruled in the favour of a Ram Temple

at the disputed site in Ayodhya.

The court had also directed the Centre to allot an alternative five-acre plot to the Sunni Waqf Board for building a new mosque at a prominent place in the holy town in Uttar Pradesh.

Meanwhile, hectic preparations have begun for the 'bhumi puja' ceremony that will be performed by laying a 40-kg silver brick at the sanctum sanctorum.

Three-day-long Vedic rituals, beginning August 3, will precede the main ceremony, according to the members of the Trust.

The entire temple town is being given a makeover with walls being painted in vibrant colours.

# Didi demands State dues from PM

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to clear the State's dues that ran into several thousand crores. The Chief Minister who along with the Prime Minister jointly inaugurated the Covas machine to facilitate corona tests through a virtual window said without the Central assistance it was becoming difficult to fight the pandemic situation.

"Already we have spent ₹2,500 crore towards fighting the corona situation. We need more funds and at present we have a due of ₹53,000 crore

from the Centre... I would request you to kindly clear the State's dues so that we can handle the situation on our own," Banerjee told the Prime Minister.

The new machine that was launched today has a capability of testing 10,000 cases per day. Apart from corona the machine can test dengue, and Hepatitis B and C too, sources said.

The Chief Minister who has written to the Centre on a number of occasions for clearance of its dues told the Prime Minister how her State had received only ₹125 crore from the Centre whereas it had already spent ₹2,500 crore to fight pandemic.

"I also request you to kindly send ₹135 due in terms of GST," Banerjee said reminding how the State's revenues had seen a sharp drop in the past several months and there was an urgent need of central help.

On the assured Central help for meeting the extraordinary expenses to fight the post Amphan (super cyclone) crisis Banerjee said the Prime Minister had visited Bengal after the super cyclone hit the State and granted ₹1,000 crore "but after that we have not received any grant from the Centre whereas we have already spent ₹6,500 crore to fight the Amphan crisis."

Saying Bengal will contin-

ue to stand by the Centre in its fight against corona Banerjee said "the funds if it were released from the Centre would only help the cause of fighting the pandemic."

Banerjee lodged a veiled complaint against State Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar for repeatedly interfering in the State's functions and attacking the State Government even as she said "some people despite being in the constitutional posts have made it a point to repeatedly attack the State Government and interfere with its works... I would like to draw the attention of the Prime Minister to this also" Banerjee said.

# 7,924 +ve, 227 die in Maha

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

After the Covid-19 infections crossed 9,000 mark for the past four consecutive days, Maharashtra on Monday witnessed a drop in the number of new cases, as 7,924 people tested positive for coronavirus, while as many as 227 more people died of pandemic in various parts of the state.

After it recorded the highest-ever 10,576 infections on July 22 and witnessed 9895, 9615, 9251 and 9431 on July 23, 24, 25 and 26 respectively, the State logged 7,924 new infect-

ed cases, taking the total number of positive cases to 3,83,723.

With fresh 227, the total number of deaths in the state inched closer to 14,000 as the toll touched 13,883.

There has been a substantial number of deaths for the past eight days. The break-up of deaths in the state since July 20 is: July 20- 176, July 21-246, July 22-280, July 23-298, July 24-278, July 25-257, July 26-267 and July 27-227.

Of the total 227 reported on Monday, Raigad district notched the highest 47 deaths, followed by 45 in Pune and 40

in Thane. For the first time since the outbreak of the pandemic, Mumbai with 39 deaths emerged fourth in terms of fatalities.

With 39 deaths, the total number of deaths in Mumbai went up from 6,093 to 6,132 while the infected cases rose by 1,021 to touch 110,182 now.

In what came as a big relief for Mumbaikars, BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) announced a recovery rate of 73 percent and a case doubling rate of 68 days in the country's commercial capital.

# Corona patient who left hospital in UP found dead

Prayagraj: A 57-year-old corona patient, who was caught on camera walking out of the hospital, was found dead on Sunday evening. His body was found in some bushes, just 500 metres from the hospital.

His family has accused the hospital of negligence, adding that he 'escaped' after he faced harassment. The hospital administration, however, has denied the accusation. IANS

# J&K LG inaugurates various developmental projects

PNS ■ JAMMU

Ahead of the first anniversary of the Abrogation of Article 370 and reorganisation of the erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir into two Union Territories on August 5, Lt-Gov Girish Chander Murmu arrived in Jammu where he inaugurated several developmental projects including a much-awaited cable car project between Bahu and Mahamaya temples on Monday.

Operationalisation of Jammu ropeway will boost the pilgrimage tourism as it connects the three major temples of Jammu city; the Jwanti Gufa (Peerkho Temple), Mahamaya Temple and Bahu Fort Temple and will provide recreational facility to Jammuites which was long pending aspiration of people. At the venue of the cable car project, the Lt Governor and the First Lady Dr. Smita Murmu, took the maiden ride of the cable

car after the inaugural function. He hailed the project and hoped that the service would become a major highlight of Jammu city. On spot directions were issued by the Lt Governor to keep the service free for the general public for the first 15 days of operation. He also called for constructing a gaming zone for kids and keeping special concessional rates for students and senior citizens.

During the day, Lt-Gov Murmu also dedicated to public different infrastructure development projects of the Power Development Department executed under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes. According to a government spokesman, "Overall 49 completed projects were inaugurated at the cost of Rs 81.15 Cr on Monday."

"There shall be a capacity addition of 250 MW and improved power supply to 31000 Domestic, Commercial consumers, 300 Industrial Units, 40

villages, 200 commercial hotels, 60 government establishments and various tourist Spots". The spokesman said, projects, for which foundation stone was laid today, shall be completed over a period of six months.

In the Horticulture Planning & Marketing department, three projects were inaugurated: e-National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) for Fruit & Vegetable Market Narwal, Jammu, Fruit & Vegetable Market, Bishnah and Apni Mandi Chadwal, Kathua.

Earlier in the day Lt Gov GC Murmu also visited Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural sciences where he inaugurated the new infrastructure blocks including building of Ujala PG Girls Hostel, Residential Quarters for Teaching staff and a Bedside Oxygen facility established at the University Health Centre in view of Covid-19 Pandemic.

# I am sorry for 33 Covid-19 deaths: Goa Health Minister

Panaji: Goa Health Minister Vishwajit Rane on Monday apologised for the deaths of 33 persons, including a 14-year-old girl, due to Covid-19 infection.

Rane however said that the Covid-19 mortality rate in Goa was still lower than what is prevalent in the rest of the country.

"We are sorry for the 33 deaths which have taken place," Rane told the one-day monsoon session of the state legislative assembly, adding that he "felt bad" particularly after the death of the 14-year-old girl on Saturday.

The Health Minister said that in all 1.21 lakh persons had been tested and the positive rate among those tested was 8.11 per cent. Goa has a population of 1.5 million. IANS

# BJP misusing power, money to overthrow Opp Govts: Maha Cong

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Maharashtra Congress on Monday charged that by misusing power, money and the governor's office, the BJP was trying to overthrow the Opposition Governments in various States of the country - an act it said was "unconstitutional" aimed at "murdering" democracy.

Amid heavy rains, the State Congress leaders, headed by State party president and Maharashtra Revenue Minister Balasaheb Thorat, staged a protest in front of Raj Bhavan here in the backdrop of the BJP's alleged efforts to dislodge their party's Government in Rajasthan.

Talking to media persons on the sidelines of the protest, Thorat said: "By misusing power,

money and the governor's office, the BJP is trying to overthrow the opposition governments in various states of the country. This is unconstitutional and is an attempt to murder democracy"

Thorat also slammed the Governor of Rajasthan, by saying: "In a major violation of the Constitution and democratic values, the Governor of Rajasthan is acting in a way that will help the BJP overthrow the elected government"

Apart from Thorat, State

Public Works Minister Ashok Chavan, Mumbai Congress President Eknath Gaikwad, Education Minister Varsha Gaikwad, former Minister Naseem Khan, former MLA Madhu Chavan, Mumbai Youth Congress President Ganesh Yadav and other Congress office bearers and party workers were present at the protest. The Congress leaders present raised slogans against the Centre and Rajasthan Governor.

"The Congress has helped bring independence to the country and has established democracy in independent India. But since coming to power at the Centre in 2014, BJP has shown constant disregard for public opinion," Thorat said.

"The BJP's policy has been to overthrow elected Governments of the opposition parties in various states by misusing power and money to gain power through immoral and corrupt means. And for this, the governor's office or Raj Bhavan is being misused on a large scale. Conspiracies to overthrow State Governments are brewing at the Raj Bhavan. The role of the Rajasthan Governor is dubious and biased," the Maharashtra Congress chief said.

"The government, led by Ashok Gehlot, has demanded that the Assembly be convened to prove its majority. But, the governor was trampling on the constitution and democracy, alleging that the governors were not convening the assembly to give the BJP some time to trade MLAs," Thorat said.

# Family forced to keep Covid patient's body at home for 18 hours

IANS ■ KOLKATA

In a shocking incident, the body of a 55-year-old coronavirus patient had to be kept for 18 hours at his home in Kolkata's Behala on Monday.

The patient reportedly died of acute respiratory trouble at around 10.30 p.m. on Sunday. He had tested Covid positive earlier that day.

According to local sources, his family members tried to contact Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) officials,

the local councillor and the police but received no response from them in cremating the body as per government protocol. The family members and the deceased's neighbours claimed that there was no response till late afternoon on Monday. Meanwhile, six family members of the victim have also tested positive for Covid-19. The residents of Behala's Sahapur now fear a spread of the virus in the area and have requested the family members of the victim to stay indoors.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

The Sr. Divisional Engineer-III, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work:

1. Name of Work	Repair to road surface & damaged platform in DKZ goods shed in the section of SSE/W/DLI/Line under ADEN/DLI.
2. Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 1,49,99,962 (Rupees One Crore Forty Nine Lakh Ninety Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Two only)
3. Earnest Money to be Deposited	Rs. 2,25,000/- (Rupees Two Lakh Twenty Five Thousand Only)
4. Cost of tender document	Rs. 5900/-
5. Date & Time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender.	21.08.2020 @15.00 Hrs.
6. Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen.	www.ireps.gov.in

\* The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in the e-tender system. \* For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. \* No manual offers are acceptable. \* Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only.

E-Tender No.: 128-W/280/eTender Notice/NT/14-2020-21/W-3  
Dated : 27.07.2020 1649/2020

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED**  
(See Section 82 Cr. PC)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely Shivam Mishra S/o Govind Mishra R/o B-635, Gali No. 8/1, 1st Pusta, Sonia Vihar, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in a FIR No. 291/19 u/s 377 IPC & 6 POCSO Act, PS Sonia Vihar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrants of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Shivam Mishra could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Shivam Mishra has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person Shivam Mishra of FIR No. 291/19 u/s 377 IPC & 6 POCSO Act, PS Sonia Vihar, Delhi is required to appear in the court to answer the said complaint on 01.09.2020.

By order  
Sh. Manoj Kumar,  
ASJ, Karkardooma Court,  
Shahdara Delhi

DP/218/NE/2020

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**

General Public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male Namely Unknown S/o Unknown, R/o Unknown Age: approx. 48 years, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Long, Built: Thin, Wearing: Red & Blue coloured Sweater and Blue coloured pyjama, was admitted in the Safdarjung Hospital vide MLC No.11008/2020 dated 09.01.2020, during the treatment Doctors declared him dead. In this regard a DD No.12 A dated 13.01.2020 u/s 174 Cr.P.C has been lodged at P.S. Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi.

If any one having any clue about deceased male may kindly inform the undersigned and contact on following numbers.

SHO  
P.S. Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi  
Ph.No.: 011-24106346, 24106345  
Mob.: 9582558059

DP/207/SW/2020

**SUNIL HEALTHCARE LIMITED**  
Registered Office  
38E/252-A, Vijay Tower, Shahpurjat  
New Delhi-110049  
Email: info@sunilhealthcare.com; website: www.sunilhealthcare.com  
CIN No. L24302DL1973PLC189662

Extract of Standalone and Consolidated Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter Ended 30th June 2020 (₹ in Lakhs)

S.No.	Particulars	Standalone				Consolidated			
		3 Months ended Unaudited	3 Months ended Audited (Refer note. 3)	3 Months ended Unaudited	Year Ended 31st March 2020 Audited	3 Months ended Unaudited	3 Months ended Audited (Refer note. 3)	3 Months ended Unaudited	Year Ended 31st March 2020 Audited
1	Total Income from Operations	2,114.62	1,783.24	1,853.61	8,510.70	2,176.42	1,785.80	1,828.37	8,469.98
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)-from Continuing Operation	1.64	(101.74)	(50.66)	(221.82)	(17.90)	(127.01)	(73.75)	(299.96)
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)-from Discontinued Operation	-	(366.48)	-	(359.94)	-	(366.48)	-	(359.94)
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items) from Continuing Operation	1.64	(101.74)	(50.66)	(221.82)	(17.90)	(127.01)	(73.75)	(299.96)
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)-from Discontinued Operation	-	(366.48)	-	(359.94)	-	(366.48)	-	(359.94)
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)-from Continuing Operation	0.06	(36.74)	(50.66)	(156.82)	(19.97)	(62.04)	(73.75)	(236.56)
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)-from Discontinued Operation	-	(266.34)	-	(259.80)	-	(266.34)	-	(259.80)
5	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	0.06	(303.08)	(50.66)	(416.62)	(19.97)	(328.38)	(73.75)	(496.36)
6	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	0.06	(22.66)	(50.66)	(136.20)	(21.68)	(37.53)	(83.54)	(219.30)
6	Paid-up equity share capital (Face value ₹10/- each)	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year	-	-	-	3,752.26	-	-	-	3,432.34
8	Earnings Per Share (after extraordinary items) of ₹ 10/- each)-from Continuing Operation	0.00	(0.36)	(0.49)	(1.53)	(0.19)	(0.60)	(0.72)	(2.31)
8	Earnings Per Share (after extraordinary items) (of ₹ 10/- each)-from Discontinued Operation	-	(2.60)	-	(2.53)	-	(2.60)	-	(2.53)
8	Earnings Per Share (after extraordinary items) (of ₹ 10/- each)	0.00	(0.22)	(0.49)	(1.33)	(0.21)	(0.37)	(0.81)	(2.14)

Notes:  
1 COVID - 19 pandemic has caused serious disruption on the global economic and business environment. There is a huge uncertainty with regard to its impact which cannot be reasonably determined at this stage. However, the Company has evaluated and considered to the extent possible the likely impact that may arise from COVID-19 pandemic as well as all event and circumstances upto the date of approval of these Financial results on the carrying value of its assets and liabilities as on 30.06.2020. Based on the current indicators of future economic conditions, the Company estimates to recover the carrying amount of these assets and to discharge its obligation adequate liquidity is available. These estimates are subject to uncertainty and may be affected by the severity and duration of the pandemic. The Company is continuously monitoring any material changes in future economic conditions.  
2 Consequent to decision taken by Board of Directors to phase out "marketing of Food product" in previous year. Accordingly, the Company has existed from marketing of food products and losses of the discontinued business has been disclosed under "Profit/(Loss) from discontinued operations" separately. At the quarter end, the Company has no liability to be paid and no assets to realise related to this business.  
3 The figures for the quarter ended March 31, 2020 are the balance figures between audited figures for the full financial and published year to date figures up to the third quarter of the previous financial year.  
4 The figures for the previous periods have been regrouped/ rearranged, wherever considered necessary, to conform current period classifications.  
5 The above results were reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors in their respective meetings held on July 25, 2020

Place : New Delhi  
Date : 25.07.2020

Anil Khaitan  
Chairman Cum Managing Director  
DIN 00759951

## Remembering PVR

Congress credits PV Narasimha Rao retrospectively but it is just too late in the day to deliver political gains



**B**etter late than never, goes the adage. But with the Congress, the retrospective correction of history, in no small part aided by the political necessity of ridding itself of a dynastic trap, is just too late to be sincere. After years of pushing him to oblivion, simply because his individuality outshone his identity as a Congressman, the party officially acknowledged former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao as one of its luminaries who had contributed to the nation. The occasion was the 29th anniversary of the then Finance Minister Manmohan Singh's path-breaking budget of 1991, which liberalised the economy, opened us up to the world market and birthed the big bang moment for our millennial dreams to soar. Of course, Singh is grateful to Rao for having trusted him with what was then a big experiment and rightly described him as the "father of economic reforms." But what surprised everybody was how Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi lavished praise. Not only that, the party will also hold year-long celebrations, commemorating Rao's birth centenary on June 28, 2021. Clearly, the Gandhis now want to underplay their dynastic entitlements and transgressions, at least in the public eye. Particularly at a time when they are staring at an exodus by the younger breed, who want to change the Congress' legacy from unquestioning subservience to independent performance. By crediting leaders outside the family pantheon, they want to convey that they are not averse to intra-party democracy or sharing leadership roles, though all their actions so far have run antithetical to their claims. One just needs to spool back the tapes to recall how the same leadership neglected and condemned the man they now call change-maker. He was criticised for mishandling the Babri Masjid demolition with Gandhi courtiers saying a "Prime Minister" from the family wouldn't have allowed it while his efforts for a solution on the temple issue were under-rated. And though Rao's reforms transformed India, at the AICC session in 2002, the economic resolution was changed at Sonia's behest, saying they were actually a brainchild of the late Rajiv Gandhi and Rao and Singh had merely translated that vision. Rao suffered this indignity as everyone knew how difficult the practicalities of implementing this huge step would be in a country like India and across its States, the logistics and rationale of it, none of which Rajiv Gandhi imagined. Rao created the compact command cell we know as the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) today and exposed the hawala scandal, which maligned big political leaders across the nation and some Congress courtiers like Madhavrao Scindia, Kamal Nath, Arjun Singh and VC Shukla. He never had political ambition and so never believed in being a supine bystander in the dynastic court. That's why he had to suffer the humiliation of a pariah, accused of going slow on the Rajiv assassination case and shortly before his death, being heaped with allegations of corruption. Such was the uneasy relationship between Sonia and Rao that even in death, the latter was not cremated in Delhi or honoured with a memorial like past Prime Ministers. So it is difficult to be convinced about Sonia's words of appreciation, "PV Narasimha Rao was a much respected national and international figure. The Congress party takes pride in his many accomplishments... most scholarly and erudite personality who... became the Prime Minister at a time of grave economic crisis."

But then the Congress has run out of options and is desperately looking for ways to blunt its naysayers. The immediate political context seems to be Telangana, where Rao is revered and respected. And with the BJP looking to find a foothold, the Congress doesn't want it to appropriate his legacy, the way it has Sardar Patel's. Or send a message that the high command is against acknowledging regional leaders. This way it could neutralise Telangana Rashtra Samithi, which has built its constituency on Telugu pride. At the national level, considering it has foregrounded Manmohan Singh to attack the Narendra Modi Government's economic policies, it is hoping to shine up past glories of Rao, and by extension the Congress, as the architect of reforms that gave India direction. It is another matter that if associations could restore trust, then the Congress wouldn't be withering the way it is now, but at least it is using the right halo to challenge Modinomics. Or is it that Rao's critics among the old guard have died and ironically two of his closest loyalists, Manmohan Singh and Jairam Ramesh, are Congress advisors and forcing a re-assessment of the party's real achievements? Or now that the temple at Ayodhya is a reality, with the highest court of the land going by emotion and faith over historicity, and with Babri Masjid hardly investable as political capital, Rao is free of guilt posthumously? But the big question that the Congress must answer is what it intends to do at present, considering it is showing some willingness to learn lessons from history? It could begin by holding basic organisational elections, the opportunity for which was provided by Rahul Gandhi quitting leadership last year and retreating to Wayanad. That would settle the many leadership tussles and ambitions that are tearing the party asunder. A leadership role must be backed up by the candidate's grassroots hold, capabilities and electoral mathematics and not by his/her association with the Gandhis or supplication to the existing oligarchy. The Congress can accuse the BJP of being a rabid predator all it wants but who is to blame really? It may dust relics of the past but right now it needs to take the present along if it doesn't want to bite the dust.

## The big freeze

The new Cold War between the US and China will not be anything like the old one



**D**uring the Korean War in the early 1950s, the US came extremely close to dropping a nuclear weapon on China. In fact, had the then American President, Harry Truman, not fired General Douglas MacArthur, the maverick would have left north-east Asia in a decade-long nuclear winter. But America did not nuke China. Instead, ever since the Sino-Soviet split in the late 1960s, the US has worked towards economically empowering the Middle Kingdom in an attempt to weaken the hold of communism. As such, the Communist Party of China (CPC) is "communist" in name only, overseeing a capitalist empire, thanks to the US and its preferential trade agreements, all of which helped it nurture ambitions of a global conquest. With China now challenging the US, it appears that much like the Taliban, the US has nurtured another monster, the CPC.

However, unlike the Taliban, this monster is one that America will have to fight sooner or later. The CPC might be antagonising all its neighbours, particularly with its latest scrap with India, but the US knows that it will have to tame the dragon. America's move to shut down the Chinese consulate in Houston, alleging that it is a spying centre, is drastic and will escalate the already deteriorating ties between the two. Houston is the nerve centre of the US' space programme and with America making its intentions clear about returning to the Moon and going to Mars, China is keen to keep a hawk's eye. Of course, China ordered the closure of the US consulate in the south-western city of Chengdu as a result but the US' crackdown on China — not only on the trade front but particularly on spying as well as militarily — is almost certain to pass on to the next administration even if Democrat Joe Biden wins the November 2020 presidential race. Much of this is China's own doing. Its President Xi Jinping's supreme arrogance has led to previously neutral nations like India moving into the US sphere. There is no doubt that Xi wants to make China a global power but the world today is much clearer about his country's intentions. India cannot cop out of this fight. It has to stand up for itself and readily back the US.

# Nepotism everywhere

Just look at the way party tickets are distributed during a parliamentary election and you realise that 'being connected' matters a lot. It's no different from Bollywood



A SURYA PRAKASH

**T**he sudden and tragic demise of Sushant Singh Rajput in rather mysterious circumstances has triggered a huge debate on all that is wrong with Bollywood, especially the incestuous relationship that exists within the film fraternity and the discouragement, if not hostility, with which it greets "outsiders." While the Mumbai police is still probing the cause of his death, Sushant's colleague, Kangana Ranaut, another "outsider" who has had to struggle to find her place in the industry, has stirred the hornet's nest by talking about a "movie mafia" that exists in Mumbai and the nepotistic tendencies that it promotes. Her detailed interview to a private television channel recently has dredged up a lot of muck and brought the issue of nepotism to the centre stage.

One of the allegations against the "Bollywood mafia" after Sushant's tragic death is that it drives talented "outsiders" out of the business while promoting mediocrity among "nepo-kids" (children of film stars). This is not to say that star kids are not talented. Many of them have blossomed as excellent actors. But there is no denying the fact that they have a safety net. Interestingly, what is true of the cinema world in Mumbai is also true of the world of politics in Lutyens' Delhi and elsewhere in the country. Nepotism is so well entrenched that it is now central to our way of life. However, even if it is a bit late in the day, one must identify this trend and call it out because it militates against the democratic *dharma*, which demands a level-playing field for everyone.

Producer-director Karan Johar, who has been at the receiving end of Kanganas' accusations, has not, in fact, denied the part played by nepotism in the film industry. He has stated publicly that when a producer launches the son of a movie star, he is actually wanting to be in a "comfort zone" because eventually, it's also a commercial decision. "A big movie star's son is going to get the eye balls... you don't want to take a chance... it's money." In other words, he says, producers feel "protected" when they are in that (nepotism) zone.

Is this not true of politics as well? Just look at the way party tickets are distributed during a parliamentary election and you realise that "being connected" matters a lot — or so it did for much of the seven



decades that have gone by after independence. In fact, nepotism is so well entrenched that the children and grandchildren of individuals, who held public offices at the national level in India many decades ago, almost deem it their right to represent the constituencies which their grandfathers or grandmothers represented and live in the very houses which their forefathers occupied in Lutyens' Delhi. They get so attached to these houses that after a while they even forget that these dwellings are public properties. And in case they are not living in those houses, the second and third generation politicians demand that they be converted into memorials or mausoleums.

The Nehru-Gandhis are the real initiators of this trend in our national politics and in Lutyens' Delhi. It began in the days of our first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, when he ensured the appointment of his daughter, Indira Gandhi, as the president of the Indian National Congress in 1959. What happened thereafter is fairly well-known to the people of the country. As one member of this family succeeded another as the country's Prime Minister, the family's familiarity with our republican Constitution grew weaker and

weaker and it began to imagine that India was indeed a monarchy.

As this family entrenched itself and started promoting its relatives and friends, the Nehruvian School became dominant and ambitious bureaucrats, academicians, thought leaders, artists, media professionals and businessmen became part of it. All of them realised that only those who were part of this caravan, could climb the ladder in bureaucracy, academia, media and so on.

Barring honourable exceptions, all the Governors, Vice Chancellors, newspaper editors, TV anchors and Padma Award winners were members of this school. There was no such thing as respect for diversity or other points of view. In politics, those who made it to the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha in the days of the Congress's complete dominance, had to be part of this ideological "biraadri" of their fellow travellers. So the whims and fancies of this family became the law and its nepotistic attitude was dignified and universalised when it promoted the children and grandchildren of its loyalists and hangers-on.

All this went on unchallenged until Narendra Modi



became the Prime Minister in May 2014. He has emerged as the arch disruptor and has substantially worked towards creation of a level-playing field in Lutyens' Delhi. Kangana is doing the same in Bollywood — fearlessly calling out those who shamelessly promote nepotism in the Hindi film industry and even launch vicious attacks on talented "outsiders" who dare to find a place for themselves in Bollywood.

For example, it appears to be common practice to crack jokes in television shows and public events at the expense of newcomers like what Shah Rukh Khan and Shahid Kapoor did to Sushant during an IIFA awards event. Kangana also talks about some extremely worrying situations, like when a noted Bollywood director told Sushant that he was not drifting but drowning.

Further, Sushant began life in Maldiva in Purnia district, Bihar. He was a National Olympiad winner in physics. A rank holder in an entrance exam for a top-of-the-line engineering college. He had eclectic interests, ranging from reading to mathematics and astronomy to dance, music and cinema. Was he too much of an intellectual for Bollywood because many "stars" have publicly gloated over their poor academic

record? In fact, Karan Johar has confessed that he was told at a young age that if he wanted to make Hindi movies, "you don't need to be qualified... and this doesn't speak highly of the fraternity I come from."

This writer is not a movie buff but he got to see some of Sushant's work — his lead roles in *Chichore* and in the biopic on *MS Dhoni*, for example. His sensitive portrayals in both these movies is there for all to see. So how come Bollywood, instead of embracing and promoting such talent, chose to drive him into a corner? If there is a "mafia" or to put it more accurately, a cosy club of nepotists, it must be identified and called out. The issues raised by Kangana call for some serious debate and cleaning up.

Further, if Sushant's death is not to go in vain, the democratisation of Bollywood is essential and a level-playing field is absolutely essential. But this can happen only if the current national indignation at the treatment meted out to Sushant is turned into a national movement to encourage the work of talented "outsiders" and, more importantly, gets reflected at the box office.

(The writer is an author specialising in democracy studies. Views expressed are personal.)

## SOUNDBITE

I don't care if it (truth about Chinese intrusions) costs me politically. But I am going to say the truth as far as the Indian territory is concerned.

**Congress leader**  
—Rahul Gandhi

Your privilege need not make you glib, condescending and smug. You cannot change your parents but you can recognise the fortune, opportunities you were born into.

**Singer**  
—Sona Mohapatra

BJP-appointed Governors have repeatedly violated the letter and spirit of the Constitution. They have impaired parliamentary democracy, its conventions and traditions.

**Congress leader**  
—P Chidambaram

No doubt Kohli of 2019 is ahead of Gambhir of 2011. Although Kohli was there in the 2011 team as well but there's a lot of difference between that Kohli and this Kohli.

**Former India cricketer**  
—Aakash Chopra

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Flood fury

Sir — The flood situation in Bihar has exacerbated with thousands of lives at stake. Hospital, schools and houses are submerged while crops have been destroyed. And for the migrant workers, who came back home during the nationwide lockdown, it is difficult to arrange two meals a day. The Government must provide immediate assistance, evacuate people to safer zones and provide relief materials, too.

**MA Salam**  
*Qasmi*

### Cyber threat

Sir — The cyber cell of the Haryana police has done a commendable job in busting a gang of cheats involved in online fraud. Such scams have increased in times of uncertainty when the pandemic has confined us to our homes. Lures range from run-of-the-mill scams to non-targeted spam campaigns, which are used for data harvesting. In many cases, the victims are induced to fol-

### New twists and turns in COVID battle

**G**overnments across the globe are finding it difficult to contain the spread of the Coronavirus. In India alone, more than 32,000 people have succumbed to the virus even as more than 50,000 cases are being recorded on a daily basis, taking the total number to around 14 lakh. It has become more than obvious now that without an effective antidote to counter the threat posed by the virus, the overall situation will spiral out of control. However, failure on the part of private hospitals to reserve 20 per cent of their ICU beds for COVID patients may well have upset the Government's plan to overcome "logistical shortfall."

The situation is worse in rural areas where private practitioners have refused to open their clinics or even offer telephonic counselling to the patients. Public perception about the virus, including among those who are infected and even among doctors and healthcare workers, has been pathetic. At the same time, conventional wisdom displayed by the public has been at its lowest ebb when it comes down to following safety measures to prevent the spread of the disease. Of course, people cannot be cowed into submission. The Government is not only weighed down by the prospect



of its unruly populace throwing caution to the winds but it has to also contend with protecting its citizens from the deadly effects of the virus. Governance has come to a standstill. Moreover, with too many opinions on the way to contain the virus, it has become difficult for State administrations to take decisions. Notwithstanding the confusion, the test-track-treat strategy and precautionary measures such as social distancing must be followed tooth and nail by every State.

**Pachu Menon**  
*Margao*

a sizeable population in Delhi. If so many people did contract the infection and are asymptomatic, it brings down the infection fatality rate. But there's no room for complacency. Given the valuable information uncovered from Delhi, sero-surveys must be conducted in other major cities, too, as they could indicate the possibility of herd immunity.

**N Sadhasiva Reddy**  
*Via mail*

### Time to overhaul

Sir — It has been over a month since Sushant Singh Rajput left us but the controversy over his decision to end his life has refused to die. In fact, the debate over the existence of nepotism has gained momentum. The problem lies with the influential class of people who decide on the fate of an actor, whether he/she must be promoted or demoted. Tragedies like that of Sushant must stop now. Time for the film industry to recast its functioning.

**Shruti**  
*Via email*

### No complacency

low a malicious link ostensibly to get more or updated information on the COVID-19 treatment rates in their local area. Alertness is the key to fight the scourge of online fraud.

**Yugal Kishore Sharma**  
*Faridabad*

out of four Delhi residents may have contracted COVID-19 until June 20. This translates into a whopping 47 lakh people with temporary immunity, revealing a wide gulf between the contagion and its detection. The infection has already passed through

Send your feedback to: [letterstopioneer@gmail.com](mailto:letterstopioneer@gmail.com)

## FIRST COLUMN

## A brick for a self-reliant India

The cultural and spiritual richness of Himachal will have to be developed as a resource for the overall uplift of the State and its people



NAREESH KUMAR

Once, while addressing entrepreneurs, Microsoft founder Bill Gates said that realising the vibrancy of success, looking for short-comings and finding a way to solve them was the mantra of prosperity. Chanakya has mentioned in the *Arthashastra* that in a society where entrepreneurs are demotivated, natural and earned resources begin to fall in value. The Coronavirus pandemic has shaken the globe and even the developed world is trying to find its way through the "new normal." The questions uppermost on everyone's minds are: What will be the changes in a post-Corona society? What will be the shape of the new economic world order? To what extent will technology affect our lives?

To add to the confusion, international agencies like the UN, the IMF, WHO, IEA and WEF are continuously coming up with new facts and studies projecting new possibilities. The way this tiny virus has caused human behaviour to change drastically in such a short time is unparalleled in the pages of history. When Prime Minister Narendra Modi says that for a self-reliant India, individuals and institutions need to increase their efficiency with commitment, comprehensiveness and inclusiveness, there is a need to understand this in totality. For instance, if we talk about the potential of Himachal Pradesh in a post-virus India, the State is fully capable of playing the leading role in fulfilling Modi's dream of an 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat' and the aspirations of the people of the State. But the question is, how prepared are we for the possible changes in social life in a post-Corona world? In which areas will Himachal have to become the global carrier of change? What are the shortcomings which must be removed?

In terms of natural resources, Himachal is the most beautiful, environmentally-rich region in the world. But the right use of resources and capacity is the need of the hour. For this to happen, serious and continuous efforts need to be made in some major areas. First, Himachal's biggest strength is its natural resources, which can be a major source of prosperity. But society has to think about striking a balance between growth and environmental protection. Instead of constantly harming the environment in the name of growth, the "need for growth" has to be re-engineered. This sustainable development will only be possible through continuous, long-term planning. And the success of these efforts will depend on collective social participation. With over 40,000 botanical species found here, a large number of which have medicinal properties, biodiversity is the hallmark of this *Devbhumi* (land of the gods). According to the 2018 report of the Zoological Survey of India, Himachal has 30,377 species and sub-species of animals. With increasing research and development on these, the State can turn into a major centre of Ayurveda. The most important factor is that by increasing biodiversity, the pace of the negative impact of climate change can also be slowed in different regions of the Himalayas. It is already clear that after the COVID-19 crisis, the world will move rapidly towards organic products and Ayurveda. Plus, the pandemic has made the need for natural resources that are rich in values and credibility all the more relevant. Trained human resources are required to capitalise on economic enterprise opportunities. Through skill-development programmes, MSMEs can be strengthened. Himachal's special geographical identity and favourable conditions of connecting with the rest of India will strengthen employment-generation efforts.

While many regions of the world are struggling with the lack of necessary infrastructure for healthcare facilities, Himachal is equipped with some of the best. Plus, the manufacturing units of the world's leading pharmaceutical companies are located in the State. Altogether, efforts to develop Himachal as a major centre for medical tourism, just like Delhi, Mumbai, Pune and Bengaluru, can be given a new impetus through entrepreneurship. For this to happen, local talent and entrepreneurs of the State will have to come forward.

Energy resources are the primary basis of all-round progress of any nation. Mother nature has blessed Himachal with an abundance of renewable and conventional energy resources. We have an opportunity to prioritise the development of renewable energy resources along with hydro-electricity. Today, as India is moving towards a "gas-based economy", Himachal has every opportunity to move with the City Gas Distribution (CGD) network. Along with increasing renewable energy production, food security through agriculture will have to be given priority. The biological consequences of Corona are indicating that people will have to make radical changes in their food habits and according to the food ecosystem, crop rotation will have to be adopted.

Plus, when there is a movement in the country to give a global identity to indigenous culture and local goods, efforts will have to be made to do the same for Himachal's cultural heritage and folk arts. The cultural and spiritual richness of Himachal will have to be developed as a resource for the overall uplift of the State and its people. With these efforts, Himachal may well become a leader in realising the dream of a self-reliant India.

(The writer is General Manager, Corporate Communications, POW-ERGRID. Views expressed are personal)

YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR PROBLEM IS? YOU GOT OSCARS. THAT IS THE KISS OF DEATH. IT PROVES YOU HAVE MORE TALENT THAN BOLLYWOOD CAN HANDLE.

—FILM-MAKER SHEKHAR KAPUR

## POINTCOUNTERPOINT



LOST MONEY AND FAME COME BACK, BUT WASTED PRIME TIME OF OUR LIVES WILL NEVER COME BACK. LET'S MOVE ON. WE HAVE GREATER THINGS TO DO.

—MUSIC COMPOSER AR RAHMAN

## A 'bad bank' is a bad idea

With the Govt having recapitalised PSBs with ₹2,65,000 crore in the last three financial years alone, it makes no sense to pump in more of the taxpayers' money into NPAs



UTTAM GUPTA

Even as the efforts made by the Narendra Modi Government — including an asset quality review (AQR) by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), enactment of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), amendment of the Banking Regulation Act (BRA) and massive capital infusion in public sector banks (PSBs) — were beginning to yield results in terms of reduction in non-performing assets (NPAs), the crisis triggered by Covid-19 has turned the clock back.

According to a report by India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra), the impact of the pandemic and the associated policy response are likely to result in an additional ₹1,67,000 crore of debt from the top-500 debt-heavy private sector borrowers turning delinquent between 2020-21 and 2021-22. Together with ₹2,54,000 crore anticipated prior to the onset of the pandemic, the cumulative quantum will be ₹4,21,000 crore. As a proportion of outstanding debt, NPAs will increase from 11.57 per cent to 18.21 per cent.

Ind-Ra has also projected a scenario wherein funding markets would continue to exhibit heightened risk-aversion. Under this, the corporate stress could increase further by ₹1,68,000 crore, taking cumulative NPAs to ₹5,89,000 crore by the end of 2021-22. This is 20.84 per cent of outstanding debt. To deal with the situation, in May the Indian Banks Association (IBA) had submitted a proposal for setting up a "bad bank" to the Ministry of Finance (MoF) and the RBI, proposing equity contribution from the Government of India (GoI) and banks.

A "bad bank" buys the NPAs and other non-liquid holdings of other banks and thereby helps clear their balance sheets. In 2018, a committee headed by the former Chairman, Punjab National Bank (PNB), Sunil Mehta, had recommended setting up of an asset management company (AMC) to be named 'Sashakt India Asset Management' for fast track resolution of large bad loans. Now, the IBA has resurrected the idea.

Before analysing the proposal, it is important to take stock of what all was done in the last five years or so to deal with NPAs. First, it was a scheme nicknamed '5/25' introduced in December 2014, under which maturity of loans given to infrastructure companies could be extended up to 25 years. Second, in June 2015, this was followed by a scheme for 'Strategic Debt Restructuring (SDR)'. Under SDR, banks could convert debt into equity and take control of a company and sell off its assets. They were required to sell the assets within 18 months from the day of taking control; if within this deadline they could not, full provision had to be made for writing off the debt.

Third, in 2016, under a 'Scheme for Sustainable Structuring of Stressed Assets (S4A)' for large accounts involving borrowings of ₹500 crore or more, where no malfeasance was seen, lenders were required to first segregate the existing debt of a company into "sustainable" (the share which can be serviced with subsisting low cash flow) and "unsustainable", which can't be serviced. The unsustainable portion (up to 50 per cent of total debt) was to be converted into equity shares.

The underlying theme in all the three schemes was to make banks bear the brunt and let borrowers go scot-free. In the first, this was via indefinitely deferring repayment whereas, in the second, the entire outstanding debt was condoned by converting this into equity. In the third, even as 50 per cent of the total debt was condoned, for the

THE GOVT AND THE RBI SHOULD TAKE MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN THE IBC PROCESS. THE WAY FORWARD IS TO FIX A TIMELINE FOR BANKS TO COME UP WITH A RESOLUTION PROPOSAL. IT WAS THERE IN 2018 AND NEEDS TO BE RESTORED. AS FOR THE SUPREME COURT'S CONCERN THAT 'THE RBI DOES NOT HAVE LEGAL AUTHORITY TO ISSUE A GENERALISED ORDER', THIS CAN BE TAKEN CARE OF BY THE LATTER GIVING DIRECTIONS ON 'SPECIFIC CASES' — UNDER THE AUTHORISATION FROM THE GOVT — AS THE FORMER HAS UPHELD THE LEGAL VALIDITY OF SECTION 35AA OF THE AMENDED BANKING REGULATION ACT IN 2019



balance 50 per cent, no credible mechanism was proposed to recover the money. Even so, with a promoter reduced to minority status, s/he won't have much interest left in running the company for generating the required cash flow.

The outcome was there for all to see. Under '5/25' and 'SDR', the banks were stuck with dud assets even as the 'S4A' failed to take off. On February 12, 2018, the RBI abolished all the three schemes and came up with a broad circular. For accounts with aggregate exposure of ₹2,000 crore and above, the circular required that as soon as there was a default in the account with any lender, all lenders — singly or jointly — shall initiate steps to cure the default by preparing a resolution plan (RP). The RP approved by all lenders had to be readied within six months from the default date. If the deadline was missed, proceedings under the IBC would be initiated by referring the case to the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) which would get six months to complete the resolution process.

This indeed was the way to go. The mechanism under the IBC yielded good results with dozens of NPA accounts resolved and lenders recovering over ₹3,00,000 crore. But the circular was quashed by the Supreme Court (SC) on April 2, 2019. On June 7, 2019, the RBI issued a revised circular. Under it, from the day an account is in default, lenders get 30 days to enter into an inter-lender agreement (ILA) to decide on a RP.

Unlike the 2018 circular, which set a deadline for finalising the RP, this order prescribes no time limit. It only requires banks to make an additional provision of 20 per cent if the RP is not ready within 180 days and a further 15 per cent if not ready within 365 days. The plan has

to be approved by 75 per cent of the lenders by value and 60 per cent by number. If lenders don't come up with a plan even at the end of 365 days and refer the account to the NCLT then, the provisions can be reversed viz. 50 per cent of it at the time of initiating the proceedings under the IBC and the balance when the case is admitted by the tribunal. In short, the June 2019 circular gives a free hand to lenders in coming up with a RP. It has rendered the resolution under the IBC dysfunctional. If the account is not referred to the tribunal in time, how will the IBC process work?

The lockdown necessitated by the pandemic and consequential policy actions by the RBI, viz. granting a moratorium on loan repayments and exclusion of the moratorium period for the purpose of declaring the account an NPA, have only worsened matters. In this backdrop and with the quantum of NPAs threatening to increase sharply, the worry of banks is understandable. Hence, the idea of a "bad bank" has been revived.

As mentioned earlier, a "bad bank" buys the NPAs of other banks. The most crucial component of this arrangement is the value at which the loan account is transferred from the latter to the former. From the IBA's proposal, which wants the GoI to be a majority shareholder, it would appear that banks are keen on securing maximum value for the assets transferred to the bad bank.

Put simply, the banks don't want to make any efforts on their own (coming up with a RP) and won't let the account go under the hammer as that would entail huge provisioning (50 per cent for secured loans and 100 per cent for unsecured loans). Instead, they expect the "bad bank" to take upon itself the onus

of recovering the money from delinquent borrowers. Even if it is unable to recover (a more likely scenario) and gets into trouble, the sovereign Government — being the majority shareholder — will eventually foot the bill. This is not a healthy proposition. If ultimately the Government has to bear the brunt, this can be done even while bad loans remain in the bank's books. There is no need to create a dedicated bank and incur the additional cost associated with it.

There are three strong reasons why the Government must not accept this proposal. First, having already recapitalised PSBs (during the last three financial years alone, it has infused ₹2,65,000 crore), it makes no sense to pump in more of the taxpayers' money which is what a GoI-sponsored "bad bank" will tantamount to.

Second, already, there are many asset reconstruction companies (ARCs) in the private space which are better-equipped to handle stressed assets; why create another institution? Third, setting up a "bad bank" will bring to nought all efforts that have gone into the IBC process and seriously undermine it.

Instead, the Union Government and the RBI should take measures to strengthen the IBC process. The way forward is to fix a timeline for banks to come up with a RP. It was there in 2018 and needs to be restored. As for the Supreme Court's concern that "the RBI does not have legal authority to issue a generalised order", this can be taken care of by the latter giving directions on "specific cases" — under the authorisation from the GoI — as the former has upheld the legal validity of Section 35AA of the amended BRA in its order of 2019.

(The writer is a New Delhi-based policy analyst)

## Is constitutional morality eroding in India?

Of late, differences around selecting the CM or determining the timing for proving majority have projected a negative image of the Governor



CHITTARVU RAGHU

After the Rajasthan High Court ordered *status quo* in relation to the notices issued by the Speaker, initiating proceedings against Congress rebels under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution, Chief Minister (CM) Ashok Gehlot paraded more than 100 MLAs in front of the Governor. He requested him to convene the Assembly session but Kalraj Mishra exhibited reluctance to do so.

Article 163 of the Constitution says that there shall be a Council of Ministers with the CM as the head, to aid and advise the Governor in the exercise of his/her functions, except when the Governor is required by the Constitution to exercise any of his/her

functions at his/her discretion.

Article 174 of the Constitution mandates that the Governor from time to time summon the House or each House of the Legislature of the State. The Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court (SC) in the Nabam Rebia vs Deputy Speaker case had examined the scope of the words "in his discretion" used in Article 163. The apex court held that in so far as the exercise of discretionary powers vested with the Governor is concerned, the same is limited to situations wherein constitutional provisions expressly provide that s/he should act at his/her own discretion. It was also held that the Governor can exercise his/her discretion in a situation where an interpretation of the constitutional provision concerned could not be construed otherwise. The SC held that the framers of the Constitution decided not to vest discretion with the Governor in the matter of summoning and dissolving the House or House of the State Legislature by omitting Article 153(3) of the Draft Articles, which envisaged

that the power to summon and dissolve the House shall be exercised by the Governor at his/her discretion. Therefore, the Governor can summon, prorogue and dissolve the House only on the aid and advice of the CM and the Council of Ministers.

After examining the Justice Sarkaria Commission report, Justice MM Punchhi Commission report and the treaties by MN Kaul and SL Shakhder *Practice and procedure of Parliament*, published by the Lok Sabha Secretariat, the apex court had held that in ordinary circumstances, during the period when the CM and his/her Council of Ministers enjoy the confidence of the majority of the House, the power vested with the Governor under Article 174 to summon, must be exercised in consonance with the aid and advice of the CM and the Council of Ministers. If the Governor has reason to believe that they have lost the confidence of the House, it would require them to prove their majority in the House through a floor test and thereafter exercise his/her discretion if the

Council of Ministers and the CM have lost the confidence of the majority.

In the light of the said judgment and the parading of 102 MLAs by Gehlot, the Governor invariably has to abide by the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers and summon the Assembly. Or, if s/he is in doubt with regard to the said majority, still s/he can summon the Assembly and direct the CM to prove majority. In either case, the Governor has to immediately summon the Assembly to resolve the face-off.

All constitutional functionaries have to act as per the mandate contained in the Constitution. It is an organic document that requires all its functionaries to observe, apply and protect the values spelt out by it, which make up constitutional morality. The SC, in Navtej Singh Johar's case, has observed that "it is the concept of constitutional morality that strives and urges the organs of the State to maintain such a heterogeneous fibre in society in multifarious ways and it is the responsibility of the three organs of the State to curb any propensity or procliv-

ity of popular sentiment or majoritarianism."

The Constitution Bench of the SC in the Government of NCT of Delhi Vs. Union of India case, has held that "constitutional morality is that fulcrum which acts as an essential check upon high functionaries and citizens alike, as experience has shown that unbridled power without any checks and balances would result in a despotic and tyrannical situation which is antithetical to the very idea of democracy. Any act to garner justification must possess potentiality in harmony with constitutional impulses."

The SC further held that the concept of constitutional governance in a body polity like ours, where the Constitution is the supreme fundamental law, is neither hypothetical nor abstract but is real, concrete and grounded. Governance should be consistent with the Constitution and shall operate under it. The apex court said that the parliamentary form of democracy, as envisaged by the Constitution, has its very base in the power bestowed

upon the people to vote and make the legislature accountable for their functioning. Of late, the powers of and roles played by the Governors of Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra and now Rajasthan have become highly controversial. Differences around issues such as selecting the CM, determining the timing for proving majority and so on, have projected a negative image that the Governor is "an agent of the Centre."

BR Ambedkar in his speeches had said that the discretionary power is in no sense a negation of a responsible Government and it is not a general clause giving the Governor power to disregard the advice of his Ministers in any manner. The SC, in the SR Bommai Vs Union of India case, while examining the invocation of Article 356(1) of the Constitution imposing President's Rule in Karnataka, had specifically held that the Governor is expected to conduct her/himself fairly and conscientiously and be circumspect.

(The writer is Advocate, Andhra and Telangana High Courts)



## FOREIGN EYE



## RUSSIA MUST AID MIGRANT LABOUR

Moscow has suspended all inessential work to slow the spread of the Coronavirus. That means that in and around Moscow alone, 2.2 million migrants legally registered to work have lost jobs. The real figure is likely to be much higher, as millions work in the grey economy where they can easily be exploited. The Government must help them now before they starve.

(Ceylon Today editorial)

TENSION AFTER CLOSURE OF CONSULATES

# US warplanes come closer to Shanghai: Report

Beijing: American warplanes have approached the Chinese mainland, with one reaching within 76.5km of Shanghai, one of the closest passes in recent years, a media report said on Monday amid deepening tensions between the two nations following the tit-for-tat closure of consulates.

A United States P-8A (Poseidon) anti-submarine plane and an EP-3E reconnaissance plane entered the Taiwan Strait, flying near the coast of Zhejiang and Fujian on Sunday, according to the South China Sea Strategic Situation Probing Initiative, a Peking University think tank.

It first tweeted about the operation on Sunday morning, later adding that the reconnaissance plane was flying back after approaching Fujian and the southern part of the Taiwan Strait.

The think-tank tweeted again at night, saying the US Navy P-8A was operating near Shanghai, with the USS Rafael Peralta, a guided-missile destroyer, following a similar route, asking "might be a joint operation?", Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported.

According to a chart from the think tank, the P-8A came within 76.5km of Shanghai, the closest any US planes have come to mainland China in



recent years, while the other plane came within 106km of Fujian's southern coast, the report said.

It was the 12th day in a row that US military planes have approached the mainland coast, it said.

The US move comes amid an escalation in the diplomatic feud between the two nations.

China on Monday said it took control of the US consulate in Chengdu after it was formally closed as per Beijing's directive in retaliation to America's move to shut down the Chinese diplomatic mission in Houston.

Last week, the US government ordered the closure of China's consulate in Houston,

Texas, claiming the mission had been involved in a larger Chinese espionage effort using diplomatic facilities around the US.

The closures were the latest in a series of confrontations ranging from areas such as trade and technology to diplomacy and the South China Sea.

On Monday, the institute tweeted that "it seems" a US air force RC-135W - another reconnaissance plane - had entered Taiwan's airspace and asked if anyone could confirm it. The Taiwanese defence ministry declined to comment on the claims.

But in the late afternoon, the institute tweeted again, saying an EP-3E was conducting close-in reconnaissance of

Guangdong less than 100km from the coast.

On Thursday, the South China Sea Strategic Situation Probing Initiative released a scratchy audio recording of what appeared to be a warning from the Chinese navy to a US military plane to change course or be intercepted. The think tank said the audio had been captured by a radio amateur that morning.

It remains unclear which aircraft was involved but it was said to be flying close to the southern Chinese coast, north of the Taiwan Strait. It is unknown whether any subsequent aerial encounter took place.

According to the think tank, US air force E-8C sur-

veillance planes have come within 185km or less of the southeast coast of Guangdong province on four separate occasions in the past week.

"At the moment the US military is sending three to five reconnaissance aircraft each day to the South China Sea," the think tank said, adding the US military planes have come unusually close to mainland airspace several times since April, the Post report said.

"In the first half of 2020 - with much higher frequency, closer distance and more variety of missions - the US aerial reconnaissance in the South China Sea has entered a new phase," it said.

According to its statistics, US planes made a record 50 sorties over the South China Sea in the first three weeks of July - a time when both countries' armed forces were conducting training exercises.

The project's director Hu Bo said the frequent encounters between the US and Chinese ships and planes raised the risk of a clash, although he said the chance of this escalating into a large-scale conflict was small.

In 2001, a US navy signals intelligence aircraft collided in mid-air with a Chinese interceptor near Hainan province, killing a Chinese pilot.

"Although the US has been

trying to decouple with China in other areas, they are still closely connected," the Post quoted Hu as saying.

"So the chance of a large-scale conflict happening is small. But a medium or small-scale conflict is possible, such as two warships hitting each other or occasional crossfire since the two countries' warships and aircraft encounter each other every day," he said.

The Chinese state media has reported that aviation units from a navy brigade are currently undertaking live-fire drills in the South China Sea while a nine-day exercise is also being held off the Leizhou peninsula in Guangdong.

Earlier this month, two US aircraft carriers USS Nimitz and USS Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Groups conducted dual carrier operation in the disputed South China Sea amid China's drills.

Beijing claims almost all of the 1.3 million square miles South China Sea as its sovereign territory. China has been building military bases on artificial islands in the region also claimed by Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam.

This is the first time the two US aircraft carriers visited the area in recent time to challenge China's claim over almost all of the South China Sea. *PTI*

# Trump's national security adviser tests Covid +ve

Washington: President Donald Trump's National Security Adviser Robert O'Brien has tested positive for the coronavirus - making him the highest-ranking official to test positive so far.

That's according to two people familiar with the situation who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss it by name.

The White House confirmed that O'Brien has mild symptoms and "has been self-isolating and working from a secure location off site," adding that: "There is no risk of exposure to the President or the Vice President" and that the "work of the National Security Council continues uninterrupted."

The news was first report-



ed by Bloomberg News, which said O'Brien came down with the virus after a family event.

A personal valet to the president and the vice president's press secretary previously tested positive for the virus, which has now infected more than 4 million people nationwide.

Senior White House staff and anyone who comes into close contact with the president and vice president are tested for the virus every day. *AP*

# Bangladesh lawmaker dies after recovering from Covid-19 infection

Dhaka: A lawmaker from Bangladesh's ruling Awami League died from respiratory complications at a hospital here on Monday, following his recovery from the COVID-19 illness, according to media reports.

Israfil Alam, the MP from the Naogaon-6 constituency, was admitted to Square Hospital in Dhaka on July 17 and breathed his last early this morning. He was 54.

Alam, also the joint secretary of Naogaon district unit

Awami League, was put on life support on July 24 after his breathing complexities deteriorated, his wife Sultana Parvin told the Dhaka Tribune.

The three-time lawmaker had earlier recovered from COVID-19. "Our mother died recently and then my brother contracted the coronavirus disease," Alam's sister Renu told *bdnews24.com* on Saturday. President Abdul Hamid in his condolence message termed Alam a "dedicated politician". *PTI*

# Chinese doctor alleges Covid cover-up, says Wuhan market proof destroyed before probe

Beijing: A Chinese doctor, who diagnosed early coronavirus cases in China, has accused the local authorities of a cover-up of the initial scale of the outbreak at the epicentre Wuhan, saying the evidence was already destroyed when they went for investigation, according to a media report.

Speaking to the BBC, Professor Kwok-Yung Yuen, a microbiologist, physician and surgeon in Hong Kong, who helped to investigate the COVID-19 outbreak in the central Chinese city of Wuhan, said the physical evidence at the Huanan wildlife market was destroyed and the response to clinical findings was slow.

"When we went to the Huanan supermarket, of course, there was nothing to see because the market was clean already. So, you may say that the crime scene is already disturbed because the supermarket was cleared. We cannot identify any host which is giv-

ing the virus to humans," Yuen was quoted as saying.

"I do suspect that they have been doing some cover-up locally at Wuhan. The local officials who are supposed to immediately relay the information have not allowed this to be done as readily as it should," he said in the report.

The coronavirus originated from the Huanan wildlife market in Wuhan in December last year and has globally infected over 16 million people and claimed the lives of more than 648,000 people and bringing the world economy to a standstill.

According to the Johns Hopkins data, China has recorded 86,570 COVID-19 cases and 4,652 deaths.

Several countries, including the US, have criticised China for not divulging information about the severity of the disease. However, China has denied the accusations of withholding information. *PTI*

# US agents use gas, flash bangs to clear Portland protesters

Portland (US): A night that started with a reported shooting and a bag containing loaded rifle magazines and Molotov cocktails amid a peaceful protest - morphed into an intense early morning confrontation between demonstrators and law enforcement in Oregon's largest city.

US agents repeatedly fired what appeared to be tear gas, flash bangs and pepper balls early Monday to clear a mass of protesters outside the Mark O. Hatfield United States Courthouse in Portland. Some protesters had climbed over the fence surrounding the courthouse, while others shot fireworks, banged on the fence and projected lights on the building.

The federal courthouse has been a place of contention as the city has seen nightly protests for two months since the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis in May. President Donald Trump said he sent federal agents to Portland to halt the unrest but state and

local officials said they are making the situation worse.

The protest late Sunday started peacefully, with organizers giving speeches and leading chants with the crowd. But things intensified as the night wore on. U.S. Agents declared an "unlawful assembly," and just after 1 a.m., confronted protesters on the street and worked to clear the area. Several people were seen being detained, but it was not immediately clear how many may have been arrested.

Law enforcement spent hours working to disperse the crowd. At times, protesters scattered amid flash bangs. Officers deployed more tear gas and less-lethal munitions, and formed a line to push back demonstrators.

Many dispersed, but several protesters remained well after 2 am.

It's become an all-too-familiar scene in Portland.

Authorities declared a riot early Sunday morning. *AP*

# Anti-racism activists destroy statue of Napoleon's first wife Josephine in Martinique

AP ■ FORT-DE-FRANCE, FRANCE

Anti-racism activists tore down a statue of Napoleon's empress Josephine and another colonialist figure in the overseas French territory of Martinique, the latest test of President Emmanuel Macron's vow not to erase controversial monuments.

A statue of Josephine de Beauharnais, who was born to a wealthy colonial family on the island and later became Napoleon's first wife and empress, was attacked by a crowd of people wielding clubs and ropes, according to an AFP journalist in Fort-de-France on Sunday.

The emperor reintroduced slavery in French colonies in 1802, eight years after it had been banned under the French Revolution.

Josephine's statue had already been decapitated nearly 30 years ago, and never been repaired since. *AP*

# 80K people fleeing Vietnamese city after new virus cases

Hanoi: About 80,000 people, mostly local tourists, are being evacuated from the popular Vietnamese beach city of Da Nang after more than a dozen people there were confirmed to have COVID-19, the government said Monday.

Vietnam, widely seen as a success in dealing with the coronavirus, reimposed a social distancing order in Da Nang following the confirmation of the cases, the first known to be locally transmitted in the country in over three months.

A 57-year-old man was confirmed to be infected by the coronavirus on Saturday, the country's first local case since April. Three more cases were confirmed over the weekend, followed by 11 more on Monday, the Ministry of Health said.

On Sunday, the government reimposed a social distancing order on the city. The new outbreak sparked fear among tourists in the city, with many cutting their trips short.

The Civil Aviation Administration said the country's four airlines have added extra flights and larger planes to transport the people, mostly domestic tourists, out of the city. *AP*

ATLAS JEWELLERY INDIA LIMITED					
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Email: info@atlasjewelleryindia.com, Phone: 011-41041149/40541077, Web: www.atlasjewelleryindia.com					
EXTRACT OF STATEMENT OF STANDALONE AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER AND FINANCIAL YEAR MONTHS ENDED 31 <sup>st</sup> MARCH, 2020					
(Rs. in lacs except per share data)					
S. No.	Particulars	Quarter ended	Quarter ended	Year Ended	Year Ended
		31 <sup>st</sup> March 2020	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2019	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2020	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2019
		Audited	Audited	Audited	Audited
1.	Total income from operations (net)	48.63	114.12	218.78	331.33
2.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	727.31	(201.10)	911.78	571.82
3.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	727.31	(201.10)	911.78	571.82
4.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	719.27	(201.05)	924.88	543.41
5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	719.27	(201.05)	924.88	543.41
6.	Equity Share Capital	10065.45	10065.45	10065.45	10065.45
7.	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year	-	-	6591.74	5666.85
8.	Earnings Per Share (face value of Rs. 10 each) (before and after extraordinary items) -				
	1. Basic:	0.71	(0.20)	0.92	0.54
	2. Diluted:	0.71	(0.20)	0.92	0.54

Notes:  
 (1) The financial results of the company have been prepared in accordance with Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) notified under the Companies (India Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015 as amended by the companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Amendment Rules.  
 (2) The company adopted Ind AS 116 effective 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019, using the modified retrospective method. Accordingly, the Company has recognized a lease liability measured at the present value of the remaining lease payments, and right-of-use (ROU) asset at an amount equal to lease liability. Accordingly, previous period information has not been restated. Depreciation and interest cost were offset by reduction in rent expense.  
 (3) The figures for the three months ended March 31, 2020 and March 31, 2019 are arrived at as difference between audited figures in respect of full financial year and the unaudited published figures up to nine months ended December 31 of the relevant financial year. Also the figures up to the end of third quarter had only been reviewed and not subjected to audit.  
 (4) The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting held on July 27, 2020.  
 (5) The Statutory auditors of the company have carried out the audit of the financial results in accordance with the requirement of Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, for the quarter and year ended March 31, 2020.  
 (6) The company has only one segment of revenue.  
 (7) In March 2020, The Ministry of Corporate Affairs, vide its advisory dated 19.03.2020 coupled with the Ministry of Home Affairs vide order No. 40-3/2020 dated 24.03.2020 imposing a nationwide lockdown in India to contain the outbreak of COVID 19. As a result, the Company's operations including its retail operations were completely shut down and thereby adversely impacting its business.  
 (8) Figures relating to the previous periods/year have been regrouped / reclassified wherever considered necessary.

For ATLAS Jewellery India Ltd.  
 Sd/-  
 Nanda Kumaran Puthethazh  
 Chairman  
 DIN: 02547619

Place: Kochi  
 Date: July 27, 2020

**WESTERN RAILWAY**  
 MANUFACTURE & SUPPLY OF P.WAY MATERIALS

Sr. No. 1 Tender Notice No.: WTR/S&C/17/2020/7104, Name of Work: Manufacture & supply of Galvanized Plate screws RDSO Drg. No. T-3911, T-3912, T-3913 and T-3915 and Rail screws, RDSO Drg. No. T-4153. EMD: ₹ 84,200.00  
 Tender Value: ₹ 42.07 Lakhs  
 Date of Opening: 01.09.2020 at 11:00 hrs. Sr. No. 2 Tender Notice No.: WTR/S&C/17/2020/7105, Name of Work: Manufacture & supply of Joggled fish plates with bolt and nuts, 60Kg. RDSO Drg. No. T-5849. EMD: ₹ 96,000.00  
 Tender Value: ₹ 48.00 Lakhs. Date of Opening: 01.09.2020 at 11:30 hrs. For Sr. No.1 and 2 Delivery Period: Within 4 months from the date of issue of P.O. For eligibility terms and other conditions, please visit relevant webpage @ www.ireps.gov.in  
 Like us on: Facebook.com/WesternRly

**SEARCH FOR MISSING**

General public is hereby informed that a boy namely **Manish, S/o: Manoj Mandal, R/o: H.No. B 103, Gali No. 9, Shalimar Village, Delhi missing since 23.06.2020 at 10:00 am from her house. In this regard FIR No. 0435/20 dated 24.06.2020 has been registered at P.S. Shalimar Bagh, Delhi.** The description of missing boy is as under:  
**Name: Manish, Age: 17 Years, Height: 5'2", Face: Oval, Complexion: Wheatish, Build: Medium, Wearing: Black Colour T-shirt & Blue colour Jeans Pant.**  
 If anyone have any information about this missing boy please inform P.S. Shalimar Bagh, Delhi.  
 Web: http://cbi.nic.in, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in  
 Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639  
 SHO  
 Police Station, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi  
 DP/269/NW/2020 Ph: 011-27495198, 8750870226

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

NOTICE is hereby given that Kiran Bacchar, K.L. Bacchar, Sudhir Kumar, Shivani Oberio and Amit Bacchar, Mamta Arora and Indra Kochhar are the absolute owners of House no.188(New), 101(old) area measuring 326.5 sq. yds., Model Town West, GT Road, Ghaziabad, UP-201009 they all are in process to sell out the same to N.K. Garg. All persons having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage(equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise howsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned.

**Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate)**  
 Shop No. 5 & 6, CSC, Pkt-E, Mayur Vihar-II, Delhi-110091  
 Office: 011-43052822  
 Mobile: 9810063351  
 E: kamalkantgupta74@gmail.com

**SEARCH FOR MISSING WOMAN**

General public is hereby informed that this woman namely **Ruby Hasbul W/o Mohd. Yasin R/o E-370, J.J. Colony, Bawana, Delhi Age: 100 years, Height: 5', Face: Oval, Complexion: Fair, Build: Thin, wearing blue colour saree and slipper in feet, has been missing since 05.07.2020 from her house. In this regard DD No. 48-A dated 10.07.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Narela Industrial Area, Delhi.**  
 Any person having any information or clue about this missing woman may kindly inform to the following.  
 E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in SHO: P.S. Narela Industrial Area, Delhi  
 Website: http://cbi.nic.in Ph.: 011-27787593, 7065036324  
 Fax: 24368639, DP/252/RD/2020  
 Tel.: 24368638/24368641

# Nearly 100 migrants still floating in Mediterranean, risk drowning, says UN

AFP ■ GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

Around 100 migrants fleeing a war-ravaged Libya have run into difficulty in the Mediterranean and could drown, the UN said Monday, urging a rapid rescue.

The arrival of summer and more favourable conditions at sea tends to lead to an increase of attempts to cross the Mediterranean, and the deteriorating situation in Libya is also prompting more migrants to take their chances at sea and reach Europe.

The International Organization for Migration warned in a tweet that "around 95 migrants are still floating in the Central Mediterranean at risk of drowning, after attempting to flee Libya."  
 The UN agency did not

provide any further details, but stressed that "states and shipmasters have a moral and legal obligation to respond to distress cases at sea."

More than 100,000 migrants tried to cross the Mediterranean last year with more than 1,200 dying in the attempt, according to the IOM.

Tens of thousands of refugees and asylum seekers, as well as sub-Saharan African and Asian migrants hoping to make it to Europe, have found themselves stranded in Libya in horrifying conditions.

The overthrow and killing of veteran dictator Moamer Kadhafi in a NATO-backed uprising in 2011 sparked years of chaos that traffickers have exploited to turn Libya into a key route for illicit migration to Europe.

**Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)**

**NIT No.5(18)-TGP/Konica Ink/2019 Dt. 23.07.2020**

The undersigned hereby invites Bids from authorised dealers/stockists/ agents/ distributors for supply of Ink Toners for Konica Minolta Photocopier Machine (Model Bizhub c224e) for use in the Tripura Govt. Press. Pre-Bid meeting is on 27.7.2020 at 12.30 p.m. Last date for online submission of Bids is 25.08.2020 upto 6 p.m. For more details please visit the e-procurement website: <https://tripuratenders.gov.in> (Tender ID: 2020\_GA\_11585\_1).

Sd/-  
 (Dulal Ch. Das)  
 Director,  
 GA(Printing & Stationery) Department  
 ICA/C-1156/2020-21 Agartala 799003, Tripura

**SEARCH FOR MISSING**

General Public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Manisha, D/o: Sh. Rajender Singh, R/o: H.No. U-312, Gali No. 13, Prem Nagar-2, Kirari, Delhi, Age: 17 Years, Height: 5', Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Build: Thin, Wearing: Red Kurti, White Salwar, Red Slipper has been missing since 25.06.2020 from the area of P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi. In this regard FIR No. 244/20, Dated 27.06.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi.**  
 Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing girl but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing girl please inform the undersigned.  
 Phone: 011-23014046 (Direct), 011-23015229 & 23015218 Ext. 210.  
 Web-site: http://cbi.nic.in  
 E-Mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in SHO  
 Ph: 011-23011334 PS. Prem Nagar, Delhi  
 DP/252/RD/2020 Ph.: 9315164042

# Won't hesitate to take more action to fuel growth: RBI Guv

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das on Monday assured the industry that the central bank was closely monitoring the economic situation and will not hesitate to take appropriate action, as he underlined the need for stepping up investment in the infrastructure sector to reignite growth hit by the Covid-19 crisis.

Addressing members of industry chamber CII, Das said a big push to certain targeted mega infrastructure projects can spur the economy, as was done by the Golden Quadrilateral project in the past.

"This could begin in the form of a north-south and east-west expressway together with high speed rail corridors, both of which would generate large forward and backward linkages for several other sectors of the economy and regions around the rail/road networks. Both public and private investment would be key to financing our infrastructure investments," he said.

Noting that the progress made on physical infrastructure in the country in the last five years needs to be viewed as no less than a dynamic shift, he said India would need around \$4.5 trillion for investment in infrastructure by 2030, as per the Niti Aayog.

On financing options for infrastructure, he said non-performing assets (NPAs) relating to infrastructure lending by banks have remained at elevated levels and there is clearly a need for diversifying financing options.

Asked about industry proposals for one-time restructuring of debt and the central bank buying corporate bonds directly, Das said he has noted

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● Asked about industry proposals for one-time restructuring of debt and the central bank buying corporate bonds directly, Das said he has noted the suggestions and will take appropriate steps as and when required

● Observing that India has now become a power surplus country, exporting electricity to neighbouring nations, the RBI Governor said the share of renewable energy in overall installed capacity has doubled to 23.4 per cent at end-March 2020 from 11.8 per cent at end-March 2015



the suggestions and will take appropriate steps as and when required. "I can assure you that RBI remains extremely vigilant, we are monitoring the situation, and as and when certain steps are required, we will not hesitate to take those steps...you are aware about the way the RBI intervened, to support the mutual fund industry and the RBI will always be proactive...as and when whatever steps are required we are prepared to consider," Das said.

Reflecting on some other dynamic shifts underway in the Indian economy, Das said Indian agriculture has witnessed a distinct transformation and the total production of foodgrain reached a record 296 million tonnes in 2019-20, registering an annual average growth of 3.6 per cent over the last decade.

"Shifting the terms of trade in favour of agriculture is the key to sustaining this dynamic change and generating positive supply responses in agriculture. Experience shows that in periods when terms of trade remained favourable to agriculture, the annual average growth in agricultural gross value added (GVA) exceeds 3 per cent," he said.

Lauding long-pending reforms undertaken by the government in the farm sector recently, he said all these initiatives have opened a whole new world of opportunities for industry and businesses and the consequential creation of jobs and augmentation of farmers' income can be enormous.

These achievements represent the most vivid silver lining in the current environment, Das said, adding the fortunes are shifting in favour of the farm sector in the economy.

Observing that India has now become a power surplus country, exporting electricity to neighbouring nations, the RBI Governor said the share of renewable energy in overall installed capacity has doubled to 23.4 per cent at end-March

2020 from 11.8 per cent at end-March 2015.

"This spectacular progress has set the stage for India targeting to scale up the share of renewable energy in total electricity generation to 40 per cent by 2030. The shift to greener energy will reduce the coal import bill, create employment opportunities, ensure sustained inflow of new investments and promote ecologically sustainable growth," he said.

The Governor added information and communication technology (ICT) has been an engine of India's economic progress for more than two decades now.

Last year, the ICT industry accounted for about 8 per cent of the country's GDP and was the largest private sector job creator across both urban and rural areas.

In 2019-20, software exports at \$93 billion accounted for 44 per cent of India's total services exports and financed 51 per cent of the country's merchandise trade deficit during the

last five years.

Besides, he said, the 'Startup India' campaign recognised the potential of young entrepreneurs and provided them a conducive ecosystem.

"This has also helped to strengthen India's position as an innovation hub, with several startups attaining unicorn status (USD 1 billion valuation). India added seven new unicorns in 2019, taking the total count to 24, the third largest in the world," he said.

Globally, the regulatory uncertainty relating to work permits and immigration policies may also amplify and the sector has to also deal with concerns relating to data privacy and data security, Das noted.

He also expressed hope that global shifts in Global Value Chains (GVCs) in response to COVID-19 and other developments will create opportunities for India.

"Besides focusing on diversifying sources of imports, it may also be necessary to focus on greater strategic trade inte-

gration, including in the form of early completion of bilateral free trade agreements with the US, EU and UK," he said.

"These dynamic shifts in our economy need to be converted into structural transformations which yield sizeable benefits for our economy and help to position India as a

leader in the league of nations. "They involve testing challenges but also the reaping of significant rewards. Indian industry will have the pivotal role in what could be a silent revolution. Can the CII be its spearhead? I leave you with these ideas and dare you to dream," he said.

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## Das suggests policies for farmers' income growth, reasonable food prices

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das on Monday said the country now requires policies to ensure a sustained increase in the income of farmers along with maintaining "reasonable" food prices for the consumers.

Addressing Confederation of Indian Industry (CII's) National Council, Das said that price incentives have been costly, inefficient and distortive. He noted that shifting the terms of trade in favour of agriculture is the key to generating positive supply responses in agriculture.

Experience shows that in periods when terms of trade remained favourable to agriculture, the annual average growth in agricultural gross value added (GVA) exceeds 3 per cent, the Governor said.

"Hitherto, the main instrument has been minimum support prices, but the experience has been that price incentives have been costly, inefficient and even distortive. India has now reached a stage in which surplus manage-

ment has become a major challenge. We need to move now to policy strategies that ensure a sustained increase in farmers' income alongside reasonable food prices for consumers," he said.

According to him, an efficient domestic supply chain becomes critical in such circumstances.

He said that the focus must now turn to capitalising on the major reforms that are underway to facilitate domestic free trade in agriculture including the amendment of the Essential Commodities Act (ECA).

Das was of the view that Indian agriculture has witnessed a distinct transformation as the total production of food grains reached a record 296 million tonnes in 2019-20, registering an annual average growth of 3.6 per cent over the last decade, along with production growth in horticulture.

He also noted the changing pattern of energy production in favour of renewable energy and shifts in supply chains, domestic and global.

## Banks should raise capital proactively: RBI Guv

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Monday advised banks to proactively raise capital and not wait for a difficult situation to arise amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

Banks are starting at a risk of soaring bad loans due to the coronavirus crisis and would therefore require capital to survive.

"In fact, I have already advised banks and the NBFCs to undertake Covid stress tests and raise capital ahead of the curve rather than waiting for a situation to arise, and these are

the issues which we are constantly working on in RBI," Das said at a CII event.

As per the latest Financial Stability Report (FSR) released by the Reserve Bank, 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.

"If the macroeconomic environment worsens further, the ratio may escalate to 14.7 per cent under the very severely stressed scenario," the report released last week said.

The resilience of Indian banking in the face of macro-

economic 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.

Earlier this month, Das had said building buffers and raising capital will be crucial not only to ensure credit flow but also to build resilience in the financial system.

"In such a situation, it has become a lot more important that the banks have to improve their governance, sharpen their risk management skills and banks have to raise capital on an anticipatory basis instead of waiting for a situation to arise.

"Proactively, it is necessary for both public and private sector banks to build up adequate capital buffers," Das had said.

The economic impact of the pandemic — due to lockdowns and anticipated post lockdown compression in growth — may result in higher non-performing assets and capital erosion of banks, he had said.

## Markets close lower in choppy trade

### BANK STOCKS SINK ON NPA FEARS

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity indices nursed losses after a choppy session on Monday, weighed down by banking stocks which wilted under intense selling pressure on concerns over their asset quality amid the coronavirus crisis.

After starting off the session on a positive note, the 30-share BSE Sensex got caught in a downward spiral and slumped over 500 points from the day's peak. It managed to recover some lost ground and finally settled at 37,934.73, showing a loss of 194.17 points or 0.51 per cent.

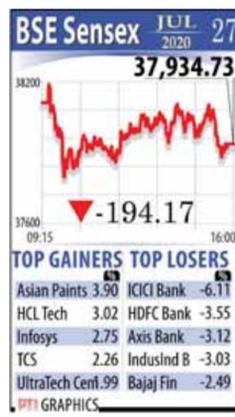
Likewise, the broader NSE Nifty closed 62.35 points or 0.56 per cent lower at 11,131.80. Banking counters led the losses on the Sensex chart, with ICICI Bank, HDFC

Bank, Axis Bank, IndusInd Bank and SBI dropping as much as 6.11 per cent.

The RBI's Financial Stability Report, released post market hours on Friday, said gross non-performing assets of 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, amid the COVID-19 crisis.

HDFC Bank came under selling pressure after it emerged that CEO and MD Aditya Puri, who is set to retire later this year, offloaded shares worth ₹842.87 crore of the private lender last week.

The share sale brought down Puri's holding in the most valued Indian lender to just 0.01 per cent from the earlier 0.14 per cent, according to regulatory filings.



and South Korea. European bourses too were trading mixed in early trade.

"Indian benchmark indices ended a volatile day in the red, following negative global cues and domestic uncertainties. Global markets were impacted due to rising US-China tensions and suspected second wave of virus infections.

"Financials led the losses following an RBI report which expected a surge in bad loans this year. Record number of virus infections in India also added to the uncertainty. Investors are advised to remain stock specific and keep accumulating only quality stocks in this scenario," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Sectorally, BSE banking index tumbled 3.58 per cent and finance declined 2.5 per cent.

## Govt to go ahead with divestment of 23 PSUs cleared by Cabinet: Sitharaman

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government is working on completing the stake sale process of about 23 public sector companies whose divestment has already been cleared by the Cabinet, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Monday.

The minister also said she would soon meet small finance firms and non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) to review the credit being extended by them to businesses.

Sitharaman, in a conversation with Hero Enterprise Chairman Sunil Kant Munjal, said the government as part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat package had announced opening up of all sectors for private participation.

"The final call as to which are the sectors which are going

to be called 'strategic' is not made yet, that has to be announced and I can't preempt what announcement is likely to come.

"But in those sectors which we are going to call strategic, the private will obviously be allowed to come in but the public sectors will be limited to a maximum of four units," she said.

She said this would lead to consolidation of public sector undertakings (PSUs) as well as scaling up of their operations.

Talking about divestment plans, the minister said the government wants to sell stake in public sector companies at a time when it fetches the right price.

"There are already nearly 22-23 such PSUs which have been cleared by the Cabinet for divestment. The intent is clear that at least for those which had already been cleared

by the Cabinet, we will have to disinvest," Sitharaman said.

For 2020-21 fiscal, the government has set a divestment target of ₹2.10 trillion. Of this, ₹1.20 trillion will come from divestment of public sector undertakings and another ₹90,000 crore from stake sale in financial institutions. With regard to extending credit to the industry, Sitharaman said under the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS), micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) can avail loans.

As of July 23, 2020, the total amount sanctioned under the 100 per cent Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme by public and private sector banks stands at ₹1,30,491.79 crore, of which ₹82,065.01 crore has already been disbursed.

## Northern Railway in Mission Mode to carry out maintenance work

New Delhi: Northern Railway has been ceaselessly working throughout the Covid-19 lockdown period to support the nation to fight the pandemic. General Manager Northern & North Central Railways Rajiv Chaudhry informed that the lockdown period was used as an opportunity to carry out maintenance works. Several steps towards safe train operations has taken. There are large numbers of old road over bridges / foot over bridges (ROB/FOBs) in the Delhi area which needs to be strengthened / repaired / rehabilitated. The inspection of these ROB/FOBs carried out and it was observed that large number of ROB/FOBs needs reinforcement / repair.

The work of strengthening / Repair/Rehabilitation of ROB/FOBs in Delhi Area taken up in a "Mission Mode" The repair work was very challenging due to high frequency of trains in electrified section, heavy road traffic, availability of less block period and encroachment etc.. With meticulous planning and execution a total number of 16 road over bridge/ foot over bridges in Delhi Area viz: Pul Mitthai, Delhi Sadar Bazar, Delhi Kishan Ganj, Dayabasti, Shakurbasti, Ashok Vihar, Anand Parvat, Queens Road, Inder Puri, Lajpat Nagar, Delhi Sarai Rohilla, Mathura Road, Liberty, Narayana, Safdarjog / Chanakyapuri and Jangpura have been repaired/rehabilitate / strengthened successfully during the last six months to ensure safety.

## Full ₹1.65 lakh cr GST compensation for FY20 given to States

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In a bid to provide further relief to states amid the coronavirus outbreak, the Finance Ministry has released ₹13,806 crore as compensation for March 2020 for the states' revenue loss in the goods and services tax (GST) regime.

This comes at a time when state finances are under severe stress due to the Covid-19 lockdown that has also seen the states' GST revenues falling sharply to less than half the usual levels in the months of April and May.

"Central Government has recently released GST com-

ensation of ₹13,806 crore to states for March 2020. Taking this amount into account, entire compensation upto 2019-20 has been released to States," the Ministry said in a statement.

"The total amount of compensation released for the year 2019-20 is ₹1,65,302 crore whereas the amount of cess collected during the year 2019-20 was ₹95,444 crore," the statement added.

To release the compensation for 2019-20, the balance of cess amount collected during 2017-18 and 2018-19 has also been utilised by the Finance Ministry.

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY**  
 KANKE, RANCHI-834006 (JHARKHAND)

**ADMISSION TO THE POSTGRADUATE COURSES-2020 SESSION**

Stray Vacancy Round for the eligible candidates listed for Central & Deemed University for Stray vacancy (Medical) available on MCC website ([www.mcc.nic.in](http://www.mcc.nic.in)) will be held in the Teaching Block of CIP, Ranchi at 2.00 p.m. on 30.07.2020 for admission to the following postgraduate degree course. Eligible NEET candidates who have registered for MOP-UP and stray vacancy round ONLY need to apply.

**1. MD (Psychiatry) : 03 Seats (01-UR, 01-0BC, 01-SC)**

All the candidates who desire to join the course are directed to report on 30.07.2020 at 10.00 a.m. to attend the Stray Vacancy Round counselling along with AIPGMEE, 2020 Rank letter and all original documents. The number of seats may vary at the time of counselling. For more information kindly visit [www.cipranchi.nic.in](http://www.cipranchi.nic.in).

Sd/-  
 Director

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIGENDUM						
Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD CORP./AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL	
1	HVPNL, PANCHKULA	QOP NO-1230 NIT NO. 1113 DATED 22.06.2020	THE LAST DATE OF ONLINE BID SUBMISSION IS EXTENDED UP TO 07.08.2020 UP TO 17:00 HRS.	<a href="https://www.hvnpn.org.in">https://www.hvnpn.org.in</a>	0172-2583789 prof@hvnpn.org.in	
2	UHBVN, KARNAL	NIT NO. 8/54/2020-2021 DATED 10.06.2020 FOR HIRING OF 2 NOS. JEEP WITH HARD TOP I.E. BALERS /SUMO WITH DRIVER FOR THE USE OF S.D.O. (OP) SUB-DIVISION, INDRI, GARBHIBAL, UNDER XEN S/O DVN, NO.1, UHBVN, KARNAL.	CLOSING DATE 05.08.20 AT 5:00 PM OPENING DATE 06.08.2020 AT 12:00 P.M. (TECHNICAL & PRICE BIDS) THE NIT FOR HIRING OF VEHICLE FOR THE USE OF S.D.O. (OP) SUB-DIVISION, UHBVN, INDRI COULD NOT BE FINALIZED ON DATED 05.07.2020 DUE TO RECEIVE ONLY TWO BID AND NONE OF THE BIDDER CAME FOR S.D.O. (OP) SUB-DIVISION, UHBVN, GARBHIBAL.	<a href="http://www.uhbvn.org.in">www.uhbvn.org.in</a>	0184-2268525 xenopubvmsu1karnal@gmail.com	
3	HVPNL, HISAR	NIT NO. 05/CWFG-25/VOL-1V/2020-21 DATED 20.04.2020	CORRIGENDUM NO.V ONLINE TENDER IS INVITED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF 1 NO. 12.5/16 MVA T/F PLINTH FOUNDATION, OSDG FOUNDATIONS, ODCCT, FIRE WALL & U/C FENCING AT 66KV S/STN USA FARIDABAD (R-2 & R-3). (ONLINE TENDER ID :- 2020_HBC_136520_1 LACS):- RS. 15.99 LACS / RS. 0.32 LACS	<a href="https://www.hvnpn.org.in">https://www.hvnpn.org.in</a>	0172-2583789 prof@hvnpn.org.in	
4	HVPNL, HISAR	NIT NO. 07/CWFG-25/VOL-1V/2020-21 DATED 29.04.2020	CORRIGENDUM NO.VI ONLINE TENDERS IS INVITED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF IDCT AT 66 KV S/STN, SECTOR-64 BALLABGARH ON THE EMER EXPIRATION FOR SOCIETIES. ESTIMATE COST/EARNEST MONEY (IN LACS):- RS. 1.60 LACS / RS. 0.032 LACS	<a href="https://www.hvnpn.org.in">https://www.hvnpn.org.in</a>	0172-2583789 prof@hvnpn.org.in	
5	UHBVN, PANCHKULA.	NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO. 01/UH/XEN/P-11/MP/MQ-1/2546 DATED 30.06.2020	DATE OF SUBMISSION EXTENDED UP TO 08.08.2020 (13:00 HRS)	<a href="http://www.uhbvn.org.in">uhbvn.org.in</a> <a href="http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in">etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	902336202 cemm@uhbvn.org.in	
6	MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, TAURU (NUH)	2020_HRY_136503_1 TO 2020_HRY_136503_10	TENDER ID-2020_HRY_136503_1 TO 2020_HRY_136503_10 INVITED BY MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE TAURU ON DATED 20.07.2020 FOR DEVELOPMENT WORKS IN MC AREA, IN WHICH EMER EXPIRATION WAS NOT GIVEN DUE TO CLERICAL MISTAKES FOR SOCIETIES, THROUGH THIS CORRIGENDUM LETTER EMER EXPIRATION FOR SOCIETIES IS GIVEN IN THE SAID TENDER.	<a href="http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in">www.etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	secretary.mctauru@gmail.com	

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in) RO NO. 81960

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE						
Sr. No.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	PWD B&R, HISAR	PROVIDING AND FIXING OF CENTRAL VERGE AND FOOTPATH ON INTERNAL ROADS FROM COMMISSIONERS RESIDENCE TO MINI SECRETARIAT COLONY AT HISAR IN HISAR DISTRICT + 1 OTHER WORKS	27.07.2020 10.08.2020	29.22 LACS	<a href="http://etenders.hry.nic.in">http://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01662-239887 pwd-eeepd-hisar@hry.nic.in
2	PWD B&R, HANSI	RESTORATION OF ROAD CUT ON BARWALA DAULATPUR UKLANA ROAD IN KM 16.528 TO 17.600 IN HISAR DISTT	24.07.2020 10.08.2020	37.20 LACS	<a href="http://etenders.hry.nic.in">http://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	pwd-eeepd-hansi@hry.nic.in 01663-25888
3	PWD B&R, HISAR	PROVIDING M.G.P. AND ALLIED WORK IN CIVIL HOSPITAL AT NARNAUL IN DISTT. MOHINDERGARH (1ST TIME) + 15 OTHER WORKS	29.07.2020 13.08.2020	9.10 CRORE	<a href="http://etenders.hry.nic.in">http://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01274-250515 eeed-rwr.pwd@hry.gov.in
4	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGG. DIVISION NARWANA	LAYING, JOINTING, CUTTING & TESTING OF DI PIPE LINE IN VARIOUS STREETS AT NARWANA TOWN AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THERETO. + 3 OTHER WORKS	24.07.2020 04.08.2020	110.89 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a> TENDER NO 2020_HRY_137105_1	Executive Engineer
5	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGG. DIVN. NO.2 SIRSA	ESTIMATE FOR REPLACEMENT OF DISTRIBUTION PIPE LINE, SUBMERSIBLE PUMPING SET WITH CABLE, G.I. PIPE, FHT CONNECTION RESTORED AT VILLAGE CHAK QUASABAN DISTT. SIRSA (UNDER JAL JEEVAN MISSION)	25.07.2020 04.08.2020	5.25 LACS	<a href="http://etenders.hry.nic.in">http://etenders.hry.nic.in</a> TENDER NO 2020_HRY_137114_1	01666-221925/ ee2sirs@phedharyana.gov.in
6	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DIVISION NO. 1 GOHANA	DNIT FOR PROVIDING AND INSTALLING 26 NOS. R.O. BASED WATER TREATMENT PLANT HAVING OF 2000 LPH IN BARODA CONSTITUENCY IN VARIOUS VILLAGES UNDER P.H.E. DIVN. NO. 1, CHANANADISTT. SONPAT + 1 OTHER WORKS	25.07.2020 04.08.2020	17.20 LACS	<a href="http://etenders.hry.nic.in">http://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01263-258417 ee1gohana@gmail.com/ee1gohana@phedharyana.gov.in
7	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGG. DIVISION NO.1 KARNAL	CHAKMURIDAKA: PROVIDING FUNCTIONAL HOUSEHOLD TAP CONNECTION (FHTC) UNDER JAL JEEVAN MISSION. LAYING OF DI PIPE LINE IN VARIOUS STREETS AND PROVIDING FUNCTIONAL HOUSEHOLD TAP CONNECTION (FHTC) IN VILLAGE CHAKMURIDAKA AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THERETO. + 4 OTHER WORKS	24.07.2020 04.08.2020	35.19 LACS	<a href="http://etenders.hry.nic.in">http://etenders.hry.nic.in</a> TENDER NO 2020_HRY_137169_1 + 4 OTHER	0184-2266003/ ee1karnal@phedharyana.gov.in
8	TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, HARYANA HARYANA ROADWAYS, KARNAL	CLEANING, SANITATION AND MALI SERVICES ACTIVITIES	28.07.2020 17.08.2020	50 LACS	<a href="http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in">www.etenders.hry.nic.in</a> TENDER NO 1/RK/KHL/2020-21	1800-180-2097
9	IRRIGATOR & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA CH. DADRRI	SUPER ENAMELED COPPER WINDING WIRE 18 SWG (150 KG.) BIC MAKE + 4 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 04.08.2020	15.24 LACS	<a href="http://etenders.hry.nic.in">http://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	8295220952 xenworksopadrri@gmail.com
10	PANCHAYATI RAJ, AMBALA	CONST. OF BRICK PAVED RASTA AT VILLAGE KHATOLI, BLOCK AMBALA-II	24.07.2020 04.08.2020	18.70 LACS	<a href="http://etenders.hry.nic.in">http://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	0171-2551368 prexeng_amb@hry.nic.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in) RO NO. 81961



# HEALTH

## CancerCheck

In a study conducted in 41 countries, the researchers have revealed that breast cancer rates among women are on the rise globally. The research found that in higher-income nations rates of breast cancer in premenopausal women are increasing, while postmenopausal breast cancer is increasing more rapidly in lower-income countries



## MYSTERY OF OIL

Coconut oil makes for a healthy kitchen ingredient. But, at the same time it has several skin and hair nourishing properties as well. POOJA NAGDEV tells you five ways to use it in your daily routine

Coconut oil (*Cocos nucifera*) is extracted from copra the white flesh of coconut. It is a soft white jelly like substance with a semisolid consistency. It is widely used in food items, as a hair and body oil and as an ingredient into creams, lotion and hair oil. The following are some versatile ways how one can use it.

**Hair conditioning mask:** Coconut oil has been traditionally used for hair treatments. One can try to make a fantastic hair mask to nourish dry and brittle hair. Take two-three tablespoons of organic, refined coconut oil. Warm it to make it liquid. Add 20 drops rosemary oil and full egg. Beat it well. Apply using a brush to your hair and scalp and cover with a shower cap. Leave it for an hour and then shampoo out.

**Lip polishing scrub:** Coconut is vegan and edible therefore many lip balms and scrubs have coconut oil as an ingredient. One can make simple lip polishing scrub using coconut oil, brown sugar, and honey. Take a teaspoon of coconut oil. To this add equal amount of powdered brown sugar and equal amount honey. All the ingredients will be one teaspoon. Store in airtight container and massage lips whenever they feel dry and uncared. Use it at night before bed for great soft luscious lips.

**Chocolate and coconut face mask for dry skin:** For this face mask we require coconut oil two teaspoon. We take this in bowl and add 20g of bitter chocolate 90 per cent cocoa. We warm the oil slightly so that chocolate gets dissolved. To this we add a pinch of turmeric powder and a teaspoon of honey. Turmeric is known for its anti-inflammatory properties, honey helps to moisturise the skin, coconut oil brings hydration and chocolate works on pore reduction and tightening of pores.

**Make up remover:** Do you know that coconut oil even works on waterproof make up! It is chemically treated to make foaming ingredients that we add to the shampoos, cleansers and showergels. Take it on a cotton ball and swipe it over your face and eyes to gently remove the make-up. It is also suitable for sensitive under eye areas. One not only removes make up but skin gets moisturised and hydrated too.

**Body moisturiser:** Coconut oil can work wonders on dry and sensitive skin. Keep a bottle of coconut oil always handy to apply it on arms, hand and legs whenever they feel itchy and dehydrated skin.

**Shaving cream:** Shaving makes our skin peel leading to open pores. It is always beneficial to apply coconut oil all over arms and legs before you shave. It is single natural product and one can avoid using the conventional shaving creams that carry too many chemicals. Coconut oil is natural, anti-microbial and soothing. It makes legs look shiny and moisturised after shaving.

The writer is Aromatherapist, Cosmetologist & Founder, Inatur

## DOCYARD

DR RAJEEV VERMA

Head of Department

DEPARTMENT OF JOINT REPLACEMENT & ORTHOPAEDICS



## A fall can be fatal

In the current COVID-19 scenario, most of us are bound to our homes to protect ourselves against the virus. Many, especially the elderly are paying heed to the Governments advice of not venturing outside unless there is a dire emergency. This is the need of the hour and is utmost respected. During the period of lockdown, we have noticed a new set of problems being faced by the elderly population. Seniors are facing fall at home causing orthopaedic injuries. Over the past three months of lockdown, we had 52 senior citizens coming to the emergency which warranted admission and surgery. This was more than the usual average when compared with pre-lockdown numbers.

Almost all senior citizens had domestic falls. It has become a public health problem and needs special attention. Domestic falls or falls in the house or familiar surroundings is entirely preventable. Western countries lay a lot of emphasis on these preventive strategies whereas these have not still been educated to the masses here in our country. India needs to formulate a preventive strategy for this public health problem. We believe in the proverb that a stitch in time saves nine

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought to sharp focus some of the vulnerabilities of the elderly. Frailty, related to movement restriction, malnutrition and poor immunity, has surfaced as a major concern. The problem is compounded with sensory problems that can prevent them from taking adequate precautions. With advancing age, chronic illness and use of multiple medicines are common among them and that calls for increased healthcare need and physical support. Moreover, impaired cognitive abilities that worsen with age pose an extra challenge. All these vulnerabilities are associated with a high risk of falls and associated fractures. The common causes for falls include wet floor, dim lighting, rugs or carpets are not properly secured, rushing to toilet or storage areas, use of stairs among others. Seniors mainly fall due to weak leg muscles, poor physical balance, dizziness or light-headedness, blackout or loss of consciousness, memory loss, vision and hearing problems and fear of falling.

**The common causes for falls include wet floor, dim lighting, rugs or carpets not being properly secured and rushing to toilet or storage areas, among others. Seniors mainly fall due to weak leg muscles, poor physical balance, dizziness or blackout**

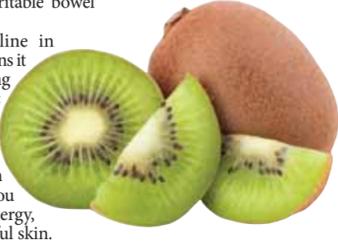
replacing your carpet with a bright-coloured one particularly if you have problems with your vision. Thirdly, lighting is important. Adequate lighting on stairways, corridors and hallways is necessary. Hence, avoid darkness with a lamp or light within easy reach of your bed and keep a torch by your bed. Putting night lights in the bathroom, hallways and bedroom are equally important. It is also important to have stable furniture. Fourthly, in case of balancing problem or dizziness, it always better to store frequently used items such as food containers, dishes and clothing within easy reach. Finally, we need to move around safely with proper support. A stick or frame that's the wrong height can make your walking, balance and posture worse.

Seniors need to pay more attention to their bone health. Eat a healthy balanced diet rich in calcium. Dairy foods such as milk, yoghurt and cheese are good sources of calcium. It is advisable to avoid excessive amounts of caffeinated drinks such as tea, coffee and fizzy drinks as they can prevent the body from absorbing calcium. Stop smoking and limit alcohol intake. Low impact weight-bearing and muscles-strengthening exercises help a lot. Vision, hearing, and feet need extra care.

## SUMMERCoolERS

**KIWI:** This exotic fruit is rich in Vitamin C, which acts as a powerful antioxidant. It also helps in boosting the immunity of the body against harmful pathogens. It also contains an enzyme known as actinidin which helps in the digestion of proteins in the body and is also known to help patients suffering from irritable bowel syndrome.

Kiwi is alkaline in nature, which means it helps in countering the effects of acidic foods. A healthy body is one which has a good pH balance, which helps in keeping you active, full of energy, and with a youthful skin.



## SHOW LOVE TO YOUR HEART

Taking care of your heart is important. More so because people with cardiovascular diseases are vulnerable to COVID-19. However, surgeries often can do more harm than good. Hence, it is preferable to go for natural bypass technique, says DR BIMAL CHHAJER

Since the inception of COVID-19 pandemic, the impact due to various heart ailments seems to have subsided. Though it is known that the rate of mortality and morbidity due to heart attacks are underestimated globally, yet many countries are still facing the wrath of its mortality.

The recent data suggests that around 1.2 crore people have been infected globally, with a mortality rate of 5.4 lakh. India accounts for 7.4 lakh cases with a mortality of 20,000 till now. The statistics in comparison to the impact of Coronary Artery Diseases (CAD) and other heart ailments seems evidently low.

On an average around 20 crore people succumb to some form of heart ailment with a mortality rate of 10 per cent accounting for two crore lives lost. India being the present-day leader in terms of number of heart disease patients across the world attribute to a massive six crore people being diagnosed every year. As the numbers are still on an exponential rise, an estimate of 9000 per day seems to lose their lives suffering from heart problems, which in this current scenario seems to be avoided.

Various studies have also claimed that people with pre-existing heart conditions have a direct 11.6 per cent higher risk of mortality due to the COVID-19 infection. And co-morbidity of Diabetes and hypertension further raises the risk by upto eight folds attributing to the lowered immunity and decreased speed of body response to tackle inflammation with increased age

along with viral myocarditis to some extent. There has also been a link established with increasing age, while people above the age of 60 years are four times vulnerable to death, nine times if the age is above 70 years and 15 times if the age is above 80 years.

Evidently, the rate of mortality due to COVID-19 is restricted to within 2 per cent whereas heart diseases kill over 10 per cent, and are still neglected. There are 8-10 crore (80-100 million) heart patients in India and every 10 seconds one person dies of heart disease in this country.

### WHY HEART SURGERIES — NATURAL BYPASS TECHNIQUE IS USEFUL

Hospitals in India perform more than two lakh open heart surgeries annually and are increasing annually by 25 per cent. But the cases of heart attacks are not going down. The surgeries done are only palliative. This raises a big question mark on the use of unnecessary angioplasties and bypass surgeries in India and the 10,000 Heart Hospital Industry driven by the greedy Heart Surgeons and Interventional Cardiologists. In India, more than five lakh stents are being put every year and some 60,000 bypass surgeries are being done in the heart hospitals and 85 per cent of them are done on stable heart patients — which can be easily avoided. Present day cardiologists are on the wrong track by emphasising more use of bypass surgery or angioplasty, medicines, emergency treatments — but they are overlooking the real

**Yoga and diet based lifestyle management along with optimum medical management is the key to solve heart diseases. Not only that they are highly effective for a healthy heart, but also prevent bypass surgery or angioplasty**

cause of heart attack and heart disease.

Since the intervention procedure requires exposure of blood to various infection risks, it is not at all safe to undergo such a procedure when one can naturally cure themselves.

External Counterpulsation (ECP) also known as natural bypass technique is an approved mechanical process without pushing wires, and stents into the body but dilates

blood vessels and enables the body to grow new blood vessels much like bypass and stem cell therapy. Most patients can walk longer distances and faster, have fewer episodes of pain in the chest and require less medication after the therapy.

The patients experience better quality of life while tests can confirm the improved cardiac status. Patients have decreased chest pain, shortness of breath, fatigue, tiredness as well as a significant improvement in exercise tolerance and energy. They can walk longer distances and faster more comfortably. Medication is reduced in almost all patients. Stress Thallium can picture the heart muscle's blood flow while the new non-invasive Cardiovascular Cartography can map heart's blood flow and study the Oxygen demand reserve ratio, blood vessel elasticity and myocardial burden.

### LIFESTYLE MANAGEMENT IS THE KEY

Yoga and diet based lifestyle management along with Optimum Medical Management is the key to the solution of heart diseases. Not only that they are highly effective for a healthy heart, but also prevent Bypass surgery or Angioplasty. Cardiac ailments being a lifestyle related ailment and hence the treatment should also be focused in the same direction. While cardiac ailments remain to be a growing burden in the Indian society, affecting millions of people and the economy of the country, it is time to eradicate them from the root.

The writer is Director, SAAOL Heart Center (Ex-Consultant AIIMS)

## DadiKaKehna

If you are prone to getting acne, blemishes are common. However, there are several ingredients available in our kitchen that can help get rid of them, says ROSHNI DEVI



We all want a smooth and glowing skin. However, not all of us have the natural tendency for good skin. Living in urban cities comes with its share of skin problems like acne that leave a blemish. But fret not, there are several ingredients that we have at home that we can use.

Mix coffee and powder sugar in equal parts and add almond oil. Apply this on the face and massage gently for five minutes. Wash off. Do this twice a week and not more.



## A HANDFUL OF NUTRITION

Almonds are a rich source of micronutrients. MUSBA HASHMI speaks with experts to tell you how adding almonds in your diet can help boost immunity and ensure overall wellbeing

If one were to ask what is it with dry fruits these days, then the answer is simple — the need for boosting immunity.

In the wake of the pandemic, all people want is to ensure their family's health and strengthen their immune system to fight off infections. This is making them take to all kind of immunity booster supplements and Vitamin C capsules. However, a simple easily available ingredient — almonds — can do the job for them.

Ritika Samaddar, Regional Head — Dietetics, Max Healthcare — Delhi, tells you that regular intake of lots of fruits and vegetables, having a balanced diet and a handful of almonds is all what people need to give their immune system a boost.

"The current pandemic has highlighted more than ever, the need for proper nutrition amongst Indian families. Many Indians suffer from ailments such as blood pressure, cardiovascular disease, Diabetes and obesity, each of which make one susceptible to COVID-19. Hence, it's

absolutely important for families to revisit their diet and healthcare habits, and adjust to this new normal. Whether you are suffering from one of the aforementioned ailments, or are at risk, be sure to include nuts like almonds, seasonal fruits, vegetables and probiotics that are nutrient rich and add to the body's overall health," Samaddar says, who was a part of the discussion on the importance of ensuring family health and nutrition amidst a pandemic, organised by the Almond Board of California.

Not just that, one of the many benefits of eating California almonds is that it helps to make one feel good and also keep the hunger pangs at bay.

"This is the best food to snack on and makes you feel full. The ones who are on diet can eat almonds without fearing weight gain because it is full of micronutrients," says Madhuri Ruia, Pilates Expert and Diet & Nutrition Consultant.



But to bring out the 100 per cent in your nutrition, she says, you need to exercise daily.

and it is indeed a good option. "Soaking almonds are good because there are a lot of soluble elements in them, when you soak it the nutrients are better absorbed. But, don't peel it because then you are discarding the fibre," Samaddar tells you.

Emily Fleishman, VP — Global Marketing Development, Almond Board of California, tells you that during this pandemic, the Almond Board of California has been persistently working towards educating consumers on the importance of proper nutrition and the need to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

"We have also invested in years of scientific research to understand almond health benefits across heart health, diabetes and weight management and skin health — which are all relevant to Indian consumers, especially now. Awareness around good food choices, and snacking habits is key to leading a healthy lifestyle, and for us, it's important to make sure that families across India have access to this information," Fleishman says.

Trend  
Blazer

'I never take my characters home'

Actor **AYUSHMANN KHURRANA** is not a method actor and does not like to take his characters back home. The actor says he likes to explore new things without putting undue pressure on himself.

When the actor entered Hindi films with Shoojit Sircar's *Vicky Donor* in 2012, he instantly won hearts with his charm and witty screen presence. He has been part of stories about flaws and imperfections.

Asked if his characters stay with him after work, Ayushmann said he can 'switch on and switch off' with ease. "So, I never take my characters back home," he added.



'Domestic violence is one of the issues that we not only need to address, but also continue to talk about. It is embedded in the upbringing of every woman that they have to let go and adjust. For generations, women are told that to keep their marriage and children happy, they have to adjust with violence.'

—Divya Dutta

Actor **AKSHAY KUMAR** will soon be flying out of India on work for the first time since the COVID outbreak, and he is ensuring elaborate safety and precautionary measures for the entire crew.



The actor is set to be in the UK soon, to start shooting for his forthcoming film, *Bellbottom*, along with co-actors Vaani Kapoor, Huma Qureshi and Lara Dutta. The unit will be travelling in August for a start-to-finish schedule.

The producers are chartering a flight to fly the entire unit, along with medical facilities.

Natalie excited to play Mighty Thor

Actor **NATALIE PORTMAN** says she is very excited to take on the avatar of Mighty Thor in a forthcoming installment of the superhero franchise.

The Oscar-winning actor is set to return to the Marvel Cinematic Universe with *Thor: Love and Thunder*. The film sees her become the first female to play the superhero Thor.

According to Portman, her version of Thor is not considered 'Lady Thor' but rather 'The Mighty Thor.'



# OSCAR OR CURSE?

After musician **AR RAHMAN**, Oscar-winning sound engineer **RESUL POOKUTTY** reveals how he felt shunned by the film industry, taking the insider vs outsider debate to a whole new level. Does this hint at a 'Time's up' moment in Bollywood? **TEAM VIVA** introspects

For the massive and vibrant scale of Indian cinema, we have only a handful of international honours. Oscars are rarer and though the format of those awards is formulaic and not accommodative of the way Indians look at films, few of our own have broken that barrier. One such is music composer and producer, musician, and singer Allah Rakha Rahman. He is not just a name but a phenomenon, who has single-handedly revolutionised popular music across geographical divides.

Evolving from Tamil and Telugu music industry, Rahman composed for Mani Ratnam's *Roja* (1992), a masterpiece album that not only fetched him Best Music Director at the National Film Awards but also became his gateway to finding success in Bollywood. And the rest is known to the world. With two Grammys, one Golden Globe and a BAFTA, Rahman gained global prominence when he picked up Academy Awards for Best Song and Score for Danny Boyle's *Slumdog Millionaire* (2009).

However, how often is it that a globally-acclaimed and honoured artiste comes out in the public to reveal he hasn't been getting enough opportunities at home? Or precisely the industry that spoils out chartbusters in popular music, namely Bollywood? He did till he was a novelty. But once his success solidified, the industry went back to its comfortable game of playing lobbies. Well, ever since he alleged that Bollywood has let him down by constantly "spreading rumours about him" and in turn, lessening his chances of getting good work, there has been a flood on social

media about how a toxic Bollywood kills talent. It lent further left to the campaign following actor Sushant Singh Rajput's mysterious death, who as an "outsider", was a victim of "insider politics."

Asked in an interview as to why he works more frequently for Tamil cinema and not Hindi, he responded, "I don't say no to good movies but I think there is a gang, which, due to misunderstandings, is spreading some false rumours. When Mukesh Chhabra (director of *Dil Bechaara*) came to me, I gave him four songs in two days. He told me,

'Sir, many people said don't go to him (Rahman). They told me stories after stories.' I heard that and I realised, yes okay, now I understand why I get less (Bollywood offers) and why the good movies are not coming to me. I am doing dark films because there is a whole gang working against me. People are expecting me to do stuff but there is another gang of people preventing that from happening without them knowing that they are doing harm."

He added, "It is fine because I believe in destiny and that everything comes from God. So I am taking my movies and doing my other stuff. All of you are welcome to come to me. Make beautiful movies, and you are welcome to come to me."

Besides, filmmakers like Imtiaz Ali will tell you how Rahman could be one of the coolest guys to hang out with as he once cited how he took him out on an impromptu midnight drive.

Well, surely, the term "gang" used by Rahman took one back to Kangana Ranaut's words who alleged that Bollywood "insiders" have been ganging up against her since the release of her film, *Manikarnika*. And she continues to use it while making her



remarks over the nepotism debate. Her recent allegations against many actors and the so-called "mafia" or "nepotism gangs" of the industry have been revealing about an unsaid class-consciousness in Bollywood.

The actor's team, post his revelation, took to Twitter and posted, "Everyone experiences harassment and bullying in this industry, especially when you act autonomous and become totally independent."

After Team Kangana's tweet, Rahman, to avoid any further controversies, posted, "Lost money comes back, fame comes back, but the wasted prime time of our lives will never come back. Peace! Let's move on. We have greater things to do." Director Shekhar Kapur later responded to the tweet by writing, "You know what your problem is Rahman? You went and got #Oscars. An Oscar is the kiss of death in Bollywood. It proves you have more talent than Bollywood can handle."

Following the strife, sound

engineer Resul Pookutty, who received the Academy Award and international acclaim for his sound mixing work in *Slumdog Millionaire*, also voiced his opinion on the issue. He tweeted, "Dear Shekhar Kapur, ask me about it. I had gone through near breakdown as nobody was giving me work in Hindi films and regional cinema held me tight after I won the Oscar. There were production houses telling me at my face 'we don't need you' but I still love my industry for it. My work in India won me the Oscar. There will always be people to run you down but I have far more faith in my people than anybody else. It's faced by everybody. When you are on top of the world and people reject you, it's the biggest reality check."

This raises many questions — Why is an Oscar Award-winner feeling he's been ganged up against? Why did he get to know from a debutante director that there have been rumours against him in the industry? Does this call for an introspection as to how certain independent artistes — musicians, filmmakers or actors — who have been appreciated and acclaimed, have vanished over time? Or does this call for a complete investigation into the so-called "mafia" or "nepotism gangs" in Bollywood? With so much evidence piling up, the victimisation has to give way for democratisation of the industry and a grading of talent. Art must be for art's sake and not for the patronising club.

Now that acclaimed names like Pookutty, Rahman and Shekhar Kapur have brought such an issue to attention, apart from only Kangana reigniting the flame time and again, should we assume that a 'time's up' for Bollywood's dirty star-dom game is just around the corner?



## A secluded way of life

Photographer **PRABIR PURKAYASTHA** captures ancient Assamese culture from his village as he strongly feels the need to record and preserve them for future generations to see. By **UMA NAIR**

More than 20 years ago, photographer Prabir Purkayastha of *Ladakh* fame started capturing his village in Assam. Verdant virgin forests shimmered under the monsoon clouds, the sun rays sometimes glistening like an age-old green velvet lining in a jewellery box — the forests in his village had vanishing sounds coupled with a simple lifestyle.

Prabir reminisces, "In 2004, I visited my mother's village Rampur, Assam, after almost 40 years. I was amazed by the unique tapestry of life that I witnessed and was a part of. As a child, I had heard my mother's 'fairy-tale' stories of her village and of my ancestors who had founded Rampur almost 200 years ago. Sadly, I realised that this ancient and secluded way of life was slowly, but surely, ebbing from this world."

His photographs of an Assamese voyage seems eternal. During the past two decades, Prabir has journeyed endlessly through the landscape and villages of Assam, which lies at the northeastern tip and captured powerful images of the rare bastions of ancient Assamese culture. The powerful images of the landscape, sometimes juxtaposed with people, are passionately crafted. They speak volumes of a magical way of life which has changed little through the centuries.

**DAGAUR PUKOOR: DEATH OF WATER**

It is this age-old tapestry that Prabir reverently reveals and calls *Dagaur Pukoor*.

"Photographed over 12 years, *Dagaur Pukoor* is one such fairy-tale," explains Prabir.

"All the images were created within the expressive texture of natural elements like rain, sunshine, water and mist. Every step of this journey was brutally challenging — from the very beginning till the last frame. The challenge of how to accomplish the specific imagery I wanted left me numb, especially since I was creating these images with a great sense of intimacy and in a rather secretive way. The pleasure of discovery at the start of my project and the euphoric feeling of depletion, at its completion, was just the same. Then it dawned upon me that *Dagaur Pukoor* was the answer to the prayers of the remote rural fishing community. And this outrageously spirited and generous mystical lake had for countless decades nourished and helped all those who sought sustenance within her. No pilgrim to her shores ever returned empty handed," says Prabir.

He adds, "I don't know how privileged I was to tell the story of these sacred waters and the gift of grace, of life nourishing life. I just

wish that someday, in some other world, I can tell my ancestors this story. It's beautiful."

**FISH AND BAMBOO**

A bamboo-woven roof thatch stands on the wayside while small fish are left to dry in the monsoon days. The image comments on the architecture that has been common in this region of seismic shifts.

"The *phuti maach'* (small fish) was meant for the personal meals of the fishermen and their families. It's an ancient practice to dry the fish on a bamboo platform that has been used by generations of this fishing community," explains Prabir.

**ANOTHER REALM**

Prabir frames a meditative study of an Assam that he loves and continually tries to understand. "Assam connects me to my childhood and my people. It connects with me at a very emotional and spiritual level. I can spend a lifetime here," says the photographer.

In this collection, his photographs occupies the interstitial space between documentation and the more expressive and imaginative arts. The lone fisherman in his canoe seems to be from another world, who holds the tangible warmth of human presence.

In another image, an old lady in

the forest with a rimmed hat woven through straw is a testimony of beauty. It vividly shows how the people themselves seem inseparable from the shadows and topography that frames them. The silhouette of a lady with her baby swung on her back looks theatrical. The three harvesters are imbued with an air of grace, ancient wisdom and rootedness. It appears to hold a secret waiting to be discovered as one turns back and looks into the frame.

**POSTERITY**

"I have always believed that a photographer captures something for posterity. We cannot be dumb witnesses to the vagaries of change. For me, my village holds a resonance that lives through its cultural fabric and its geological facets. For some inexplicable reason, I can't see myself as just another mute spectator pretending that the little nooks and corners of life never existed," he says.

For him, change is the key to living. He adds, "While capturing these images, I knew I was helplessly watching communities slowly getting vanished into the dusty corners of our nation's history. But I felt strongly about the fact that something needs to be done to record and preserve what I see for the future generations."

## Story matters, not genre: Anushka

Actor Anushka Sharma is riding high with two back to back successes with *Paatal Lok* and *Bulbbul* as a producer. With *Bulbbul* particularly, Anushka and her brother Karnesh Sharma, again experimented with the supernatural genre. Interestingly, this is their third project that's exploring this style of filmmaking after *Phillauri* and *Pari* and merits prodding into exploring the reason for such bold creative decisions.

Ask Anushka if she finds herself attracted to stories about the supernatural, ghosts and spirits because she has created a sub-genre of the feminist supernatural in India, she says, "One should see a film for the story that it is and for what it is trying to say and engage more deeply with stories. We have never tried to create a film specific to a genre. We have never ever discussed things like — let's do a horror film right now. We have always seen stories."

The actor adds, "For us, *Pari* was not a horror film. It was a film about how a human being can be so demonic and a demon can still be more humane."

For us, that was the beauty of it as a film. For us, *Bulbbul* is a story about a girl finding her strength in an unfamiliar world. For us, *Phillauri* was about love and longing. It was never about genres or we never thought about the supernatural element of it. Because of the characters we had to lend that treatment to it."

Anushka, who became the youngest woman producer of the country at the age of 25, says she likes to chase and find the best stories for Clean Slate Filmz and also wants to be a part of the best projects as an actor.

"For us it will always remain about the stories. We want to produce the best projects and find the best stories. Hopefully after a point maybe when people see the kind of work we are doing, they will stop asking questions on whether we love a particular genre or not and see us for what we are trying to do," she says.



# Sarri A

**Juve on Cloud nine: Maurizio ends league drought as Bianconeri beat Sampdoria 2-0 to seal 36th Scudetto**

AFP ■ TURIN

Cristiano Ronaldo powered Juventus to their ninth straight Serie A title on Sunday in a 2-0 win over Sampdoria that put them over the line with two matches to spare. Ronaldo opened the scoring deep into first-half stoppage time in Turin and then had a hand in Federico Bernardeschi netting the second after 66 minutes. The five-time Ballon d'Or winner missed a late penalty but Maurizio Sarri's side moved seven points ahead of second-placed Inter Milan to seal a 36th Scudetto. The title is Sarri's first and extends a record run which Antonio Conte started with three titles from 2012 and Massimiliano Allegri continued with the following five. Sarri's team had missed the chance to wrap up the title on Thursday when the *Old Lady* of Italian football fell to a 2-1 defeat at Udinese. But they made no mistake at



Juventus players celebrate after they beat Sampdoria 2-0 in Serie A clash to seal ninth straight Scudetto

the Allianz Stadium despite being pushed hard by Claudio Ranieri's Sampdoria, one of the most in-form teams since the return of Serie A from the three-month coronavirus lockdown. "It is the most beautiful success, even the most difficult because we wanted it and suffered," said defender Leonardo Bonucci. "We started on a new path with a lot of scepticism around us, we gave everything, despite some slips. Despite his 35 years Ronaldo shrugged off the quick succession of matches played in hot summer

weather after the lockdown, bringing his tally to 31 this season. The Portuguese striker has scored 10 goals since football returned in Italy on June 20, more than any other player in Europe. He also matched former Italy World Cup winner Felice Borel, who was the last player to score 31 goals for Juventus in the 1933-34 season. But he remains three goals behind Serie A's leading scorer Ciro Immobile, who scored a hat-trick earlier in Lazio's 5-1 win over Hellas Verona.

"Delighted for the second consecutive championship and to continue building the history of this great and splendid club," said Ronaldo on Instagram. "This title is dedicated to all Juventus fans, in particular to those who have suffered and are suffering from the pandemic that has taken us all by surprise by overturning the world. "It was not easy! Your courage, your attitude and your determination were the strength we needed to face this tight final of the championship and fight to the end for

this title that belongs to all of Italy. "A big hug to you all!" The breakthrough came in the final move of the first half, when Pjanic cleverly rolled a pass across the penalty area to allow Ronaldo to lash home his 31st league goal of the season. Juventus made sure of the title in second half when Bernardeschi pounced on the rebound of a Ronaldo shot and tapped in a decisive finish. Sampdoria had no way back into the game and had to play the final 20 minutes a man down when Morten Thorsby was sent off

**FIGURATIVELY**

**90** From 2011/12, in the last nine seasons, Juventus have gained 810 points, an average of 90 per season — in the period Napoli have been second with 677 points

**9** Giorgio Chiellini is the only Juventus player with at least one appearance in Serie A in the last nine winning seasons

**61** Maurizio Sarri is the oldest manager to have won the Serie A in single round

**10** Cristiano Ronaldo has scored 10 goals after the football lockdown, more than any other player in the top-5 European Leagues (9 for Sterling and Lewandowski)

**31** Cristiano Ronaldo has netted 31 goals in the current league season; in Juventus history only Felice Borel scored more in a single Serie A campaign (32 in 1933/34)

**34** Ciro Immobile has scored 34 goals in the Serie A 2019/20; only 2 players did better in the history of the top Italian league, Nordahl 35 in 1949/50 and Higuain 36 in 2015/16

## Immobile nears single-season record

AP ■ VERONA

A hat trick moved Ciro Immobile within three goals of overtaking Gonzalo Higuain's single-season record for Serie A with two matches remaining. Immobile netted two penalties and also scored a magnificent strike in Lazio's 5-1 win at Hellas Verona on Sunday. He now has 34 goals in 34 matches — three more than Cristiano Ronaldo atop the Italian league's scoring chart. Higuain scored 36 for Napoli in 2015-16. Immobile's second goal of the night was a thing of beauty: Set up by Jordan Lukaku on the left flank, he curled a shot into the far top corner. Lazio moved level on points with third-place Atalanta, one point behind Inter Milan. Elsewhere, Roma increased its grip on fifth place by beating Fiorentina 2-1 with two penalties from Jordan Veretout. Udinese won 1-0 at Cagliari and secured a 26th straight season in the top flight. Lecce remained in the relegation zone after conceding a stoppage-time decider from Musa Barrow in a 3-2 loss at Bologna. Also, Torino was held 1-1 at already-relegated SPAL.



## Lovren completes Zenit move

LIVERPOOL: Zenit St Petersburg have signed centre back Dejan Lovren from Liverpool on a three-year contract, the Russian champions announced on Monday.

Lovren, who joined Liverpool from Southampton in 2014, leaves Anfield after making 185 appearances in all competitions, scoring eight goals. No financial details were disclosed but British media reported Liverpool have agreed a deal worth around 11 million pounds (\$14.03 million) with Zenit for Lovren. Lovren was part of the squad that won the Champions League last season, and the Super Cup and Club World Cup in addition to the Premier League crown in 2019-20, which ended Liverpool's 30-year top-flight title drought. The Croatia international was limited to 15 club appearances across all competitions this season after Joe Gomez and Virgil van Dijk emerged as Jurgen Klopp's first-choice pairing in the central defence. "In the first part of the season until he got injured he was in the team and had super games. Absolutely super games," Klopp told the club's website. "Really good, in the air a machine, and I really liked working together with him. It will be interesting to follow Zenit St Petersburg now." Capped 57 times by Croatia, Lovren was part of the team that finished as runners-up in the 2018 World Cup, losing 4-2 to France in the final. AP



## Vertonghen confirms Spurs exit

AFP ■ LONDON

Jan Vertonghen announced his departure from Tottenham Hotspur after eight years at the Premier League club on Monday. The Belgium defender, whose contract was extended in June until the end of the current season, made more than 300 appearances for Spurs after joining the club from Ajax in 2012. Vertonghen tweeted: "So my time at the club comes to an end. A sad day for many reasons. I will miss the friends I've made here, the staff that make the club run, & playing at the amazing new stadium & of course you fans." Elsewhere, Chelsea manager Frank



Lampard confirmed that Spanish winger Pedro is leaving the club. The former Barcelona player has

been with Chelsea for four seasons and was part of the Premier League title winning side in 2017. The 32-year-old also won an FA Cup and Europa League title. "Pedro has played his last game for the club. The lads have just pretty much serenaded him in the changing room and rightly so because of the career he has had generally and for this club," said Lampard. "It was his last Premier League game, but the impact he has had here is huge. I want to say a big thanks to Peds and wish him well as he goes forward. He is here for the remainder of games, but a big player of the club leaves and the spirit of the club I saw afterwards was pretty special," he added.

## Smith uncertain about Grealish's Villa future

AFP ■ BIRMINGHAM

Aston Villa manager Dean Smith says he is unsure whether captain Jack Grealish will be at the club next season but has warned potential suitors they will have to spend big if they want to sign him. Grealish scored the opener in the 1-1 draw against West Ham United on Sunday, a result that, combined with Watford's defeat at Arsenal, kept Villa in the Premier League. Grealish has been linked to a host of English clubs and Smith said he had no idea what the future holds for the 24-year-old. "I'm certainly hopeful he will play for Villa again. He is contracted for another three years, I think," Smith said. "I have said many times before we have billionaire owners. If people want to come and get our best players they will cost an awful lot of money."

## Mbappe out for 3 weeks

PARIS: Paris Saint-Germain have revealed that Kylian Mbappé is expected to miss three weeks of action due to a sprained ankle. Mbappé suffered the injury after being on the receiving end of a tackle from Saint-Etienne defender Loïc Perrin in the Coupe de France final on Friday. PSG released an official statement which revealed that the 21-year-old underwent medical examinations on Monday following the injury. The club confirmed that the striker had suffered a "sprained ankle with external ligament injury." The estimated recovery time for the injury is "around three weeks", according to the Ligue 1 champions. This will mean Mbappé will be a doubt for PSG's Champions League quarter-final tie with Atalanta, which is scheduled to take place on August 12.



The World Cup winner will definitely miss the Coupe de la Ligue final against Lyon on Friday night. Agencies

## ODI Super League to begin with England-Ireland series

Competition will serve as a qualifier for the 2023 World Cup

PTI ■ DUBAI

The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Monday launched the ODI Super League, a qualifier for the 2023 World Cup in India that aims to add context to the 50-over format. Hosts India and the next top seven teams in the Super League will automatically qualify for the World Cup. The competition begins with a series between world champions England and Ireland, beginning at Southampton on July 30. The rest of the schedule will be unveiled later. "The league will bring relevance and context to ODI cricket over the next three years, as qualification for the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 is at stake," ICC's GM Operation Geoff Allardice said. With T20 cricket thriving and Tests remaining the ultimate challenge, former players such as Ricky Ponting have questioned the relevance of ODIs. Featuring 13 teams, the 12 ICC Full Members and the Netherlands, who qualified by winning the World Cricket Super League 2015-17, the Super League will see each side play four home and four away three-match series. The five sides which fail to qualify directly will play along with five Associate sides in the Qualifier 2023, with two teams making it to the 10-team World



Cup in India. "The decision last week to move the World Cup back to late 2023 gives us more time to schedule any games lost due to Covid-19 and preserve the integrity of the qualification process, meaning it will be decided on the field of play, which is important," Allardice said. Each team gets 10 points for a win, five for a tie/no result/abandonment and none for a loss. Teams will be ranked according to total points earned across the eight series. There are criteria in place to separate two or more teams on equal points. A knock-out phase will not be needed as the league standings will determine the qualification for the World Cup. England captain Eoin Morgan said the Super League fixture against Ireland marks the start of their journey for the 2023 edition. "Given the situation, it will be quite different to the last time we played at home, when we lifted the World Cup at Lord's, but it's nice to be starting our journey for the next edition of the tournament," he said. "I'm sure cricket fans all over the world will be excited to see white-ball cricket resume and we're looking forward to the challenge. Ireland are a talented team who have shown over the years that they can beat the best on their day," he added. Ireland captain Andrew Balbirnie is hoping to put a competitive show against the world champions. "It is obviously going to be a huge challenge taking on the team that won the World Cup just a year ago but we have prepared well and have taken confidence from our form over the early months of 2020," said Balbirnie. "I hope international cricket's return is steady during these challenging times," he added.

## Emirates Board receive BCCI letter to host IPL

PTI ■ DUBAI

The Emirates Cricket Board (ECB) has confirmed that they have received the official Letter of Intent from the BCCI to host the 2020 edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL). "We have received the (official) letter and now wait on the decision from the Indian Government which will link the final deal," said Mubashshir Usmani, Emirates Cricket Board Secretary General. While the board waits for notice from BCCI that the Indian Government has approved to move the IPL from India (to the UAE), Usmani stated both boards have fully mobilised and have instigated discussions with the relevant authorities, including their respective internal working-committees, in preparation of hosting the tournament (touted as starting September 19 with the final proposed for November 8) in a safe, protected environment. "There are many factors which influence the operations

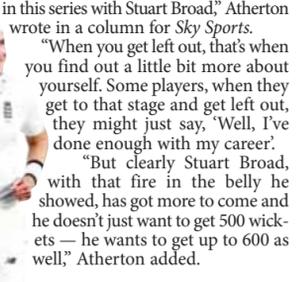
and logistics of hosting what is the world's most exciting, popular and lucrative tournament," he said. "This is a massive movement of people and equipment and we now need to bring in the experts to discuss all aspects of UAE hosting the IPL. All who have had strong, proven experience in such activities and we will work together to ascertain the best practices to support and deliver on a successful edition." Having hosted the 2014 edition Usmani noted the UAE is well positioned with its experience on delivering the 2020 edition. "We have a sound, solid understanding of what is required, and to whom we need to consult and engage with from this early stage through to close of the tournament." Commenting on UAE's cricket-infrastructure he added: "UAE boasts some of the best practice facilities and stadia in the world across three-Emirates (Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Sharjah) which we are confident will be more than adequate to support the 8-team tournament."

## 'Broad can claim 600 Test wickets'

PTI ■ MANCHESTER

Seasoned pacer Stuart Broad has shown that he still has "fire in the belly" to achieve a lot more for England, said former skipper Michael Atherton, asserting that the "champion sportsman" has the potential to claim 600 Test wickets. After being ignored for the series opener against Windies, the 34-year-old pacer silenced his critics by putting up scintillating performances in the remaining two Tests. He ended the third day of the series decider with 499 Test wickets, just

one short of the coveted 500 mark. "The mark of a champion sportsman is not when you get knocked down, but how you bounce back and we've seen that in this series with Stuart Broad," Atherton wrote in a column for *Sky Sports*. "When you get left out, that's when you find out a little bit more about yourself. Some players, when they get to that stage and get left out, they might just say, 'Well, I've done enough with my career.' "But clearly Stuart Broad, with that fire in the belly he showed, has got more to come and he doesn't just want to get 500 wickets — he wants to get up to 600 as well," Atherton added.



England and Windies were prevented by rain from playing on the fourth day of the deciding Test at Old Trafford on Monday. The day was a washout, leaving the fate of the three-Test series to the last day, weather permitting again AP

## Topley, Willey, Billings make Eng comeback

PTI ■ SOUTHAMPTON

Left-arm pacer Reece Topley made a return after four years as England on Monday named a 14-member squad for the three-match ODI series against Ireland beginning here on Thursday. Eoin Morgan will captain the side while Moeen Ali will be his deputy. Three players were also named as reserves. The 26-year-old Topley has taken 16 wickets in 10 ODIs but last represented England in the World T20 in 2016. He had issues with his back and went under the knife in 2018. He was Sussex's leading wicket taker in the Blast last year. Sam Billings, Liam Dawson and David Willey also made a comeback to the England squad for the series which will be played behind closed doors in a bio-secure environment. Billings is making a return after two years, having missed out of a World Cup selection after dislocating his shoulder. Willey, on the other hand, missed out the 50-over showpiece as Archer was preferred over him. The uncapped trio of Richard Gleeson, Lewis Gregory and Liam Livingstone have been named as reserves. While the likes of Joe Root, Ben Stokes, Jofra Archer, Chris Woakes and Mark Wood have not been considered as they are currently involved in the Test series against the West Indies, World Cup winners Jonny Bairstow, Tom Curran, Liam Dawson, Adil Rashid, Jason Roy and James Vince have been named in the squad. Also finding a place in the squad is Joe Denly, who was left out of the Test series.

## Qatar interested in hosting 2032 Olympics

DOHA: Qatar will seek to host the 2032 Olympic Games, it said on Monday, joining a crowded field and raising questions about scorching summer temperatures and overwhelming attendances at past events. India, Australia's Queensland state, Shanghai and a potential joint bid between South and North Korea are also being touted for the 2032 summer games.

Under changes put forward in 2014, interested countries submit a request to join the non-committal "continuous dialogue", which Qatar confirmed it had done via a letter to the International Olympic Committee in Lausanne. "Today's announcement marks the beginning of a meaningful dialogue with the IOC's Future Host Commission to explore our

interest further and identify how the Olympic Games can support Qatar's long-term development goals," Qatar Olympic Committee president Sheikh Joana bin Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani said. Qatar unsuccessfully bid to host the 2016 and 2020 games, having proposed to host the former in October without first clearing it with the IOC.

It won a waiver to propose hosting the 2020 games, a joint bid with Baku, Azerbaijan, between September 20 and October 20, but failed to make the shortlist. The 2020 games, postponed to 2021 because of the coronavirus pandemic, were awarded to Japan, which also experiences searing summer temperatures, leading officials to schedule

events early in the morning when conditions are coolest. "Qatar has earned the reputation of a world-class destination for major sporting events," added Joana. "It is this proven track-record and wealth of experience, along with our desire to use sport to promote peace and cultural exchange, that will form the basis of our discussions with the Commission." AFP